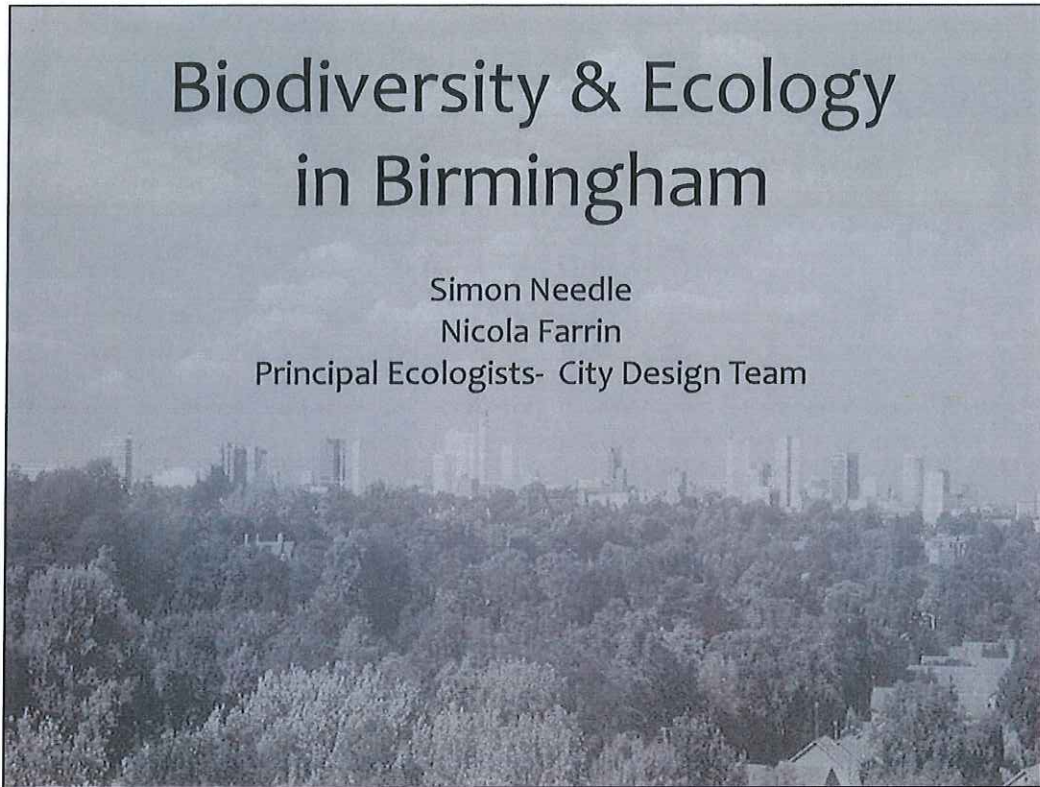



Biodiversity & Ecology in Birmingham

Simon Needle

Nicola Farrin

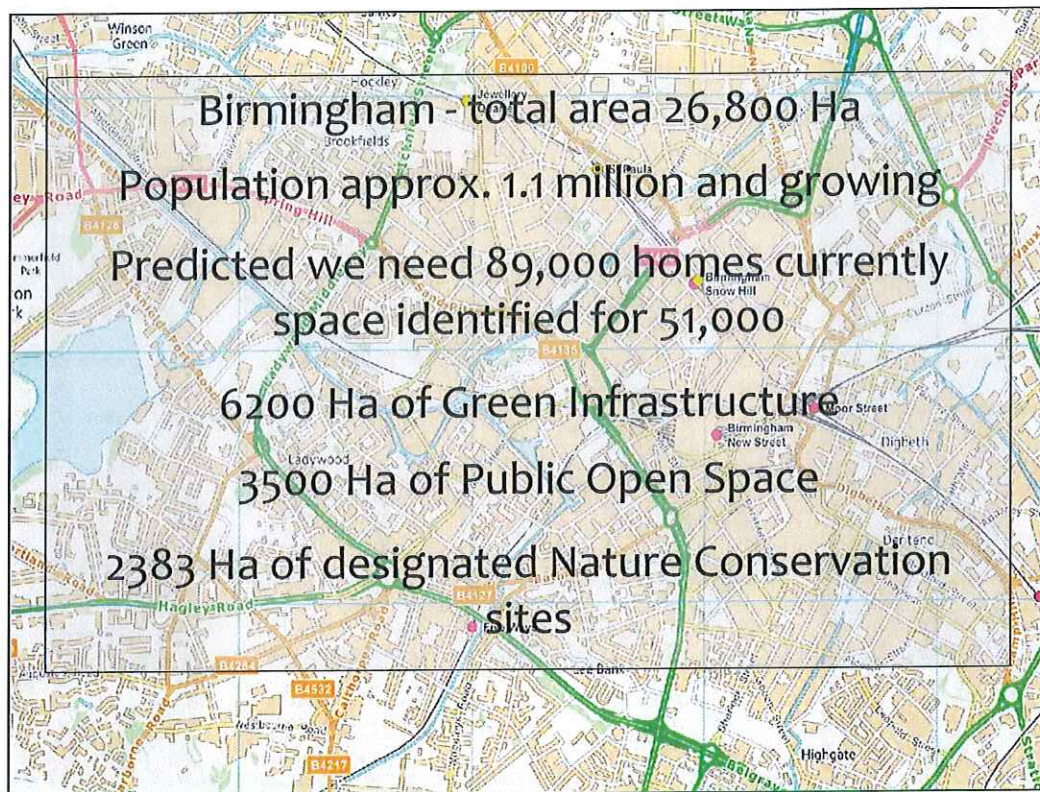
Principal Ecologists- City Design Team

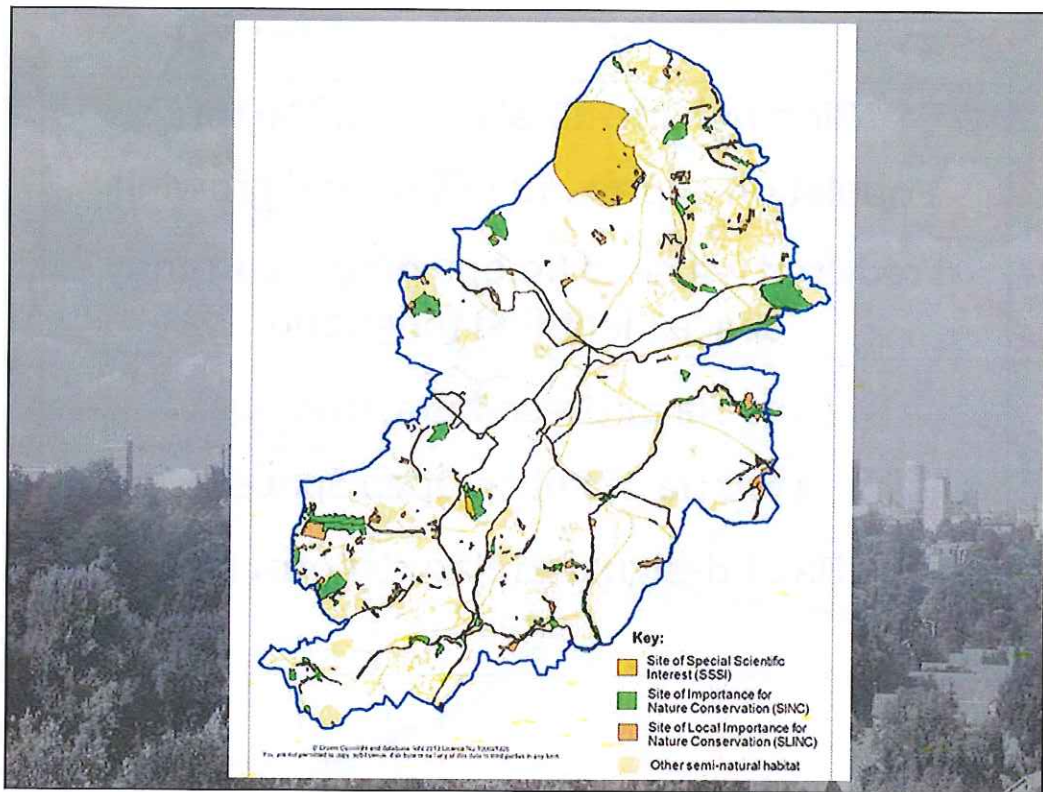


