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VISITORS IMPACTS ON A PROTECTED AREA

**RICHMOND PARK NATIONAL
NATURE RESERVE**
LONDON, UK

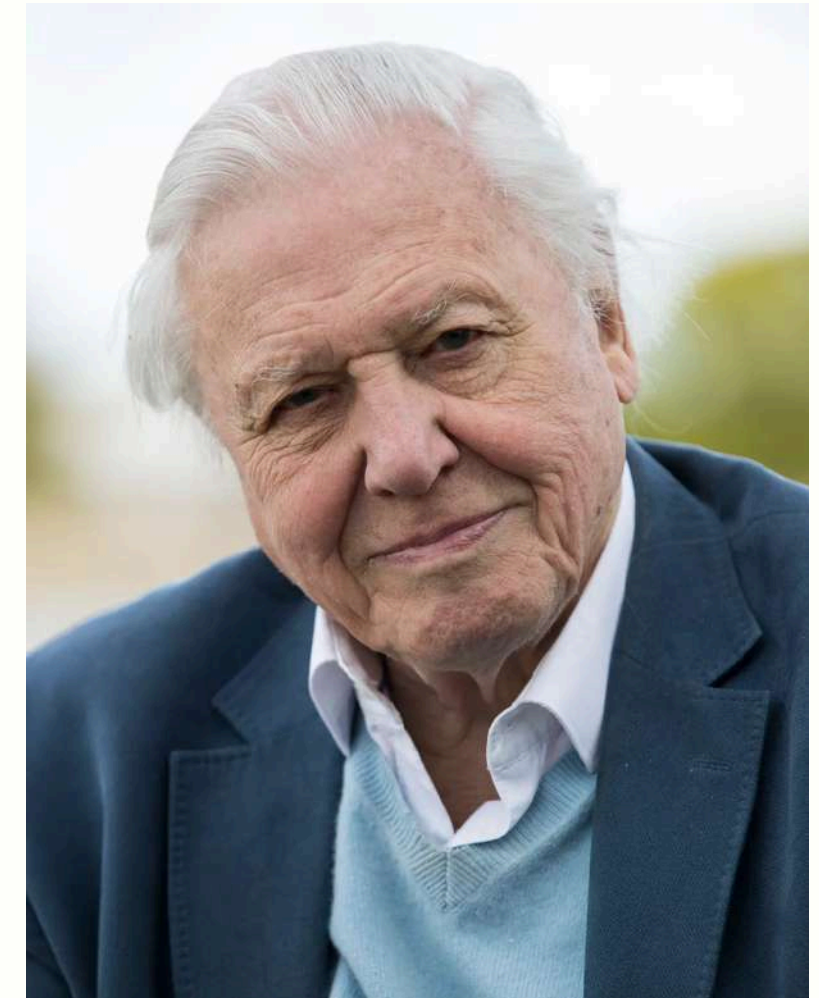


Matis CICCHELERO / Maxime LANJUN / Noa PALLUY-ESCALERE

Richmond Park National Nature Reserve



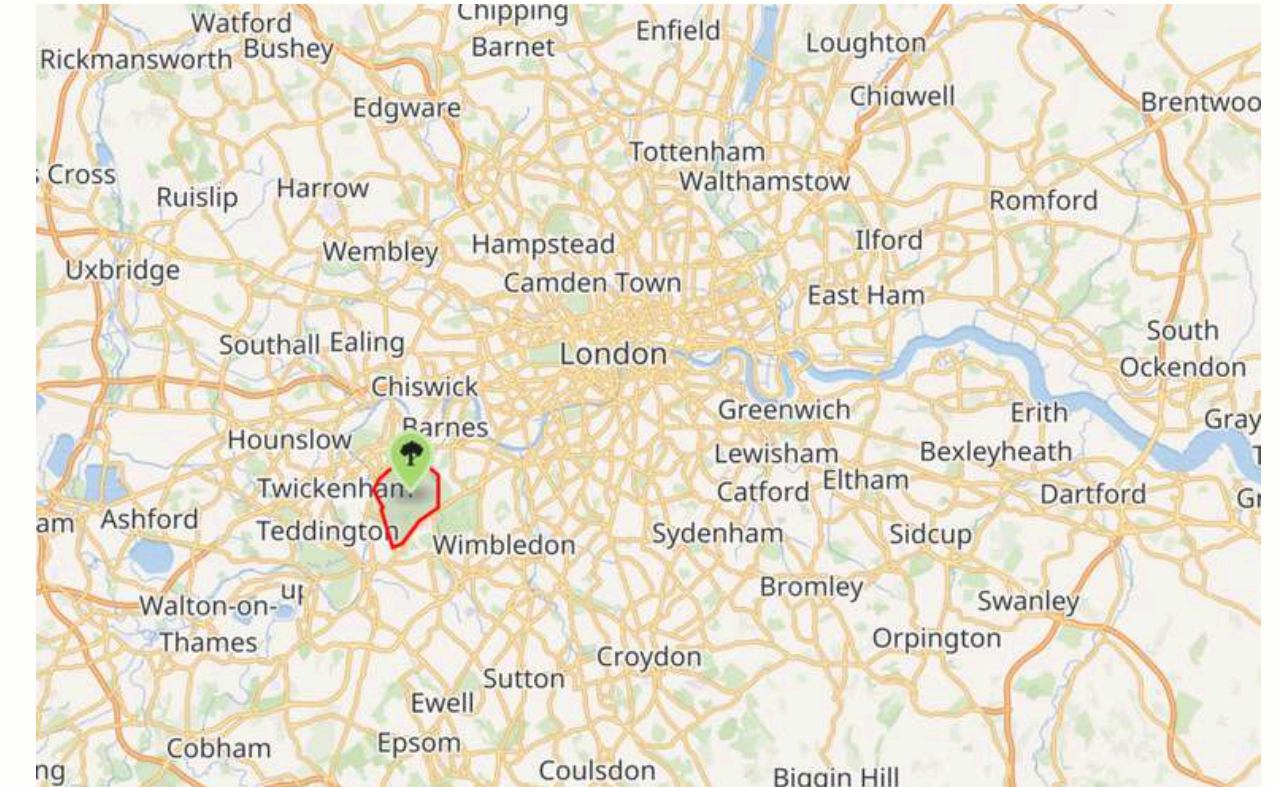
- Video by “**Friends of Richmond Park**”
- Presented by **David Attenborough**
- Well-know british broadcaster
- **Introduce Richmond Park**
- Wildlife
- Different pressures that human activity can create



Richmond Park National Nature Reserve



- Located in **London**
- One of the Royal Parks
- National Nature Reserve



SPECIAL

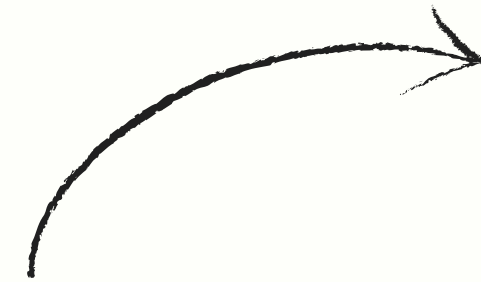
- **Huge** and **busy** city
- Provide an **environnement** for wildlife



