



**More in  
Common**



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Trust**



**Stantec**

# **Opportunity for All**

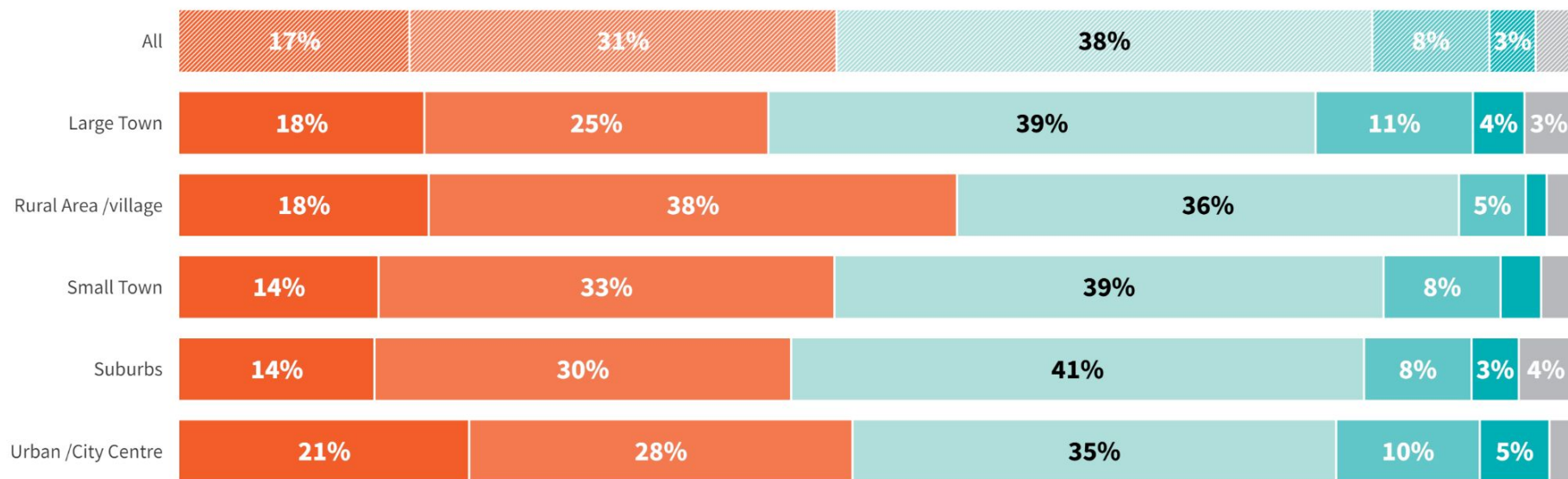
## How can Labour Improve Access to Nature in Towns and Cities?

*Labour Party Conference Fringe Event 2024*

# People in towns and suburbs feel less connected to nature

Relating to your relationship to nature, where would you place yourself on the following scale?

● 1 - I feel completely connected to nature ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 - I feel completely separate from nature ● Don't know



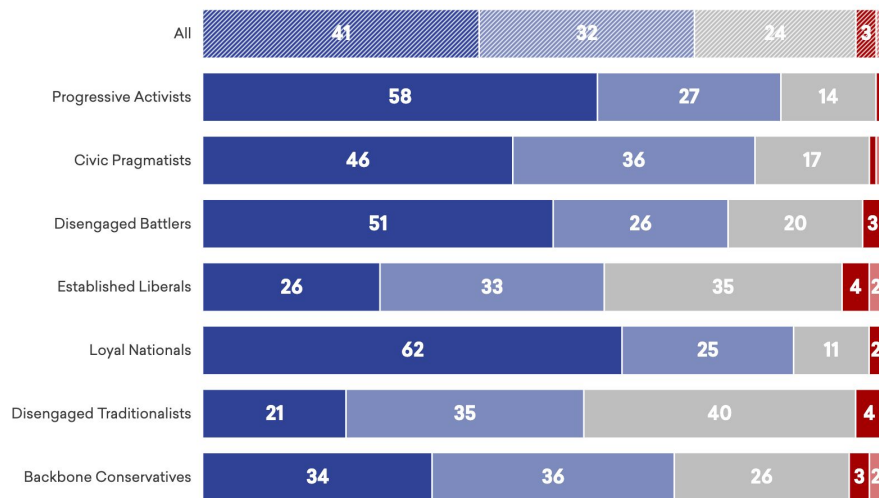
# The mandate for better access to nature across area and segment

Support for increasing access to nature is strongest in the Red Wall and among Progressives - uniting the Labour coalition