An aerial photograph of Birmingham, UK, showing a dense green forest in the foreground and the city skyline in the background under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the image.

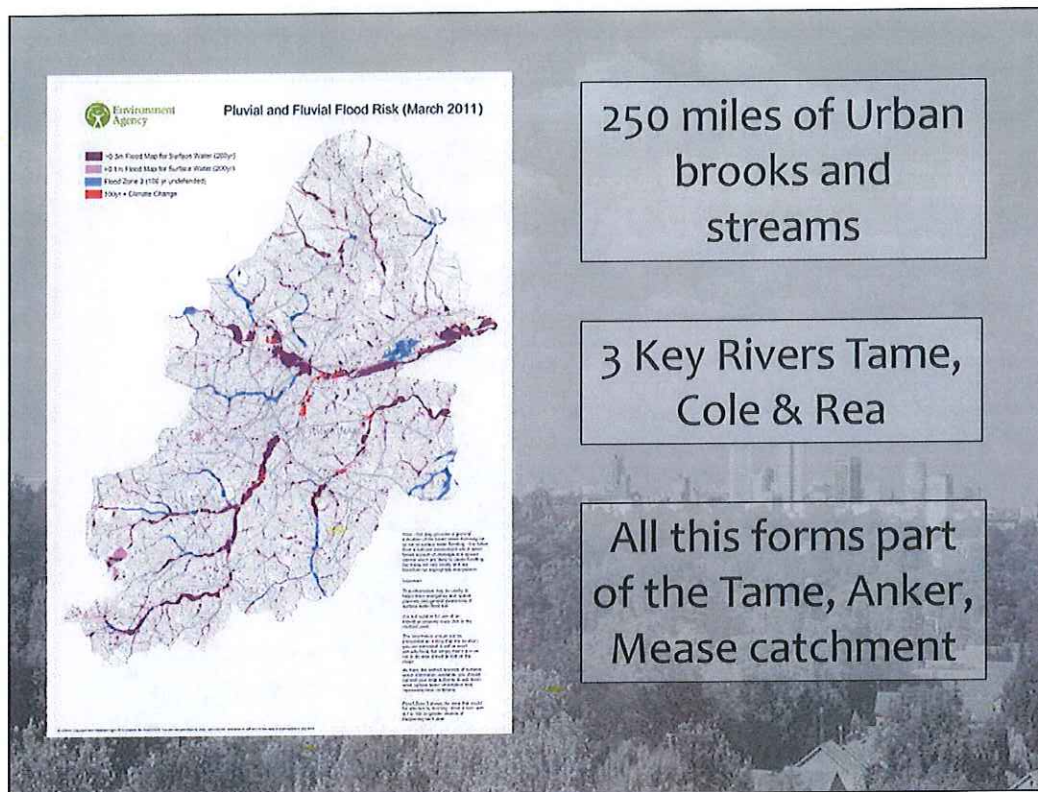
Birmingham

A grey or green city?

