



# Sustainable Wootton Courtenay

## Newsletter No 2

### November 2020



**Many people are taking steps to reduce their carbon footprints. Are you?**

**What's Your Carbon Footprint?**

**Step 1 - find out at**

**[www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)**

**OR**

**[www.ovoenergy.com](http://www.ovoenergy.com)**

Carbon Footprint:  
The amount of greenhouse gases and specifically carbon dioxide emitted by something such as a person's activities or a product's manufacture and transport.

1) The UK is ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in the world for its CO2 emissions totalling at 8.34 tonnes per person in 2017 – the last year when such data for the UK was available. **Is your footprint less than 8.34 tonnes?**

2) The global average for 2017 was 4.7 tonnes of CO2 per person.

3) 18 out of the 20 lowest carbon emitters per person were African countries, including Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe, all under 1 tonne of CO2 per person for the year.

**Step 2 - how many of these climate actions are routine in your house?**



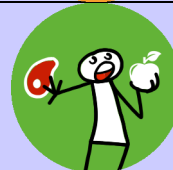
5 minute showers

Lights off



Drive less

Weekly meat free meals



Unplug when not in use

Refill and reuse



Bring your own bag

Zero waste fashion



Buy local produce

Recycle



**Our vision, mission and purpose:** Somerset net carbon neutral by 2030

## Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy

Somerset's **draft** Climate Emergency Strategy has been produced by the five local authorities following a public consultation arranged by Somerset CAN that took place in January 2020.

**DEADLINE: 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**Somerset's draft Climate Emergency Strategy will be going through a formal approval process and public airing, starting from 6 October and finishing on 25 November 2020 at all five Councils in Somerset.**

You can read all the documents at: : <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste.../climate-emergency/>

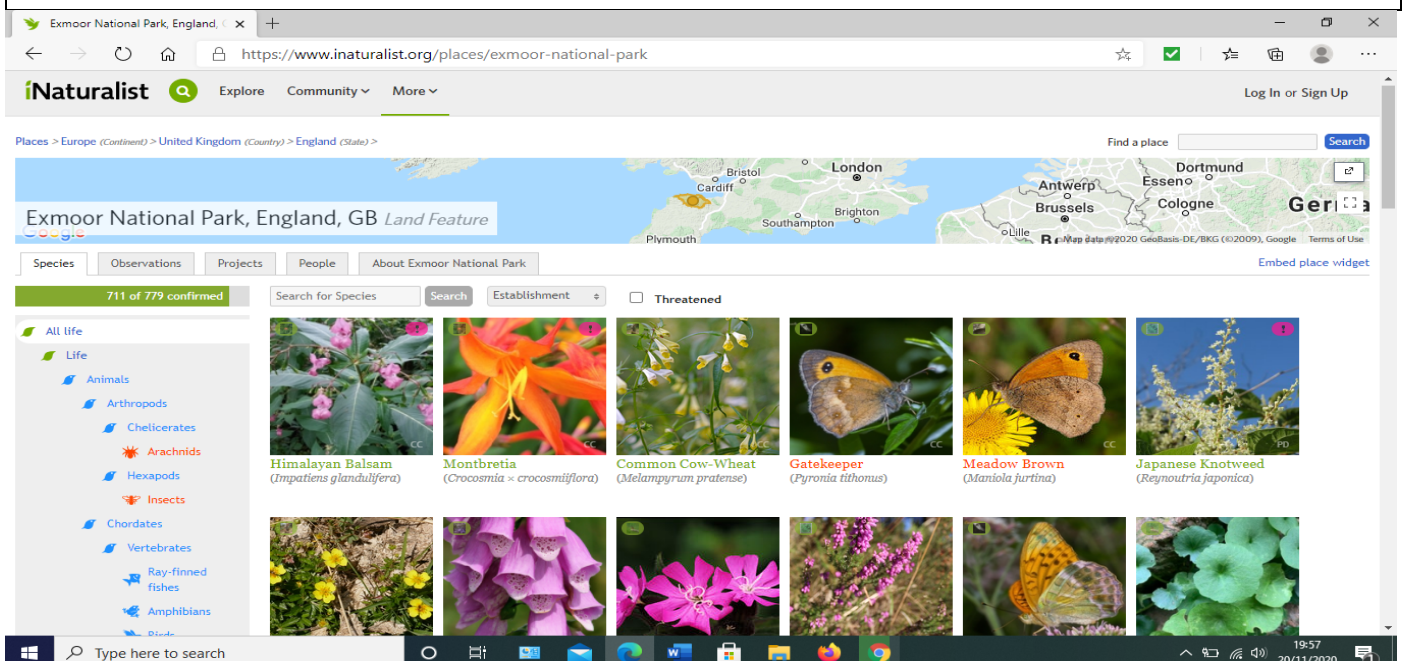


## Calling All Wootton Courtenay Photographers

### Connect with Nature – Join iNaturalist online, contribute your photographs

iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the [National Geographic Society](#) and [California Academy of Sciences](#). Get connected with a worldwide community of over a million scientists and naturalists.

