



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



UK and England Biodiversity Indicators

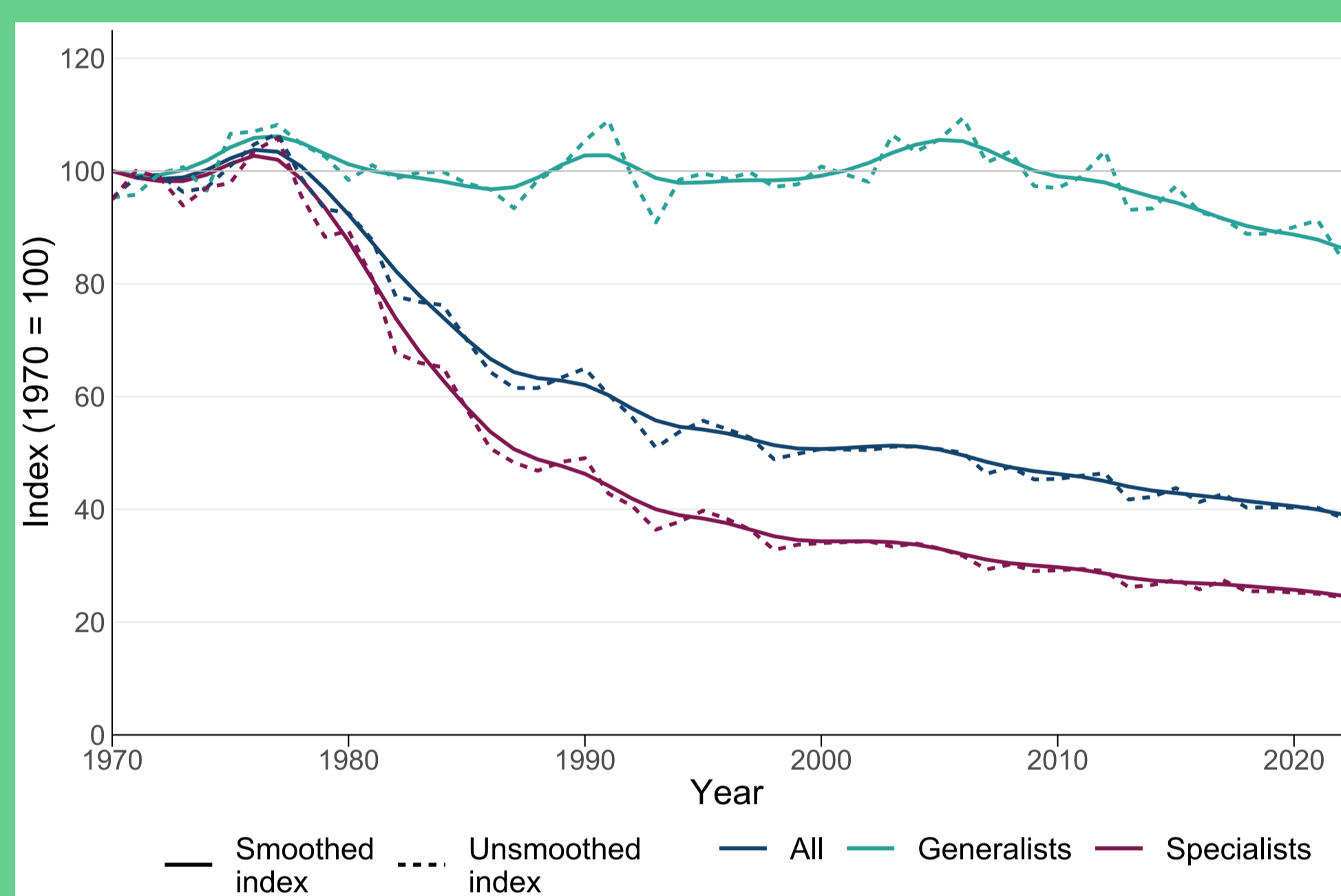
We rely on recording and monitoring scheme data to inform many of our published indicators. This helps us to tell a compelling story about the state of the UK's biodiversity. Here are just a few examples ...

Introduction

The UK and England biodiversity indicators each form a Defra Accredited Official Statistics Compendium, meaning that they have been assessed as meeting the standards set in the Code of Practice for Statistics. These indicators and measures provide tools with which to track, report and more widely communicate changes in biodiversity and other aspects of the environment. Around 100 organisations contribute to the UKBIs, with volunteers and citizen scientists having important roles in the monitoring work that underpins these indicators.