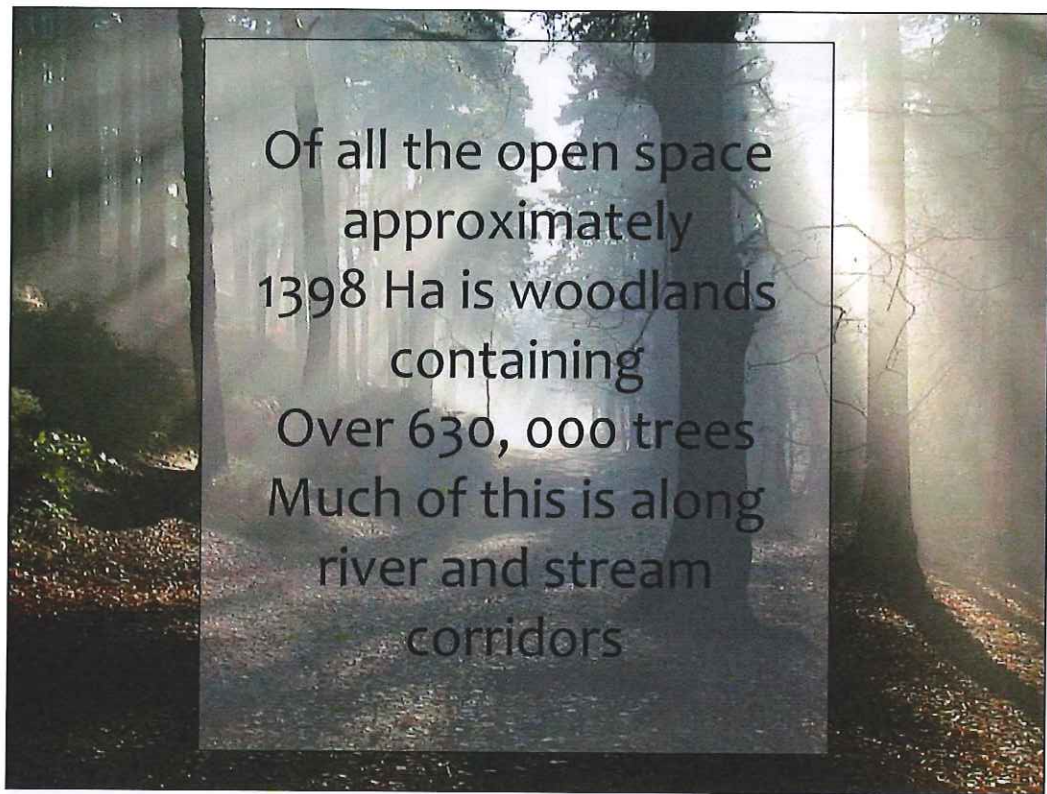




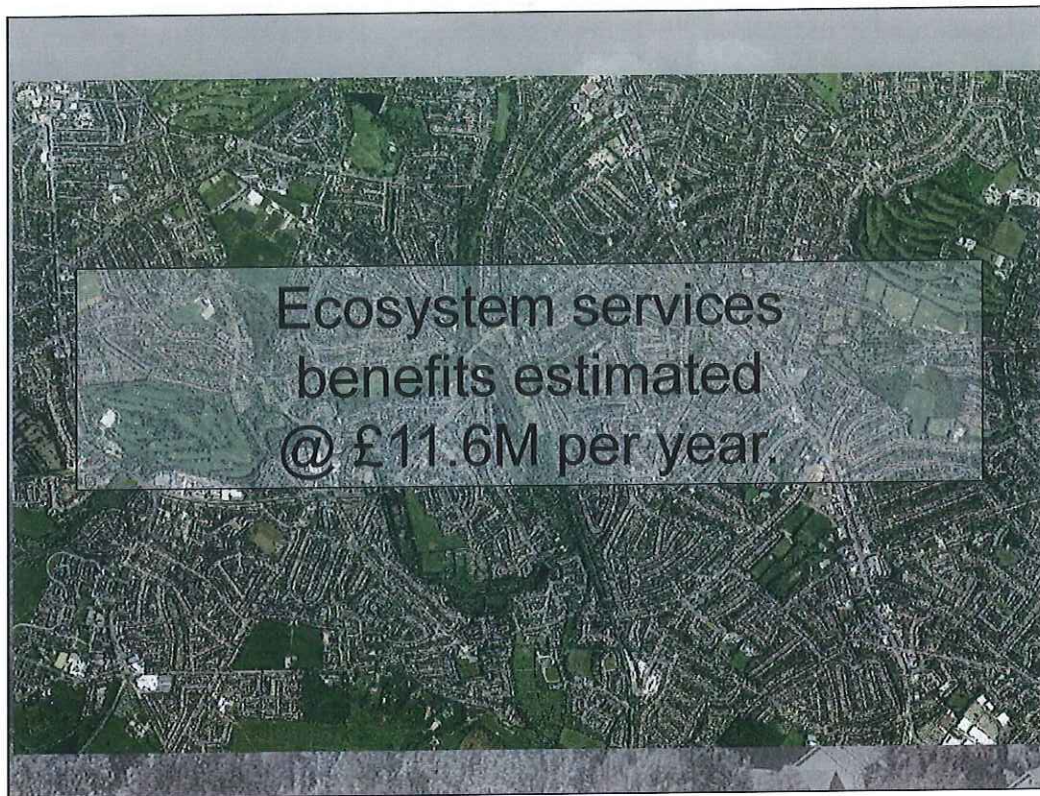
Map of designated sites within Birmingham



