

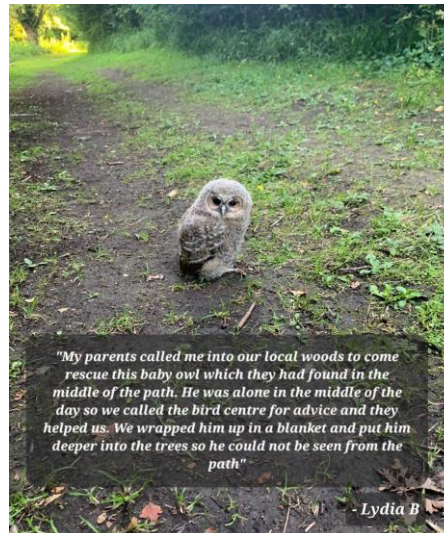
The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a focus on natural colors and geometric forms.

The Green Gallery Project and youth engagement with nature

Emily Hunt

What is the Green Gallery?

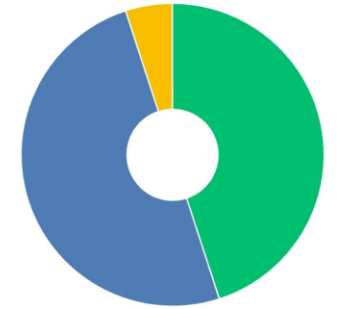
- ▶ A source of optimism
- ▶ An investigation into levels of youth engagement within my comp high school
- ▶ Asking young people about their personal connection with nature
- ▶ Each photo represents a moment spent appreciating nature



So what has it shown?

- ▶ It has shown that perhaps young people aren't as uninterested in nature as we think
- ▶ My survey:
- ▶ Overwhelming response that young people in my school do not think the school does enough for nature and that they would be interested in learning more about nature

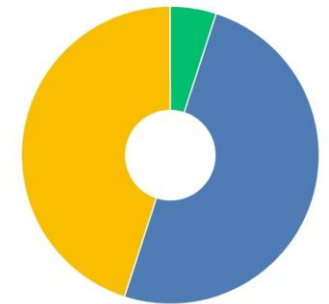
4. Are you interested in learning more about nature?



Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

Yes, definitely	45%
It depends, I'm not particularly bothered	50%
Definitely not	5%

5. Do you think your school is doing enough to encourage young people to be interested in nature and the planet?



Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

Yes, they definitely are	5%	1
They could do more	50%	10
No, they are not	45%	9

So what causes disengagement?

- ▶ Factors differ from school-to-school, and between individuals, but from my experience:
- ▶ Lack of eco/nature clubs
- ▶ Lack of outdoor space
- ▶ Increased workload
- ▶ Peer pressure
- ▶ Lack of nature on the syllabus- that's where the Natural History GCSE comes in!

Barriers outside of school...

- ▶ Memberships to organisations
- ▶ Access (parental input)
- ▶ Community

What can we do? - a few ideas

- ▶ Schools - more nature content across the curriculum
- Clubs .. However, WKWT has told me it is hard to work in schools unless there is a dedicated member of staff.
- ▶ Less pressure! Between ages 11-14. This was what lockdown provided me with.
- ▶ Input from Wildlife Trusts - e.g. Wiltshire + Montgomeryshire
- ▶ More community projects e.g. The one in my village
- ▶ Free memberships for young people where possible

To wrap up

- ▶ If we want young people to consider conservation as a valid career path, they need exposure at school
- ▶ It is not that young people are unwilling to engage with nature - they just have few avenues to do so
- ▶ Here's where the NH GCSE comes in!