Will you join the Day of Action for nature, parks and green spaces on 18th April?

WWW.COMMUNITYPLANNINGALLIANCE.ORG

What is the Day of Action?

On 18th April 2026, just ahead of the local elections on 7th May, groups and communities across the UK will come together for a **UK-wide Day of Action for Nature, Parks and Green Spaces**.

The purpose is simple:
To demonstrate, collectively, that people everywhere care deeply about the nature parks & green spaces and want to see them protected and restored.

This is a **non-partisan, community-led initiative**. Its aim is to show decision-makers of all parties that nature matters to the electorate.

Activities could include:

- Photo to 10 Downing Street
- Local litter picks
- Guided nature walks
- Tree-planting sessions
- Community picnics
- Wildlife surveys
- Park celebrations
- Campaign events
- Group photos on the village green

All activities and publicity are the responsibility of the local groups organising them, and activities should be non-disruptive and law-abiding

Why the Day is Needed

What Keir Starmer has said:

7th January 2026, Parliament

"We are not going to plough through farmland"

19 April 2024

"Grey belt...poor-quality and ugly areas...should be clearly prioritised over nature-rich, environmentally valuable land"

April 2024, Video on X

"We're not gonna build all over the countryside. That's a nonsense, of course. Nobody wants to do that."

19 September 2024, BBC

"Sensible use of the Green Belt...Disused petrol stations; abandoned car parks; low value scrubland."

But is this actually what's happening?

The Reality: Threats to Our Countryside & Parks

1. **Sky-high housing targets**
   Particularly targeted at rural areas

2. **Disastrous grey belt rules**
   Targeting countryside and farmland, not just brownfield

3. **Rural stations free-for-all**
   Including in green belts

4. **Brownfield last approach**
   Failing to use brownfield, empty homes and enforce build-out

5. **Clean Power 2030**
   Focused on countryside, not rooftops or existing grid

6. **Fingleton Review**
   Targeting nature protections

7. **Planning & Infrastructure Act**
   Allowing developers to pay to destroy countryside

8. **New Towns on greenfield**
   Building on previously undeveloped land

9. **Inadequate funding for Local Council services**
   Parks under-maintained, understaffed and increasingly subject to commercialisation

10. **Parks lacking protection**
    Many face inappropriate development or sell-offs

It’s a national problem

Some real headlines from across the UK:

- Future of 50 London parks and green spaces 'at serious risk'
- Neighbours fight back against plan to build 'eyesore' homes in leafy village
- Petition: Oppose Erewash Borough Council's Proposed Green Belt Development
- Save Greater Manchester's Green Belt takes government to court
- Sheffield Green Party: 'We oppose building on the Green Belt'
- Lords Committee: Grey belt policy 'won't help government reach housebuilding targets'
- Campaigners vow to fight controversial plans for 2,000-home estate in Kent
- Residents protest over housing plans for West Sussex village
- Residents campaign to protect green spaces at Peckham Green
- River Lane pitches: Community fights 153 new houses on green space
- Hundreds gather to campaign against 1500 new homes
- Sanderstead residents oppose Mayor's green belt plans
- Kilburn Square: Mature trees, playground and football pitch under threat

There are many more…

10 Calls for Action for Nature

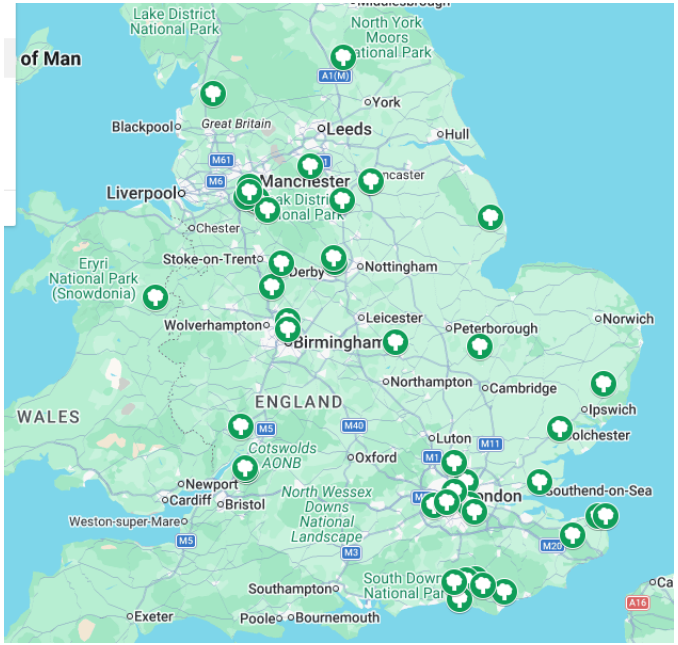
1. Safeguard and expand valuable habitats
2. Protect and improve public parks and greenspace
3. Stop the pollution of rivers, and de-culvert urban waterways where possible
4. Promote greening throughout every neighbourhood & new development
5. Ensure farming and forestry enhances biodiversity
6. Use 'brownfield' sites and empty homes/commercial buildings for homes, not green spaces or green belt
7. Right infrastructure, right places e.g. solar on rooftops, power cables underground
8. Embed climate action policies in all areas of human activity
9. Spread love and appreciation for nature among young people and throughout society
10. Empower communities to be central to local decision-making in planning