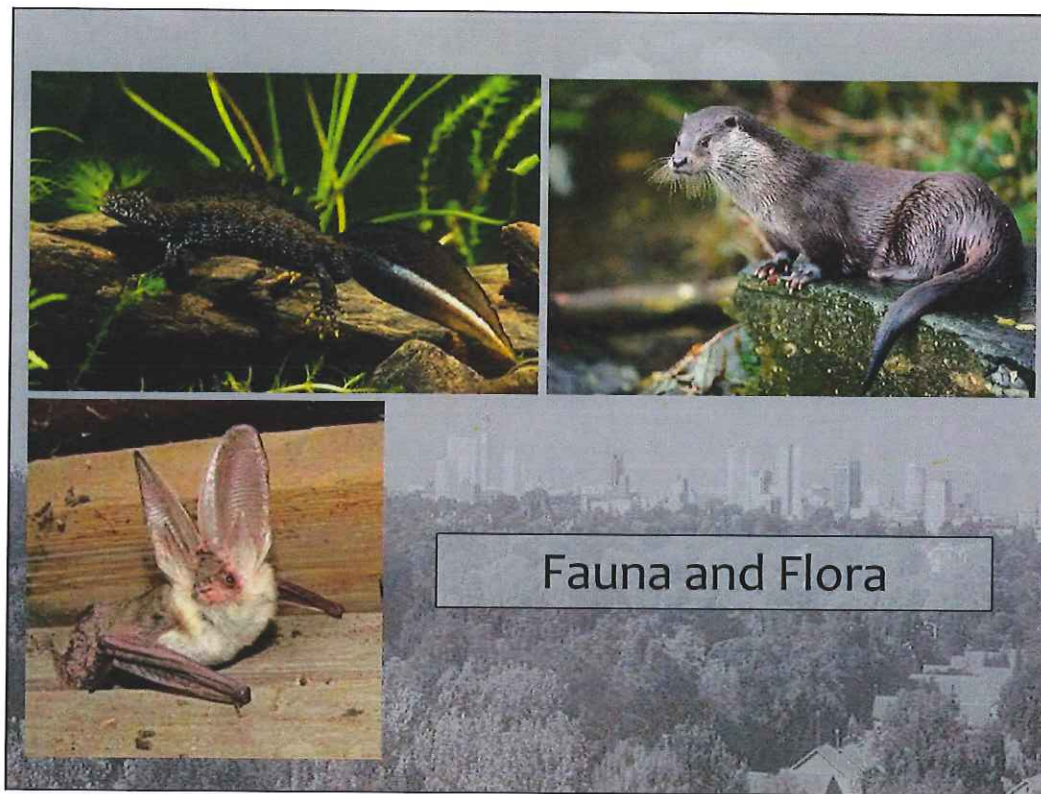
Pluvial and Fluvial flow map to show network of rivers and streams



Of all the open space
approximately
1398 Ha is woodlands
containing
Over 630, 000 trees
Much of this is along
river and stream
corridors



This is based on the natural/ semi-natural areas only



B'ham has a number of European and/ or protected species. These are considered as part of planning

clockwise -Great crested Newt, Otter, Brown Long Eared Bat



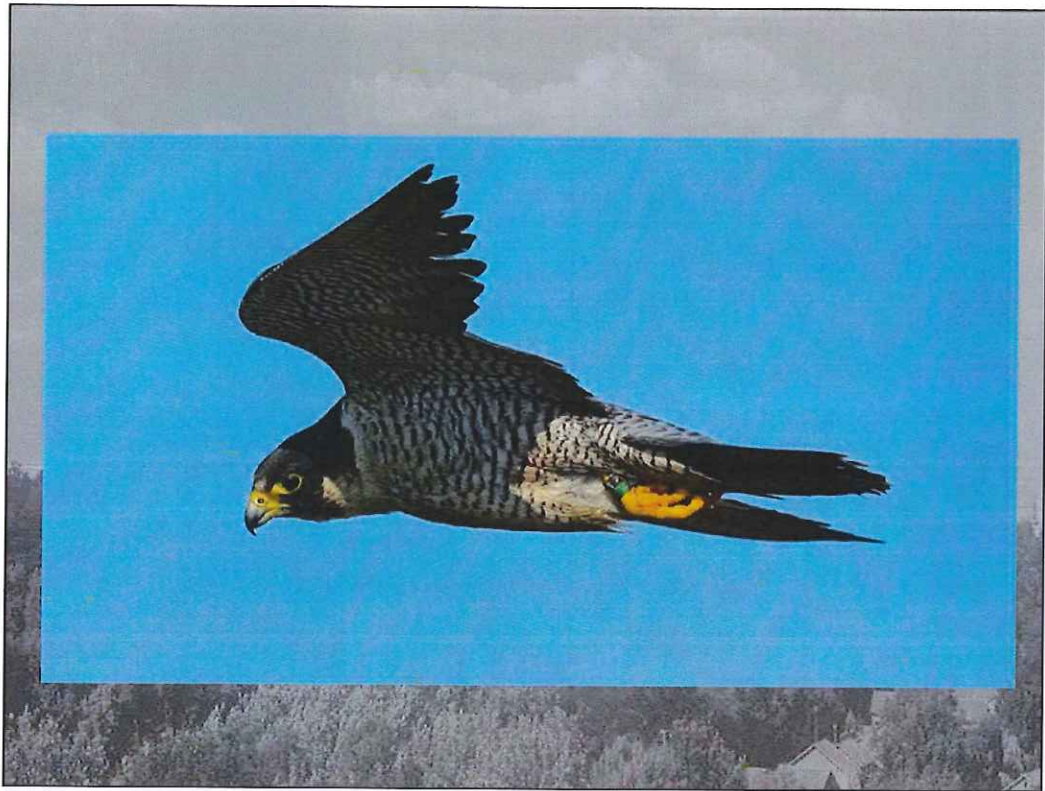
Clockwise

Black redstart – a red data book species and brownfield/ derelict urban specialist.