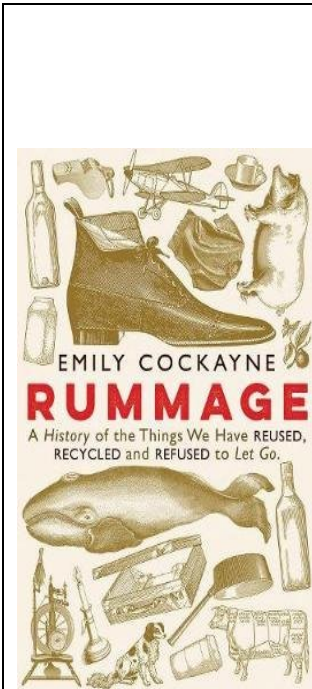
By uploading your photographs of Exmoor wildlife, plants and insects you'll help record and share your observations which helps create research quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. iNaturalist also helps you identify the plants and animals around you.



The screenshot shows the iNaturalist website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'iNaturalist', 'Explore', 'Community', and 'More'. Below this, a map of the United Kingdom highlights Exmoor National Park. The main content area shows a list of species observed in the park, with 711 of 779 confirmed. The list includes various plants like Himalayan Balsam, Montbretia, and Common Cow-Wheat, as well as insects like Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown. Each entry has a small photograph and the species name.

## RUMMAGE by EMILY COCKAYNE

### A History of the Things We Have Reused, Recycled and Refused to Let Go



*'A marvellous history of the second and third lives of objects and, just as important, a timely reminder that there are ways out of a throw-away-society.'* - Frank Trentmann,

In 1947 the nation was shocked to hear that British troops in Egypt were wearing pants made out of old flour bags. The war was over, we had won, and yet here were our boys wearing scratchy, dusty undercrackers. Five years earlier this might have seemed like a gesture of patriotic making-do, but now it just seemed shoddy. The war services secretary assured the House of Commons that he would be looking into the soldiers' pants immediately!

Inhabitants in both country and city had reluctantly donated their park and garden railings to be melted down for munitions. Subsequently it turned out that the recovered iron was too impure for its intended use, and much of it was dumped in the Thames estuary, where it was still confusing ships' compasses well into the 70s. On a cheerier note, there was a significant drop in the number of children impaling themselves.

Cockayne reveals that there was a brisk business in teeth implants in the early 19th century. In 1829 one generous Congleton man allowed a dentist to take out his tooth and set it into the mouth of his brother. The transplant worked. If you didn't have a generous relative to hand, you could always ask the dentist to knock you up new gnashers made from "sea-horse bone" (hippopotamus tusks)



## Wootton Courtenay takes part in the Big Climate Fightback

\*\*\*\*Well Done Kate McKenzie\*\*\*\*

*Trees are our allies in the fight against a **changing climate**, yet just 13% of the UK's land area is covered by trees (compared with an EU average of 37%). They are the ultimate carbon capture and storage machines. They lock up carbon, fight flooding and cool our cities. We are also facing a **biodiversity crisis**. We've lost 13% of our native species since 1970. By restoring precious habitats and planting new native woodland with UK-grown trees, we extend and create havens for wildlife, boosting biodiversity. This goes hand in hand with our planting to mitigate climate change.*

As we know, Kate McKenzie made a successful application to the Woodland Trust on behalf of the village for 420 trees. Although we couldn't plant them on the village playing field as planned, the Woodland Trust finally agreed that we could have the trees and asked that we try to plant some on public land, but otherwise we could plant them on private land in the village. Earlier this month, the 420 native trees, the common oak, hazel, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn and silver birch were delivered with their stakes and spiral guards. So what happened next?

Kate says, "All 420 trees were taken within 48 hours, to some 15 different locations. Everybody was delighted, so it turned out well. The Woodland Trust sent a charming reply to my email of thanks, saying how pleased they were that the village had responded so positively. Clearly there is a demand in Wootton Courtenay for more trees, but the Trust were not willing to change their policy of giving them for public land - only waived in our case because of our circumstances".

So well done Kate and many thanks to all who supported the project. Wootton Courtenay has made a significant contribution towards the Government's 2050 carbon net zero target and the Woodland Trust's target to plant 50 million more trees over the next 5 years

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