Who's Already Signed Up?

National Organisations

- CPRE
- National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces
- CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)
- Badger Trust
- Bat Conservation Society
- Community Planning Alliance

Local Groups (55 to date)



...and growing daily!

THIS IS AT RISK FROM DEVELOPMENT

Send to: 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Day of action for nature, parks and green spaces, 18th April

BUT YOU SAID: "We're not going to plough through farmland“;
"We'll prioritise ugly, disused ‘grey belt’ land”;
“We're not going to build all over the countryside”.

Post Your Photo on Social Media

@CommunityPlann1 on X
Community Planning Alliance, the grassroots group on Facebook

#NatureDayOfAction
#DayOfAction

Social Media Calls to Action

Three ready-to-use posts to spread the word:

Post 1

On 18th April, communities across the UK are standing up for nature, parks and green spaces. Will you join us? Whether it's a picnic in your local park, a wildlife walk, or simply sharing why green spaces matter to you – every voice counts. #DayOfAction #ProtectNature

Post 2

Our countryside is under threat like never before. Grey belt. New housing targets. Nature protections weakened. On 18th April, we're taking action. Join thousands showing decision-makers that nature matters. Sign up: [link] #DayOfAction #SaveOurGreenSpaces

Post 3

What does your local green space mean to you? On 18th April, show politicians you care. Take a photo, join an event, make your voice heard. Because once it's gone, it's gone forever. #DayOfAction #NatureMatters

Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Groups Join National Day of Action for Nature, Parks and Green Spaces – 18 April

Community groups across the UK will come together on 18 April for a National Day of Action, highlighting growing public concern about the decline of wildlife, loss of green spaces, and pressures facing local environments.

The day of action is non-partisan and community-led, designed to show politicians of all parties that people care deeply about the natural world. Taking place ahead of local elections, it demonstrates that nature is a mainstream public priority.

ADD YOUR LOCAL DETAILS:

[Insert name of local group] will be taking part by organising [insert activity] at [location] from [time].

[Insert spokesperson name] said: "[Insert quote about why your group is taking part]"

The Day of Action calls attention to: the loss of wildlife and biodiversity; threats to parks, rivers, woodlands and green spaces; the importance of nature for health and wellbeing; and the need for political leadership to protect the natural environment.

ENDS

Contact: [Your name, phone, email]

What We're Doing to the day of action

1

Creating Templates & Tools

Press release templates, social media graphics, photo templates, briefing documents – everything you need.

2

Encouraging Sign-Ups

Building momentum through national organisations, social media, and word of mouth.

3

Updating the map of UK-wide actions

All signed-up events displayed on an interactive map showing the scale of action.

4

Talking to the Press

National media outreach to amplify local stories and maximise coverage.

5

Providing background reports/evidence

Homes for Everyone, Greying the Green Belt, Besieged by B8's, New Towns toolkit, NPPF consultation response.

Three Steps You Can Take Now

1

Sign Up

Use the sign-up form to register your event or interest. This helps us show the scale of support and keeps you updated.

2

Plan Your Action

Decide what activity suits your group. It can be as simple as a group photo or as ambitious as a full community event.

3

Spread the Word

Tell other local groups, share on social media, find a celebrity, contact your networks. The more people involved, the louder the message.

https://communityplanningalliance.org/events-calendar/

Show politicians that nature, parks and green spaces matter!

Join our day of action.

Day of Action

Help nature, parks & green spaces

18th April 2026

CIEEM

BADGER TRUST

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces

supporting grass roots

Bat Conservation Trust
www.bats.org.uk

https://communityplanningalliance.org/events-calendar/