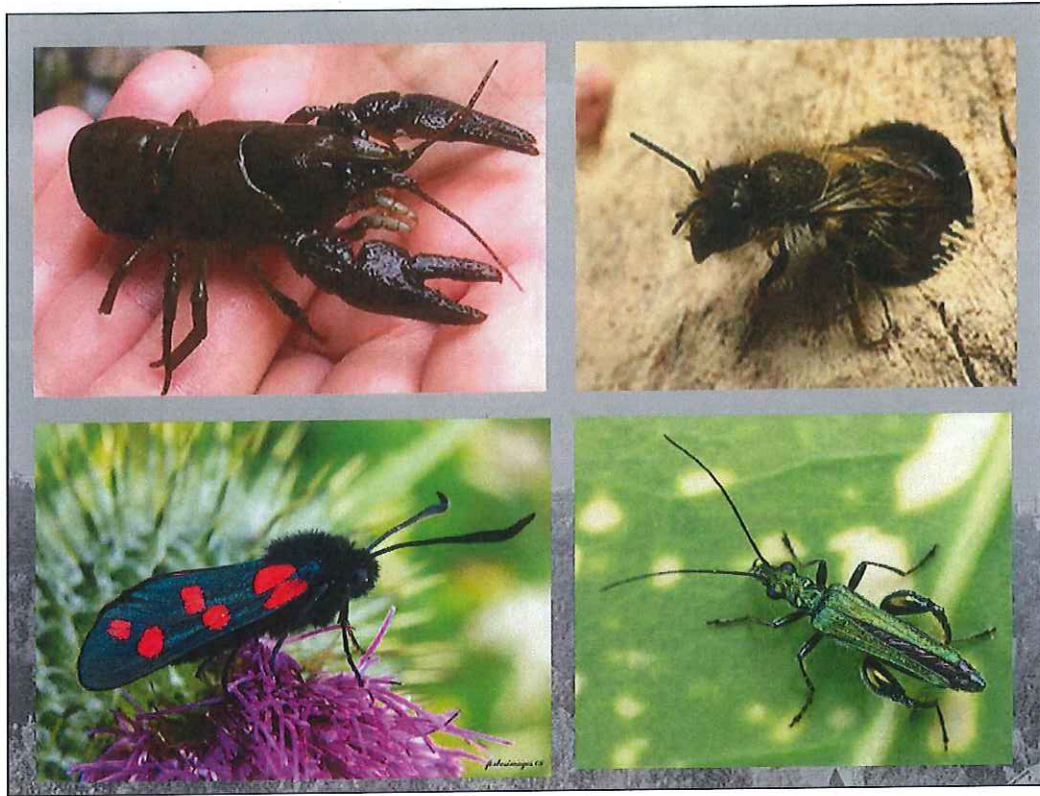
Swift – loss of habitat through use of cladding

House sparrow

Kestrel – nests in the inner city on some of the taller buildings and derelict sites



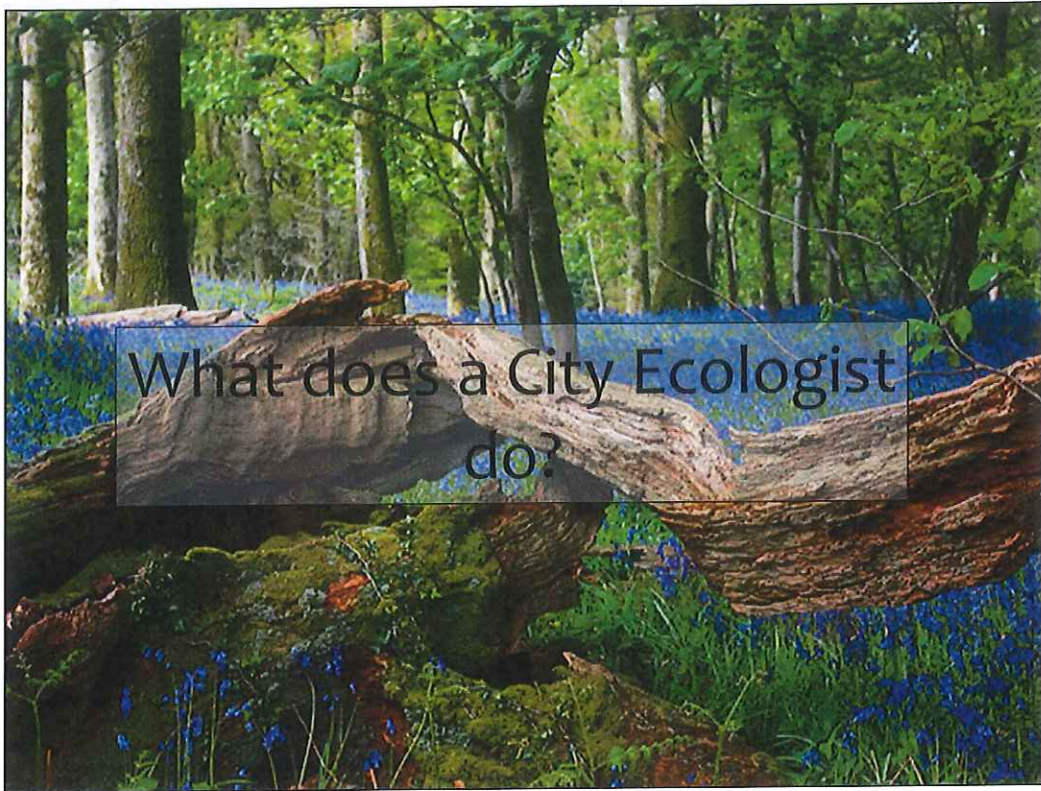
Peregrine Falcon – 7 pairs successfully nested and raised chicks in 2018