Richmond Park National Nature Reserve



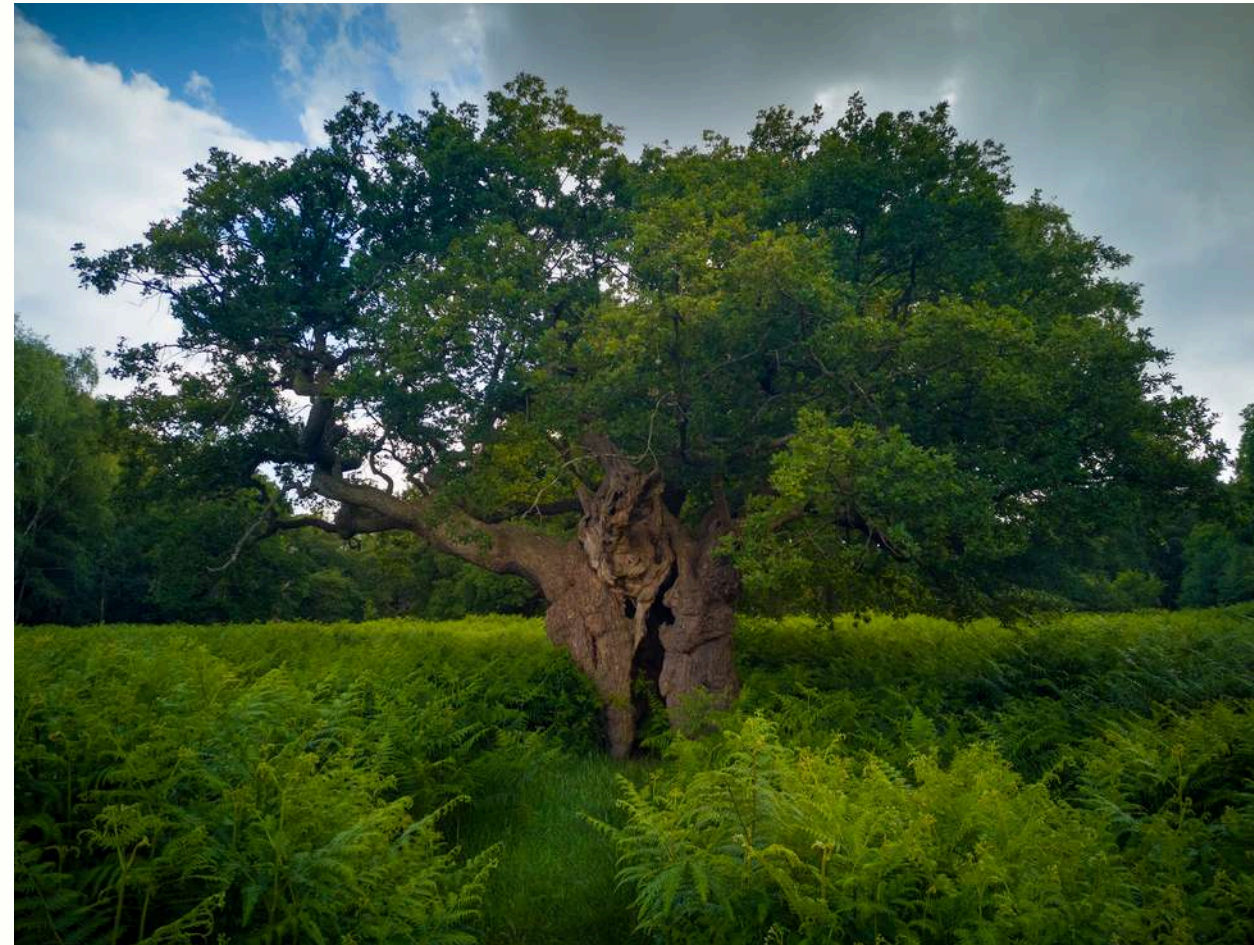
- Extremely popular
- More than **5.5 million people** each year
- Walk, relax, enjoy nature and see wildlife
- Pressure on wildlife and habitats
- **Video** gives examples of how visitors can affect this environment



Richmond Park National Nature Reserve



- 600 red and fallow **deer**



- 1400 **ancient** or veteran **trees**
- Provide habitats for hundreds of :

- Birds
- Mammals
- Insects
- Fungi
- Lichens



- More than 50 species of birds

Richmond Park National Nature Reserve



- **Biodiversity** 
- *Variety and variability of all living organisms at different levels of organization (genes to ecosystems)*
- Biodiversity is **connected** :