## Thinking about your local area, would you support or oppose introducing the following:

More green spaces

● Strongly support ● Somewhat support ● Neither support not oppose ● Somewhat oppose  
● Strongly oppose

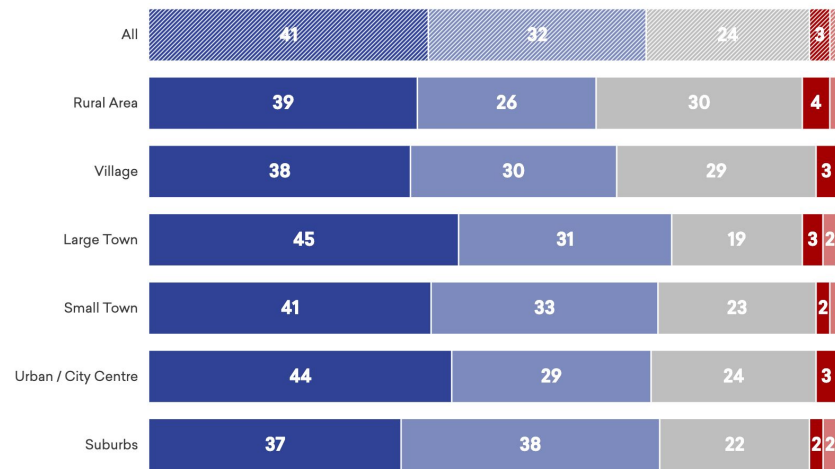


Source: More in Common, December 2023

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More green spaces

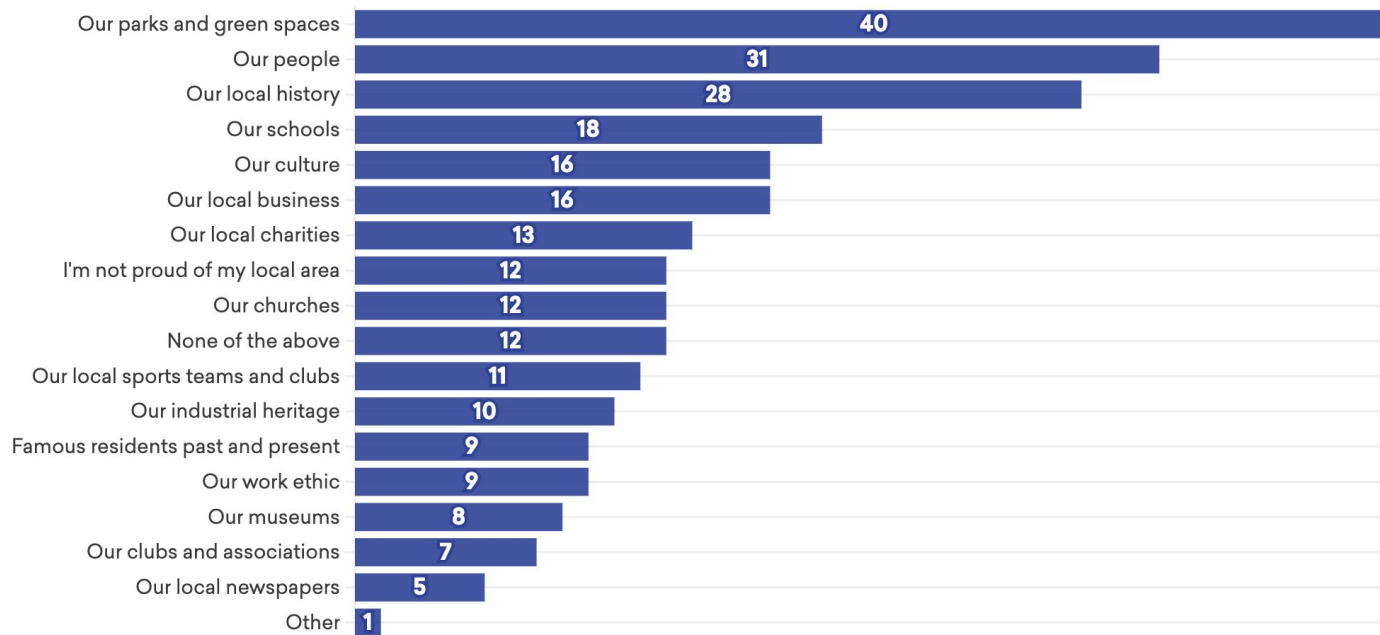
● Strongly support ● Somewhat support ● Neither support not oppose ● Somewhat oppose  
● Strongly oppose



Source: More in Common, December 2023

# What drives this support? Pride in local nature

What, if anything, are you proud of about your local area? Select all that apply.