Clockwise

White Clawed Crayfish, a bee,
Burnet Moth, Thick Thighed Beetle



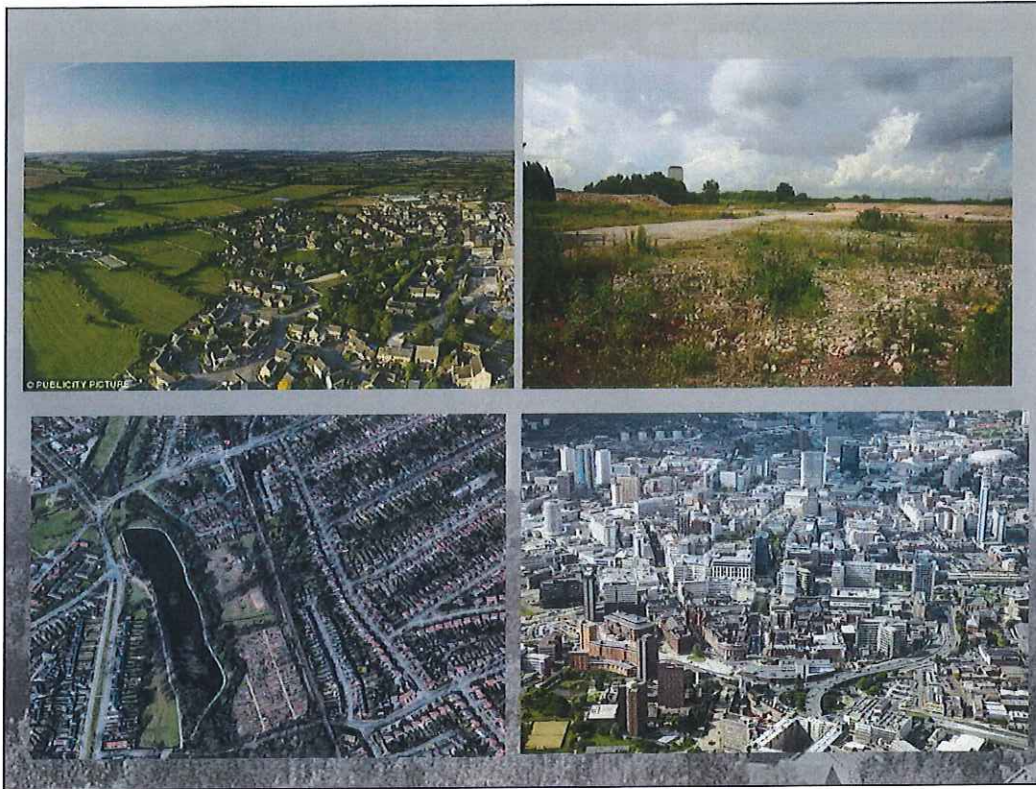


What does a City Ecologist
do?

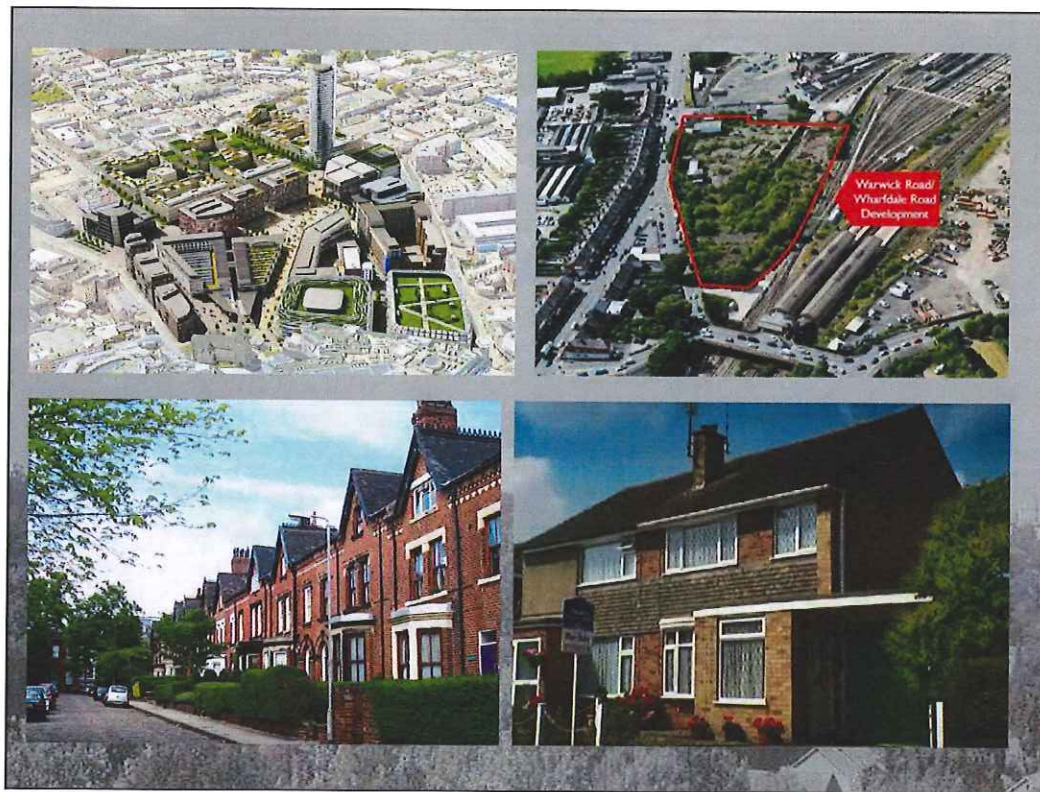


Ecologists use NPPF, and have inputted into the development of the Birmingham Development Plan, Local Mater Plans and the (draft) Birmingham Design Guide.

This last document will set out what we expect across a range of themes including landscape and natural; environment.