Trees



Plants



Insects



Birds



Richmond Park National Nature Reserve

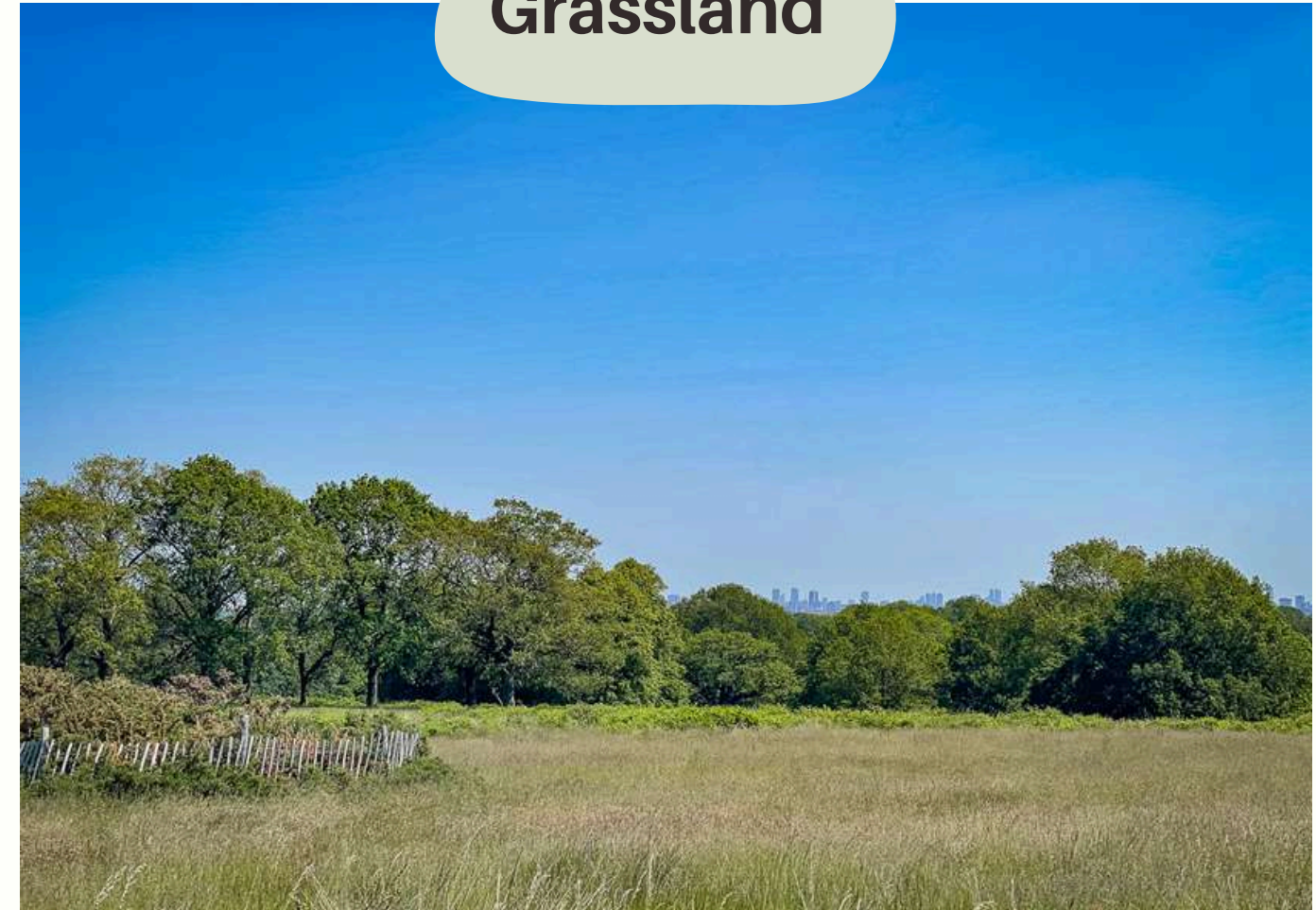


- **Habitat** 
- *The specific natural environment or physical place where the population of a species lives, finds resources, and reproduces*

Woodland



Grassland



Richmond Park National Nature Reserve



- Protected area 
- *Clearly defined geographical space that is managed through legal or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature, its ecosystem services, and cultural values*



