

# Government report on ecosystem collapse

Dear Jayne Kirkham MP

We wish to bring to your attention the recently published report on the impact of biodiversity loss in the UK and we urge you to press the government for a decisive response measured in action not words.

The report, **National Security Assessment on Global Ecosystems**<sup>1</sup>, was written by the Joint Intelligence Committee which oversees MI5 and MI6. They now see climate change and biodiversity loss as an escalating threat to national security, not merely an 'environmental issue'.

Among its key findings are:

- **“There is a realistic possibility some ecosystems start to collapse by 2030 or sooner, as a result of biodiversity loss from land use change, pollution, climate change and other drivers.”**
- **“Global ecosystem degradation and collapse threaten UK national security and prosperity.** The world is already experiencing impacts including crop failures, intensified natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. Threats will increase with degradation and intensify with collapse. Without major intervention to reverse the current trend, this is highly likely to continue to 2050 and beyond.”

And more specifically with regard to the UK:

- **“Without significant increases in UK food system and supply chain resilience, it is unlikely the UK would be able to maintain food security if ecosystem collapse drives geopolitical competition for food.** The UK relies on imports for a proportion of both food and fertiliser and cannot currently produce enough food to feed its population based on current diets...”

The UK imports 40 percent of its food, much of it from European regions that are already starting to experience dramatic climatic impacts including desertification. Moreover, our ability to grow more of our own food here is under threat through *“depleted soils, loss of pollinators, drought and flood conditions”*.

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<sup>1</sup> [‘National Security Assessment on Global Ecosystems’](#) on Gov.uk website

The report's findings require clear and unequivocal; decisive government action is needed if we are to minimise the deadly impacts of climate change and nature loss on our society in the near future.

The issue of UK food security is now moving from the periphery to the centre. As ecosystem loss interacts with climate change we can expect foods hit by extreme weather to rise in price four times faster than others.<sup>2</sup> At present, more than one in ten people already experience food poverty in the UK<sup>3</sup>, a number that will likely rocket in the coming years with prospects of serious civil disorder if these issues remain unaddressed. As Lt General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE states in [a separate emergency briefing](#):

*“We are facing the potential of an ungovernable state unless the government takes this seriously.”*

**We urge you as our MP to advocate with the government to treat the issues outlined in this report as a national emergency requiring immediate high profile government intervention**

Such government intervention must address the symptoms not the cause; a rise in defence spending in preparation for climate related conflict ignores the even more vital investment in flood protection, food protection and conservation. Military investment also ignores the heavy carbon and ecological footprint incurred in its production.

**We further urge our MPs to challenge the government on how the report's findings square with its current housebuilding programme as an engine of economic growth when our environment is in such a state of dangerous disrepair.**

As the National Security Assessment points out, *“Nature is a foundation of national security. Biodiversity loss is putting at risk the ecosystem services on which human societies depend, including water, food, clean air and critical resources.”* Yet the government's fixation on growth seems to be going in the other direction; it has exempted rules on “Biodiversity Net Gain” for smaller sites up to 2,000 square meters as well as additional *“measures to streamline offsite BNG delivery”*.<sup>4</sup>

Cornwall Wildlife Trust has described these and other measures as “A shameful step back for nature” and pointed out that

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<sup>2</sup> [Foods hit by extreme weather rising in price four times faster than others](#). Energy Climate and Intelligence Unity 22-Oct-2025

<sup>3</sup> [Food Poverty](#). Report by House of Commons

<sup>4</sup> [Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\) for Local Planning Authorities](#) Planning Advisory Service

“Attacks on nature take only months to push through Parliament. Their impact, on our economic stability, on our sense of place and on everyone’s health and wellbeing, will be felt for generations.”<sup>5</sup>

We further note that the government's housebuilding plans will do nothing to meet real housing need in Cornwall given that we have over one in ten empty dwellings<sup>6</sup>.

We stress again the need for our MPs to hold the government to account. They did not want this report published and they have done their best to bury it. Its launch in October last year was cancelled and a media blackout imposed. Following FOI requests, the government quietly published a partial summary of the report at a time when everyone’s attention was either on the future of Greenland or Davos. As one anonymous source stated to The Times “This government is hiding the true danger of climate change from the people. We need to have an honest conversation about the risks we face to our prosperity and how to mitigate them.”<sup>7</sup>

MPs along with council leaders and signatories to this letter can all play a vital part in triggering an open, constructive public conversation. But the need is for the government to be honest, take responsibility and show real leadership.

Signatories:

- Andrew Yates, Chair, Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum
- Gavin Barker, Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum
  
- Lucy Jones, Cornwall Food and Farming Group
  
- Tim Hughes, Exeter University and Colleges Union Environmental Officer

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<sup>5</sup> See Cornwall Wildlife Trust [response to the Infrastructure Bill](#)

<sup>6</sup> See ONS figures. [Housing in England](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Suppressed climate report warned of mass migration and nuclear war](#). Times Supplement 23-1-26