# Connection to nature increased during pandemic

A quarter of Britons say they used local parks more during the pandemic. In focus groups, many told us they appreciated nature on their doorstep more when they were forced to stay at home. For others, it increased the frustration that they had no proper access to nature .

I spend a lot more time outdoors. I'm working from home for two years now since the pandemic, and now I spending a lot more time outdoors. I feel like I'm in a better place than what I was when I was at work, 9:00 to 5:00, every day

Jamie, Loyal National, Wirral

I think as well, during lockdown, people were lucky if they even got a garden. At first, we couldn't go out at all. People are in flats and things like that have got no space to go outside. How much that impacted on their mental health to not even go out and have a walk outside?

Laura, Loyal National, Northumberland

I work at a huge country park, 3,600 acres. Dozens of visitors have said to me over the COVID lockdown period, how it's actually saved our mental health, being able to walk from miles and miles and virtually see nobody. I hadn't realized how good walking and the countryside until I took this job

Chris, Loyal National, Wirral

I think we took it for granted, going out and stuff, before lockdown. And then lockdown brought it all along, much actually. We need to be outside and connecting with nature again, just the simple things in life.

Laura, Loyal National, Wirral

# Public more reliant on local nature during cost of living crisis

The cost of living crisis has also made more of the public increasingly reliant on local nature and highlighted for others the limited access to nature that they have in their local area.

When the cost of living crisis made trips away not possible for many, nature on the doorstep became something either valued more, or for some, a recognition of how little access they had.

For those most affected by the cost of living crisis, lack of money was not the only benefit of local access to nature, but the time spent around nature was also beneficial to those working several jobs at once.

So for me to get that piece, I need to factor in half a day or a day. I don't know whether I'm going to give myself an hour in this nature place or two hours, or I've got to... I can't say have an extra hour. I can't work from home for instance, and then go, "Oh, I have a lunch break. Let me go and find some nature." Because by the time I find nature, my lunch break is finished and my boss is wondering why I'm not back online

Angel, Disengaged Battler, Streatham

I kind of believe it's both time and money, but I do also mainly believe that everyone does have access, it's just whether you can go to actually spend some time in nature

Jay, Disengaged Battler, Streatham

# Nature on your doorstep matters most

In our focus group conversations, the public are clear that the nature which matters most to them is on their doorsteps.

Whether that is the park at the end of the street, the window boxes they're proud of, the patch of grass outside their house - all of these give people great pride.

To meet the public's expectations, improvements in access to nature in towns and cities on a widespread and everyday basis will be higher prized than just bigger projects.

I think the little parks, the estate parks, that's where the kids hang out. That's where they go. They don't go to town park because there's too many adults, they hang out on the little ones on the estates, they're all together

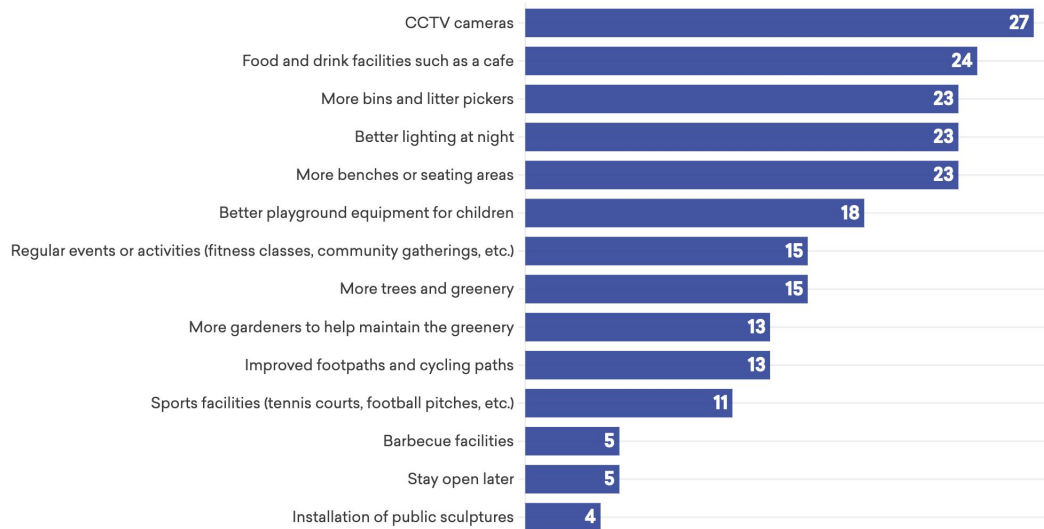
Jayne, Loyal National, Telford

You can see money's been poured into the big parks like Hanley and stuff, but just not in the little ones. I just think it's a shame because that's where lots of people can actually get to

Laura, Disengaged Traditionalist, Stoke-on-Trent

# Anti-social behaviour also key challenge on access

Which of the following, if any, do you think would improve your local park? Select up to three.