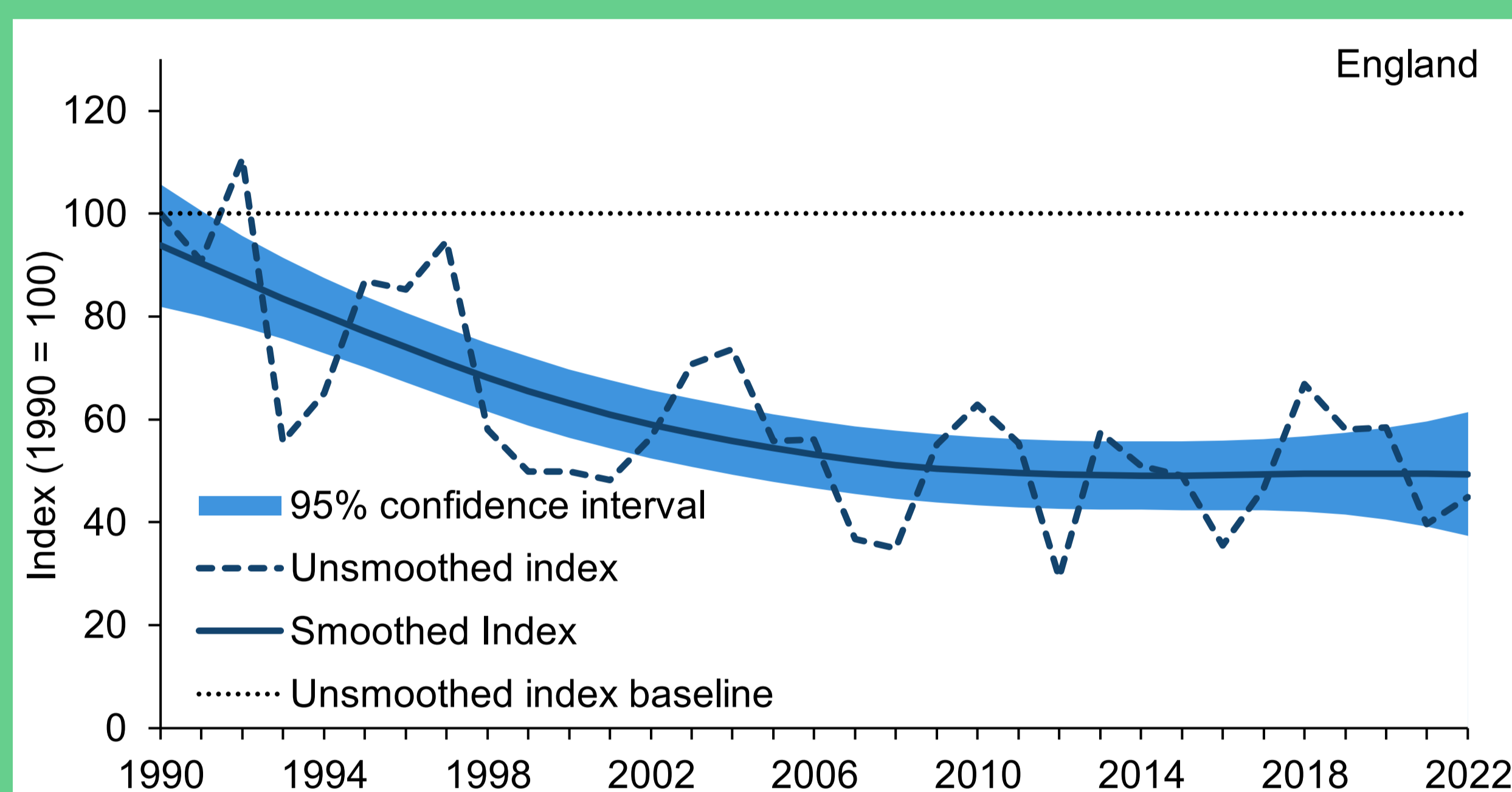
Farmland birds

The long-term decline of the farmland bird indicator in England has been driven mainly by the decline of those species that are restricted to, or highly dependent on, farmland habitats (the 'specialists'). Between 1970 and 2022, the index for farmland specialists declined by 75% while for farmland generalists it declined by 14%