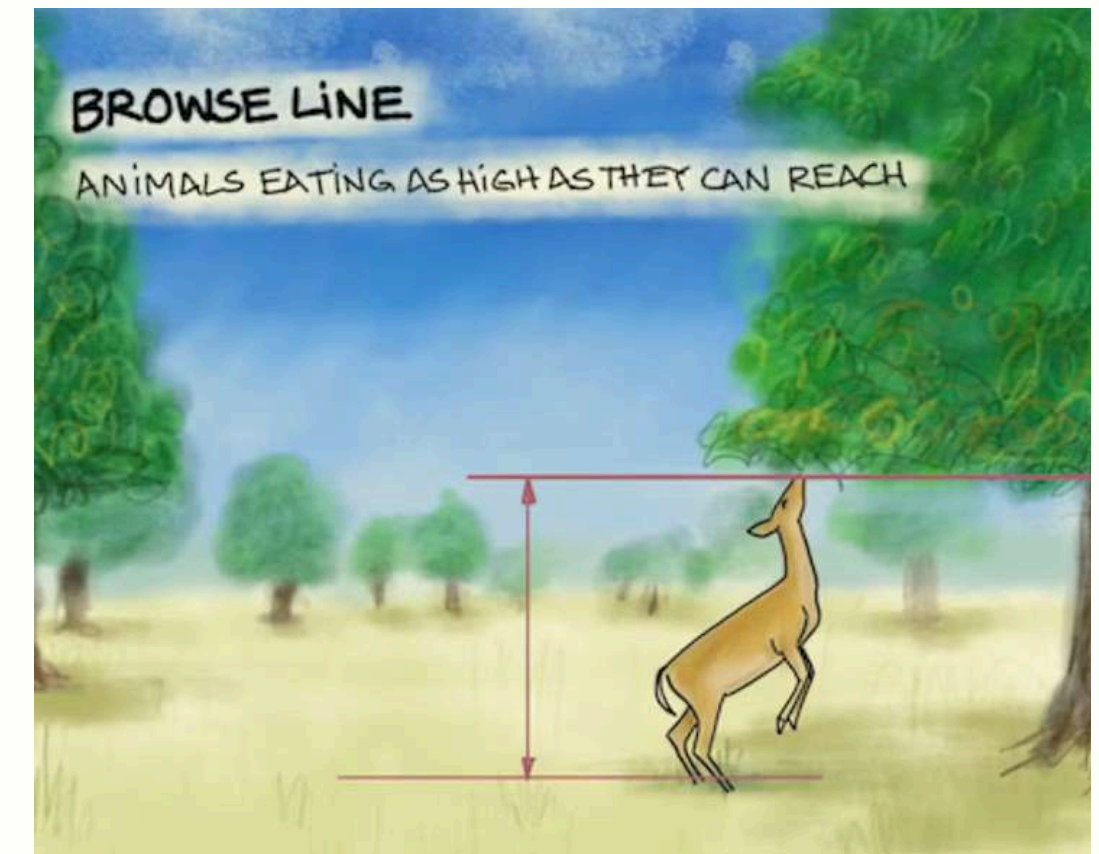
The deer, ancient trees and dead wood



- One of the most important animal in the park = **Deer**
- Live freely in the park (600)
- Descendants of the herd kept by King Charles



- **Eat vegetation** = have effects on plants and trees
- **Eat** low-hanging leaves of oak trees
- This creates a "**Browse line**" 
Clear line between the vegetation reachable by the deer and the one above it



The deer, ancient trees and dead wood



- Sensitive during breeding season
- Young deer (**Fawns**) are born in early summer
- Spend a lot of time hiding in the first week

ISSUE

- See Humans + Dogs = **THREATS** to their young
- **Off-lead dogs** = **DANGEROUS**
- Chase, Injure or Kill fawns



The deer, ancient trees and dead wood



- **Same idea** = Parks' ancient tree (≈ 1400)
- Some reaching about **800 years**
- Support many forms of life
- **Branches** or **entire trees** die and begin to decay



- **Dead wood** $\neq$ useless = become a **HABITAT**
- Particularly for **insects**



The deer, ancient trees and dead wood



➤ Stag beetle

- **Richmond park** = important breeding site
- **Larvae** develop inside rotting wood
- Stay up to 6 years before becoming adults
- Adults live for a few weeks

➤ Males have **large mandibles** = fighting for **mating**

➤ Females lay their eggs in **rotting wood**

ISSUE

- **Removing/Disturbing** dead wood = damage beetle's habitat
- Leave fallen wood where it is



The green woodpecker and ants



➤ Green woodpecker

- **Feed** on the ground
- **Yellow meadow ant** = 2000 per day
- Ants build small **mounds** in grassland
 - Absorb heat from the sun = help them to develop
 - Quite fragile