For the public, better access to nature also means finding solutions to practical problems when accessing nature locally - particularly with regard to combating anti-social behaviour.

In focus groups, many also say that there is little point in investing in better access to nature and green spaces in local areas if they are going to be vandalised or not well maintained.

*What's the point in making the area look nice if it's just going to end up getting vandalised in a couple of months? Ellie, Loyal National, Oldham*



**Why might nature access  
matter more broadly?**

# Protecting nature is the public's top climate concern

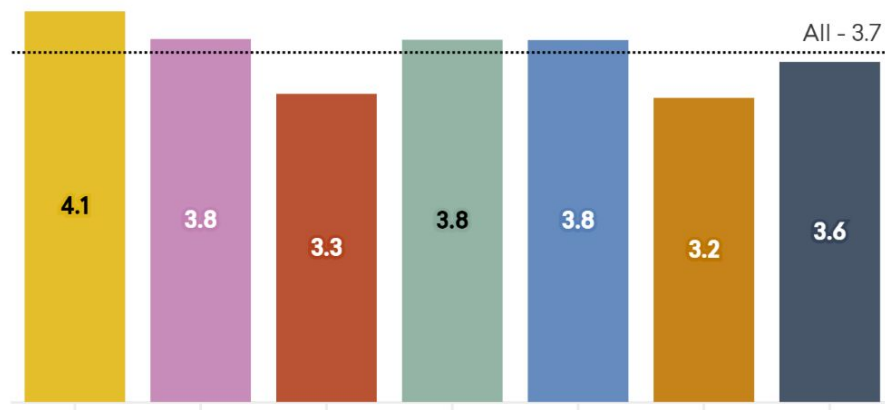
Which of the following impacts of climate change are you most worried about over the next 10 years? Select up to three. Climate change might...

Rank	All	Progressive Activists	Civic Pragmatists	Disengaged Battlers	Established Liberals	Loyal Nationals	Disengaged Traditionalists	Backbone Conservatives
1	Harm nature and wildlife 35%	Harm nature and wildlife 52%	Harm nature and wildlife 46%	Harm nature and wildlife 39%	Harm nature and wildlife 32%	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 37%	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 30%	Harm nature and wildlife 31%
2	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 32%	Cause hardship for the world's poorest 42%	Have a negative impact on my children/grandchildren's futures 36%	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 30%	Increase the risk of floods 29%	Harm nature and wildlife 35%	Increase the risk of floods 26%	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 30%
3	Increase the risk of floods 29%	Have a negative impact on my children/grandchildren's futures 36%	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 33%	Have a negative impact on my children/grandchildren's futures 25%	Cause my bills and other costs to rise 26%	Increase the risk of floods 29%	I am not worried about climate change affecting my life in the next ten years 25%	Increase the risk of floods 30%

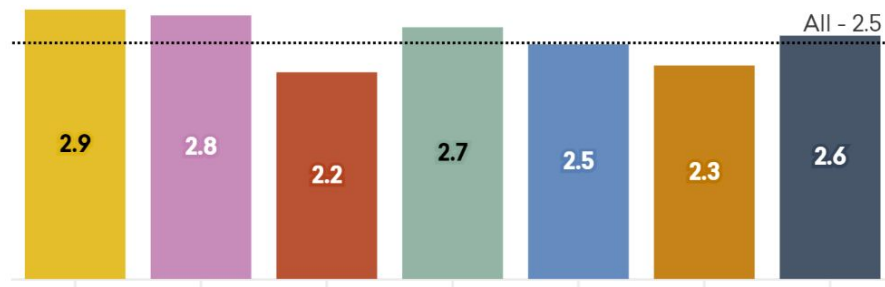
# Connection to nature can drive climate behaviour changes

Relating to actions you can take to help tackle climate change, where do you place yourself on the following scale?

Connected to nature



Separate from nature



Progressive Activists Civic Pragmatists Disengaged Battlers Established Liberals Loyal Nationals Disengaged Traditionalists Backbone Conservatives



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