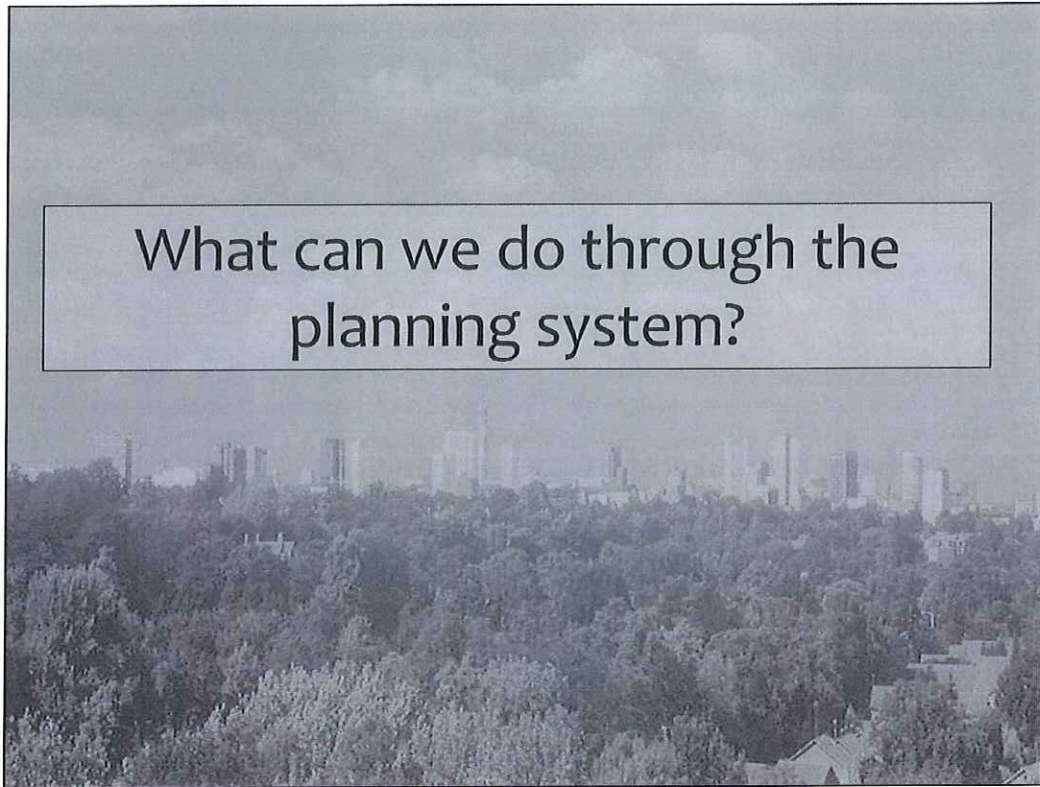
We cover planning across all areas – green belt brownfield, city centre and suburban



Applications can be Major projects such as the Birmingham Smithfield, economic regeneration in the east of the city and domestic conversions or new build.

Each has an impact on the natural environment.

What can we do through the
planning system?





Guide developers/ advice. Request planning conditions for landscaping to be Bio diverse – provide pollinator resources, wetland habitat in SUDS etc.



Simple enhancements and mitigation – Hedgehog access gaps in all fencing where there is suitable habitat. Bird and Bat boxes – where possible built in to new builds.

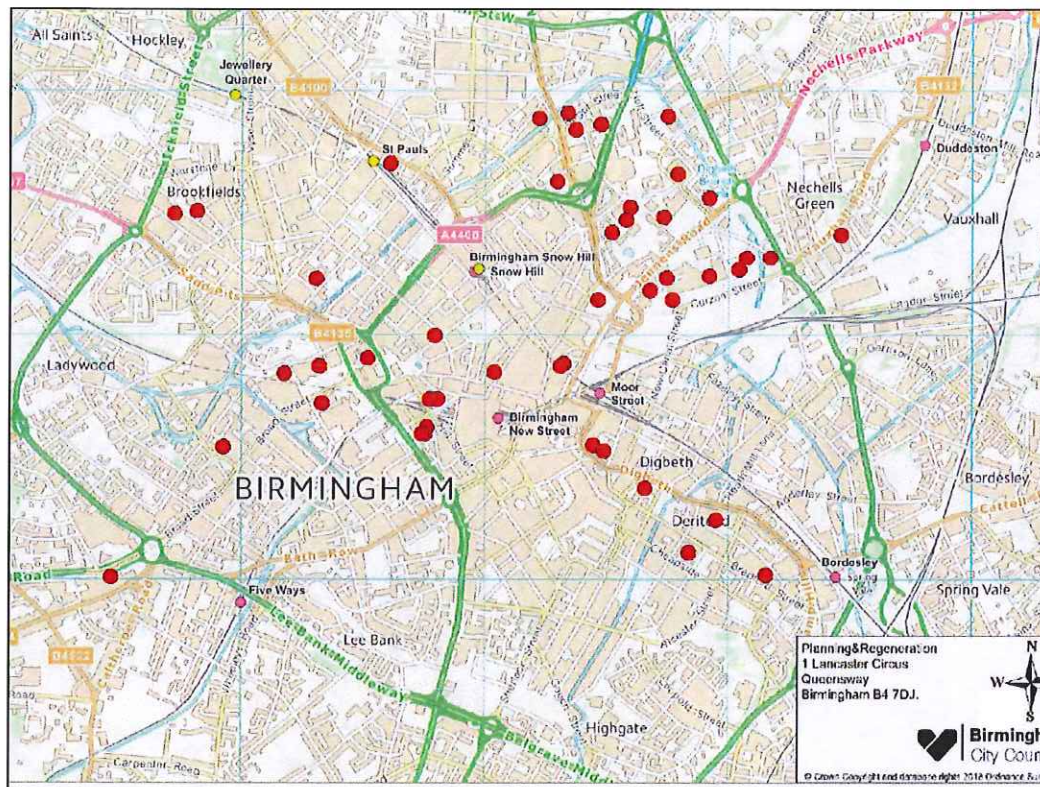
Request that developers provide information notes to new occupants on what and why ecological enhancements have been included and how to care for these.