ISSUE

- Walking, jumping on them = **DAMAGE** them



The acid grassland and birds



- Another important habitat = **Acid grassland**
- Develop on **acidic, nutrient-poor** soil
- During summer = many wildflowers such as :
 - Harebells
 - Sheep sorrel
 - Yellow tormentil



ISSUE

- Visitors can change these habitat = **Dog Feces**
- **Contains nutrients** ≠ harmless
- Adding **extra-nutrients** can change the conditions of the habitat
- Prevent the plants that depend on it from **thriving**



The acid grassland and birds



- Another plant is **Bracken**

ISSUE

- Can **develop quickly** and take over parts of grassland
 - If it becomes too dominant = reduce the space for other species
-
- In the Park = controlled with **Shire horses**
-
- However – it also provides **food** and **shelter** for birds
 - Especially during **breeding season**



The acid grassland and birds



➤ Skylark

- **Richmond park** = one of London's remaining populations
- Build their nest directly on the ground
- **Vulnerable to disturbance**

ISSUE

- **People** walking through the grass
- **Off-lead dogs** = **DANGEROUS**
- **Number** had fallen considerably
- **Risk of disappearance** in the area



➤ Throughout the video :

- Richmond Park = **protected area** with great biodiversity
- **Protection** doesn't mean that Human activity has **no effects**
- Visitors and wildlife **depend on the same place**

Species encountered – MAMMALS



Red deer
/dir/



Fallow deer

Species encountered – BIRDS



Skylark
/'skaɪ.lɑ:k/



Green Woodpecker
/'wʊd.pɛk.ər/



Stonechat
/'stəʊn.tʃæt/



Reed bunting
/'bʌn.tɪŋ/

Species encountered – INVERTEBRATES



Stag beetle
/'biː.təl/



Yellow meadow ant

Species encountered – PLANTS



Harebells



Sheep sorrel



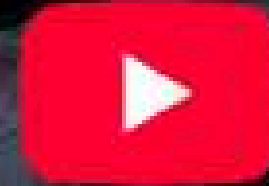
Yellow tormentil

The video



Richmond Park National Nature Reserve

Friends of Richmond Park



Watch on  YouTube

➤ Have you been **FOCUSED** ?

➤ Have you been **FOCUSED** ?

Kahoot!

➤ The rules

- by group of 3
- Guess who you are by asking yes or no questions
- 2 post-it to guess per people



Times up x Taboo

➤ The rules

- Two teams will face one another
- You will receive a few cards with a word written on it
- The catch is that you're not allowed to use three other words to describe yours.

ex : Oak tree, ~~X~~Wood ~~X~~Ancient ~~X~~Leaves

➤ The game itself

- round 1 : no word limit
- round 2 : you're only allowed to use one word (of course the forbidden words are still not allowed)

Role play.

➤ **The rules**

- **by group of 3-5**
- **Choose a role and lets start**

Role 1: The Park Manager

Background: You are responsible for the entire National Nature Reserve.

Your Goal: Protect biodiversity at all costs. You want to impose strict rules, such as completely closing the fragile acid grasslands to the public and banning dogs.

Role 2: The Angry Dog Walker

Background: You are a local resident who has been walking dogs in Richmond Park every day for 20 years.

Your Goal: Fight the new regulations. You refuse to keep your dog on a lead. You believe the park is a public space for citizens to enjoy freely, and you think the wildlife should adapt to humans, not the other way around.

Role 3: The Wildlife Scientist

Background: You study the park's fragile ecosystems and micro-habitats.

Your Goal: Raise the alarm about the rapid decline of local species. You are desperately trying to protect the decaying wood and skylarks. You demand immediate action against trampling and habitat destruction.

Role 4: The Local Politician

Background: You are the elected representative for the Richmond area.

Your Goal: Find a compromise. You want to be seen as "green" and protect the ecosystem, but you also cannot afford to anger the 5.5 million annual visitors who are your potential voters.

Role 5: The Local Café Owner

Background: You run a very popular café and bike rental shop just outside the park gates.

Your Goal: Protect your business. Your entire income depends on the massive number of visitors. You strongly oppose closing parts of the park or banning dog walkers.