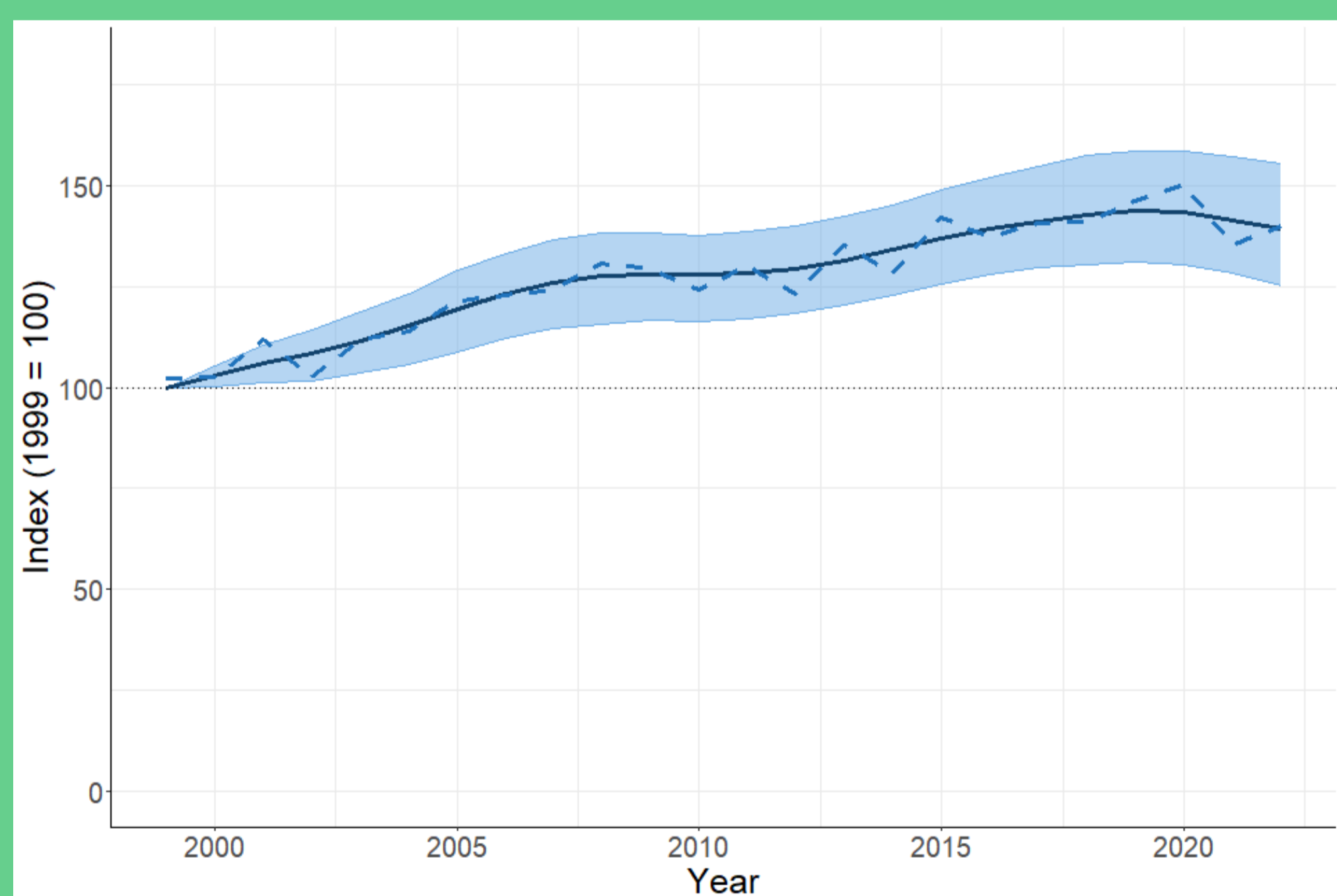
Woodland butterflies

The abundance of butterflies in woodland has significantly declined since the start of 1990, decreasing by 47%. In the short term, since 2017, the abundance of butterflies has shown little or no change.