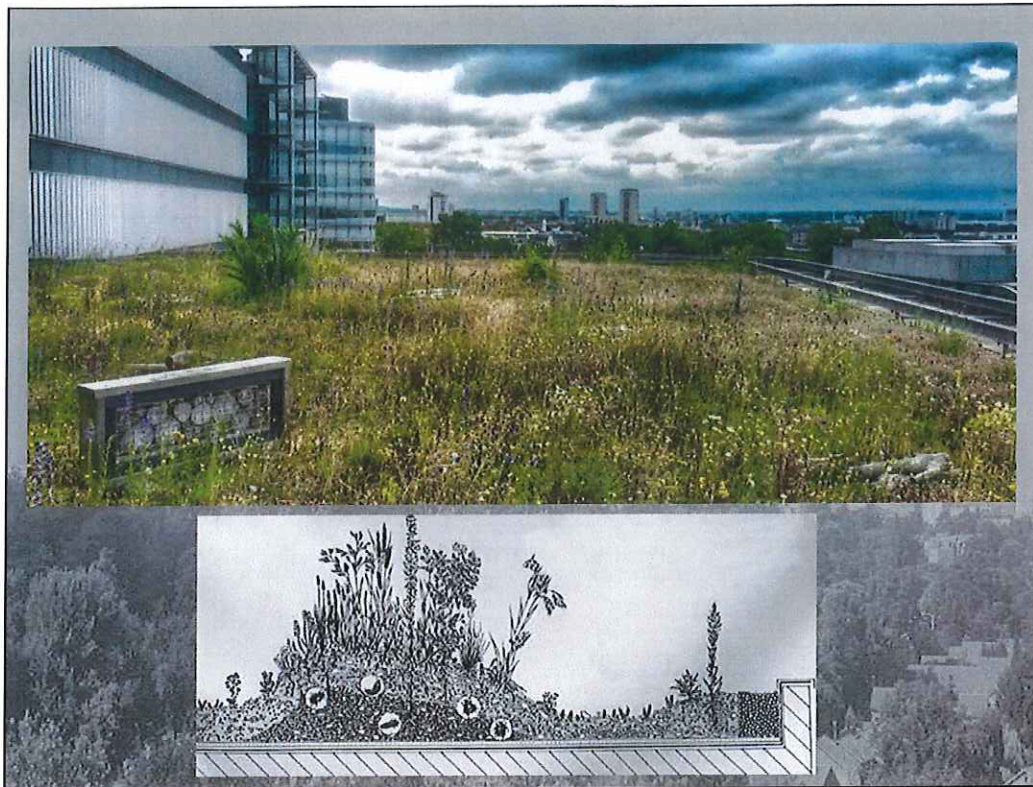
Hibernacula and nesting chambers

Even right in the heart of the city enhancements can be included.





Red dots denote installed or planning conditions for biodiversity/ brown (extensive) roofing



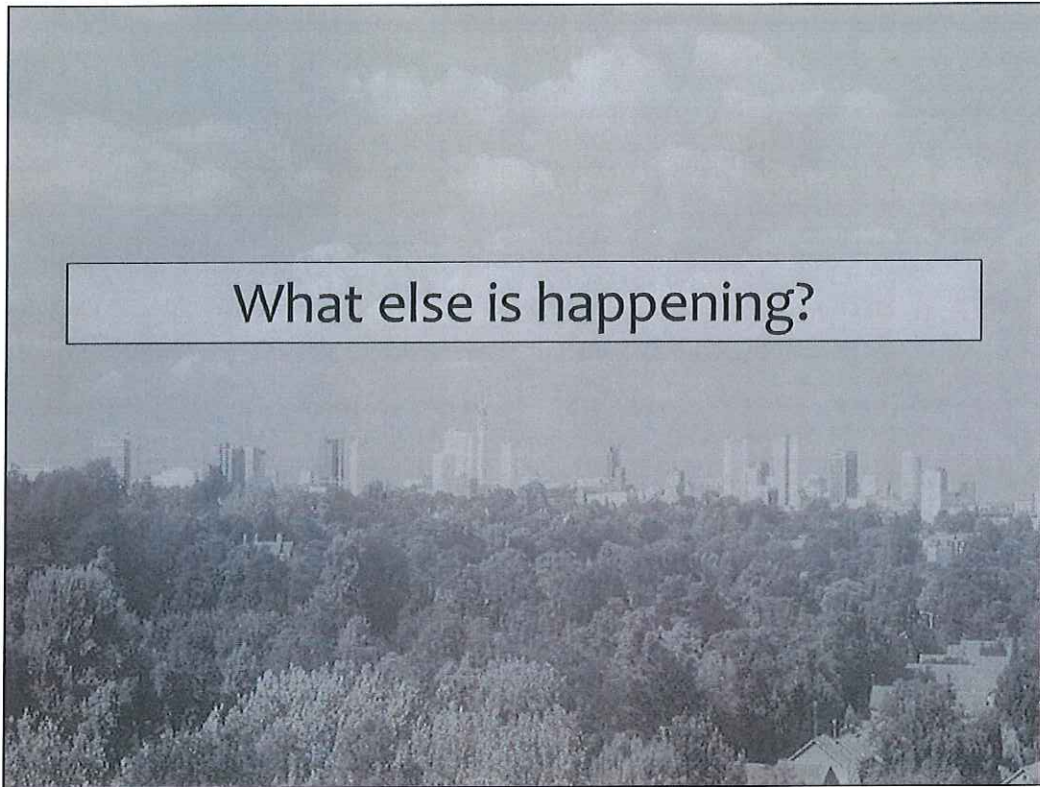
Use Buglife's guide to Green roofs as a best practice – what's good for bugs is good for most birds especially Black Redstart

https://www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Creating%20Green%20Roofs%20for%20Invertebrates_Best%20practice%20guidance.pdf



Biodiverse roof on BVSC in Digbeth and on top of the Shakespeare room at central library

What else is happening?





- Higher Level Stewardships
- Urban Buzz
- Birmingham trees for Life
- Nature Improvement Area
- ERDF funded Natural Rivers project



Heathland management





Tree planting with pollinator friendly trees



- Small leaved Lime
- Rowan
- Hazel
- Birch
- Wild & Bird Cherries
- Orchard Plantings
- Jam & Nut hedges



City centre canal enhancement



Woodland enhancement



Ancient woodland and tree management





