

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of purple flowers, likely Salvia, with several bees flying around them. The image is slightly blurred, creating a soft, naturalistic feel.

Living Corridors

Environment and Sustainability Day 2021

Markus Mueller

**Imagine you are a bumblebee,
foraging for nectar.**



Habitats for animal life in our cities and towns

- The movement of animals is strongly shaped by the connectivity of the landscape they live in.
- Cities and towns are also landscapes, so-called urban ecosystems, and home to many different animal species, from insects to mammals.



Bumblebees, honey bees and other insects.



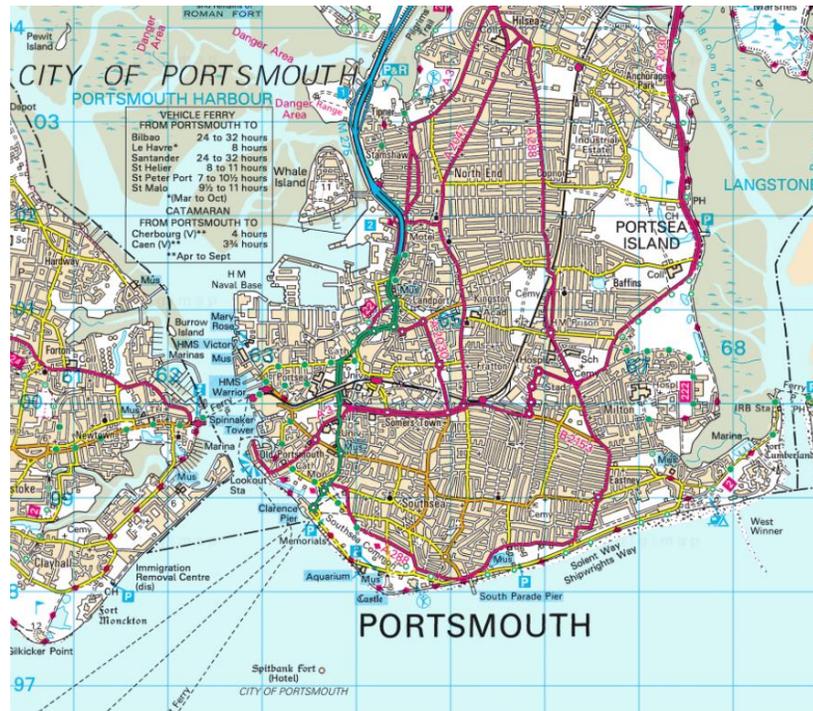
Blue tits, robins and other birds.



Hedgehogs, foxes, bats and other mammals.

Urban landscapes

Different cities have different layouts because of their natural environment (hills and valleys, rivers and other water bodies):



Portsmouth: a city on an island with limited space, surrounded by water.



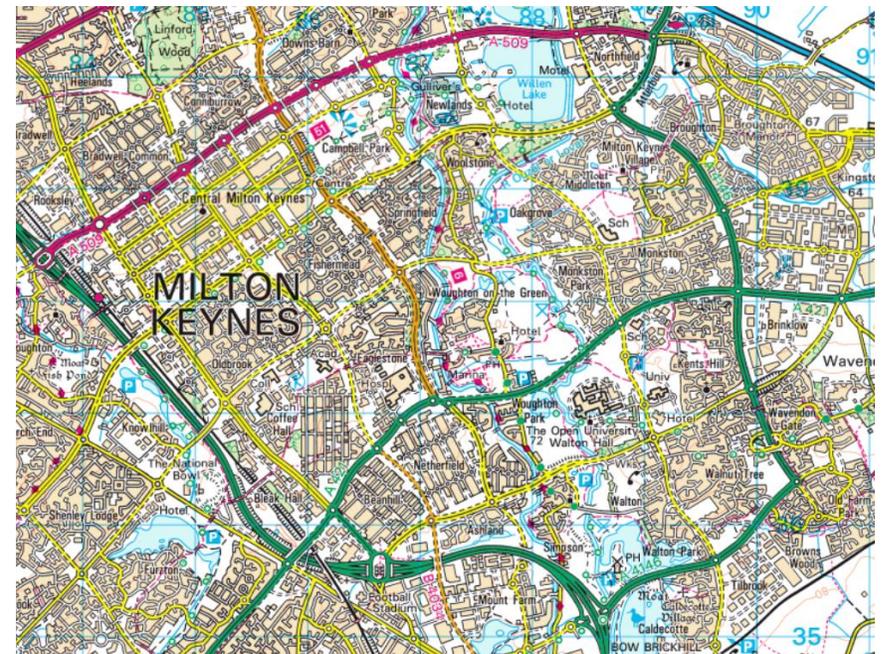
Lincoln: a city "climbing" out of a river valley.

Urban landscapes

Different cities have different layouts because of their historical development (pre- or post-industrial city development, wars, modern city planning).



York: an “organically” grown medieval city, with circular roads in the centre and expanding along trading routes.



Milton-Keynes: a planned city, with roads following parallel grid lines.

Why is connectivity of natural habitats important?

Pollinators foraging

- Many plants need insects for pollination, so they can produce fruits and seeds, and therefore grow more plants;
- Much of our food needs pollination so we can harvest crops and fruits;
- Insects need well connect areas for foraging so they have sufficient nectar and resources;

Bats hunting insects

- Many bats are active at night hunting for insects;
- They prefer darker habitats for hunting, so extensive street lighting may disturb them;

Hedgehogs and people

- Because hedgehogs eat insects and snails, they are very useful animals to have in your garden;
- However they are very vulnerable when crossing roads because they protect themselves by rolling into a ball and can be hit by cars.



Providing connectivity

Bridges or tunnels for wildlife crossing

- Green bridges over motorways;
- Wildlife tunnels under streets for amphibians, but also for hedgehogs and badgers;
- Parks and other green spaces in cities and towns;
- Green roofs and green building walls.



Habitat connectivity in your city/town/neighbourhood

How are green spaces connected in your neighbourhood?

- How are animals able to move about in your city/town/neighbourhood?
- Do they have an area large enough to forage in?
- Are there any dangers for them in their habitats, like road crossings, areas without shelter?



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