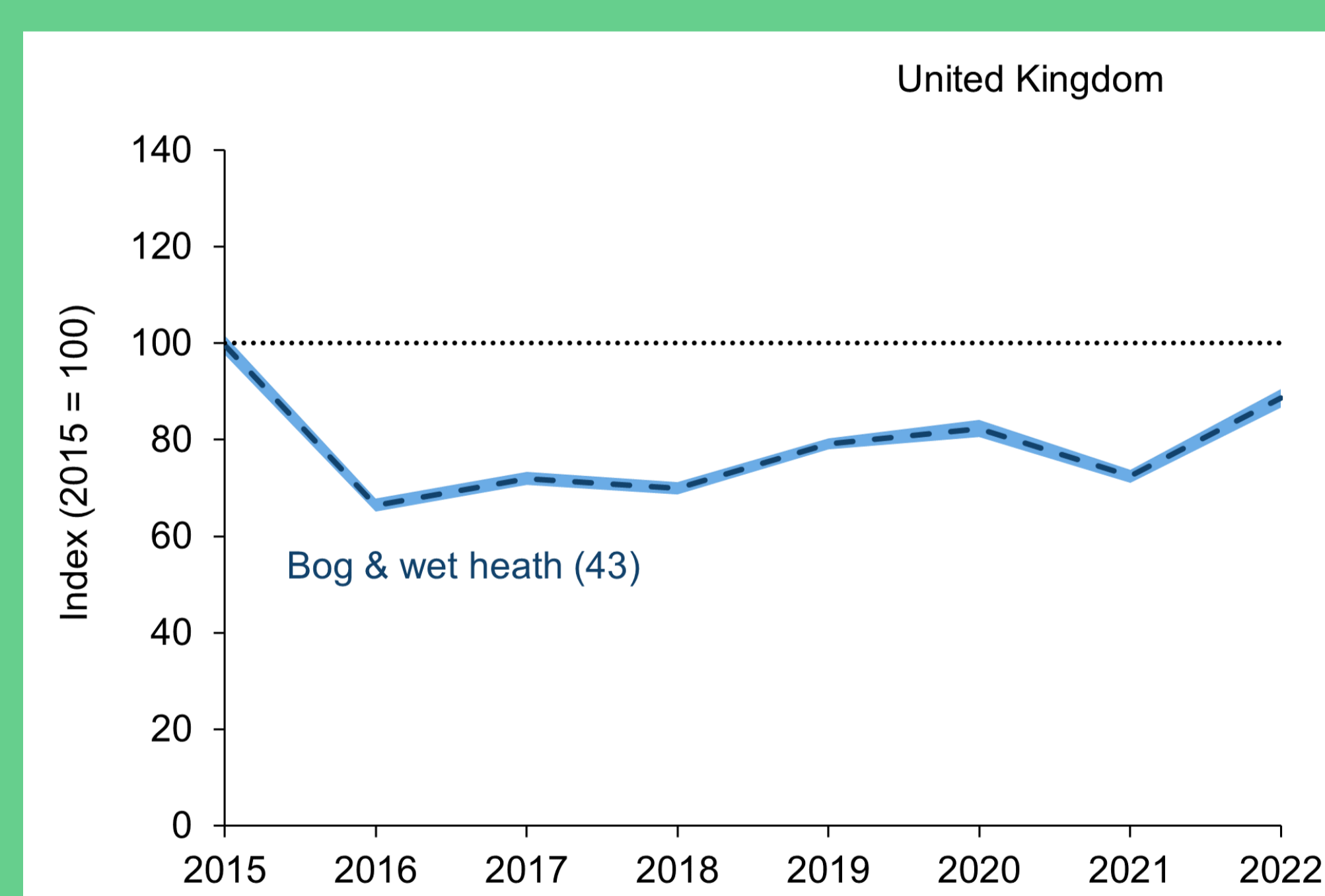
Widespread bats

Since 1999, the England widespread bat index has increased by 43%. This is likely due in part to the introduction of strict legal protection for bats and a milder climate. In the short term, between 2017 and 2022, the smoothed bat index has increased by 5%.



Wetland plants

Between 2015 and 2022, average plant abundance for the bog and wet heath habitat type included within this UK indicator shows a 11% decline since 2015. 'Plants in the wider countryside' is an official statistic in development and, as such, we are keen to hear feedback from our users.



Planned developments

We will publish a new indicator in April/May 2024 for widespread species abundance in England. It will draw many datasets together into a single indicator to measure our progress towards the Environment Act targets for species abundance, including the apex target of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP): 'to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030'.

Thank you to our data providers for their work, time and expertise that go into our publications each year.



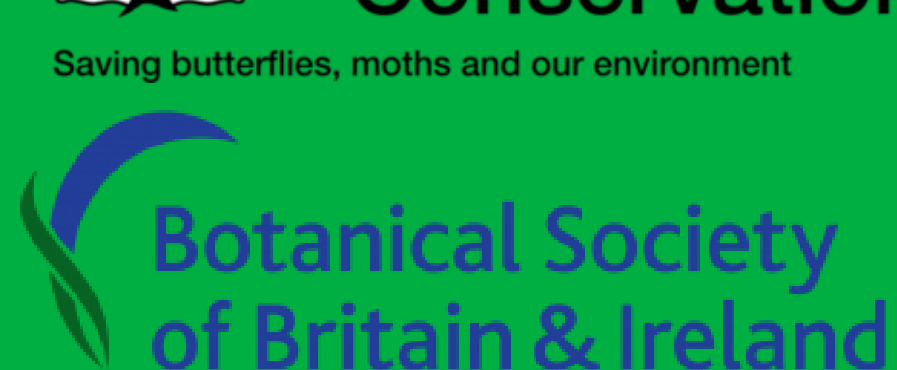
National Plant
Monitoring Scheme



UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



Butterfly
Conservation



2023 indicators:
England UK

