

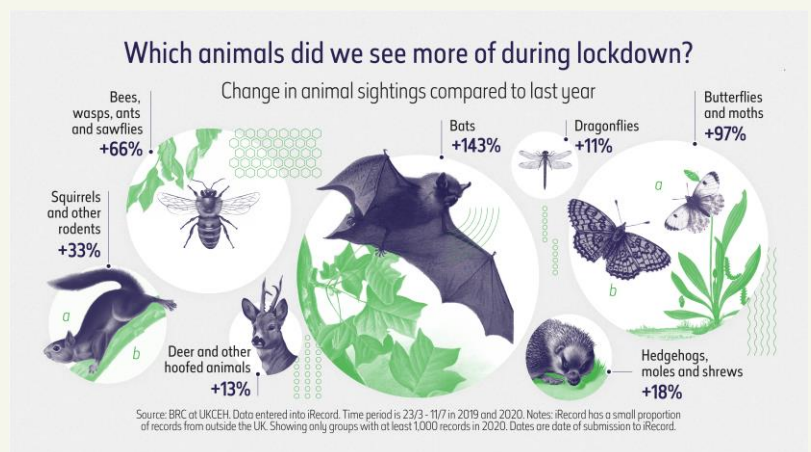
## Nature in Lockdown

### Natural History Museum

**In 2020, the Natural History Museum ran a Natural Environment Research Council funded project investigating public views about the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown. NHM researchers and collaborators tracked the shift in audiences' views and habits during the pandemic, crowdsourcing research ideas and investigating which environmental impacts the public care about the most.**

The project used a range of digital public engagement tools including surveys and an online photo competition on Instagram and Twitter. The winning photographs, which tell stories about the pandemic's impact on nature in the UK, were displayed in the Museum's Images of Nature Gallery.

The project culminated in a live interactive online event during which audiences could pose questions to young and emerging researchers about those topics, which doubled as focus groups for the Museum's scientists to learn about people's views on the environmental impacts of the pandemic.



**Image caption:**  
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The NHM also collaborated with data visualisation company Beyond Words Studio to create a series of infographics that illustrate some of the changes in the movement of people, air and noise pollution and wildlife sightings in the UK. These compellingly document the 54% increase in wildlife sightings during the first 100 days of lockdown compared to the same period the previous year; the 60% drop in carbon dioxide emissions during lockdown; and the 60% drop in urban noise levels. Many people reported rediscovering the joys of birdsong, and as animals are acutely sensitive to noise pollution, affecting their behaviour, stress and even growth, the decrease was good news for the natural world too.

The Natural History Museum's Executive Director of Engagement Clare Matterson said: "These fascinating visualisations, the result of a collaboration between scientists, our digital teams and Beyond Words, bring to life some of the astonishing impacts lockdown has had on our environments and how we noticed and experienced nature in a new and different way."