

H: Headline Indicators

The fifteen headline indicators aim to show what progress is being made across the three pillars of sustainable development: economic (three indicators), social (five indicators), and environmental (seven indicators), and are intended to be considered together as a package. The complexity of the issues means that although there are fifteen indicators, four of them have split assessments to reflect separate trends and so there are nineteen assessments.

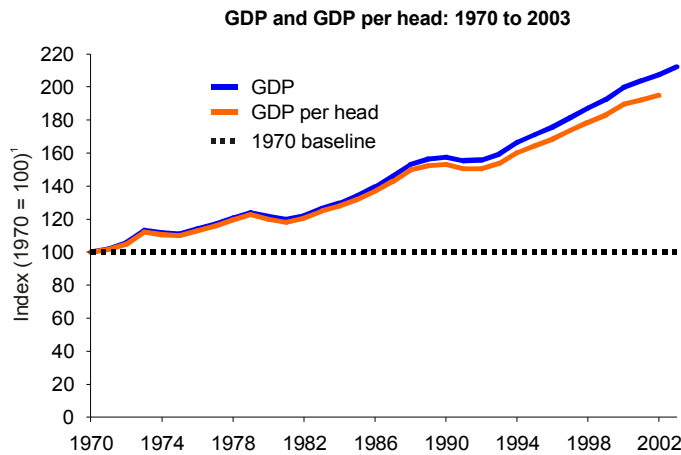
The headline indicators show:

- Between 1990 and 2003, GDP grew in real terms by 35 per cent.
- Total investment in real terms grew relative to GDP between 1990 and 1998, and has since remained relatively stable. Social investment (railways, hospitals, schools) was around 2.0 per cent of GDP in 1990, and was 1.7 per cent in 2002.
- In 2003, the percentage of working age people in work was 74.7 per cent, the same level as in 1990.
- In recent years the proportions of the population affected by poverty and social exclusion have been reduced.
- The percentage of 19 year-olds with 'level 2' qualifications was 76.1 per cent in 2003 compared with 52.0 per cent in 1990.
- Average life expectancy has increased, but healthy life expectancy has increased more slowly, so an increasing proportion of those extra years are in poor health.
- In 2001, 33 per cent of dwellings were non-decent, compared with 46 per cent in 1996.
- Both the British Crime Survey and recorded crime show reductions in vehicle thefts and domestic burglary over the last decade, whilst recorded robberies have increased - but robberies were lower in 2002-3 than the previous year.
- Emissions of the 'basket' of six greenhouse gases are provisionally estimated to have fallen by 14 per cent between the 1990 baseline and 2003
- Urban air quality has generally improved significantly since 1993, but in 2003 the hot summer and a number of significant pollution episodes earlier in the year led to an unusually high number of pollution days.
- Road traffic volumes have more than doubled since 1970, but road traffic intensity (vehicle kilometres per GDP) fell by 11 per cent between 1990 and 2003 — which demonstrates some uncoupling of road traffic and economic growth since 1990.
- The biggest improvements in both chemical and biological river quality since 1990 have been in English rivers, bringing more of them up to the standard seen in the rest of the UK.
- Farmland bird populations fell by 42 per cent between 1970 and 2002, and woodland bird populations fell by 15 per cent, though there are now signs that populations are stabilising.
- The percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land or through conversion of existing buildings increased from 54 per cent in 1990 to 64 per cent in 2002.
- In 2000-1, around 220 million tonnes of controlled waste were produced by households, commerce and industry (including construction and demolition). Just under half was disposed of in landfill sites. Household waste accounts for about one sixth of all controlled waste. The amount not recycled or composted increased from 417 to 454 kilograms per person, or 9 per cent, between 1991-2 and 2001-2, even though proportionally more was recycled.

Ref. no.	Indicator	QOLC 1999		QOLC Updated Assessment			
		Change since		Change since			
		1970	1990	1970	1990	Strategy	
H1	Economic Output: GDP and GDP per head	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
H2	Investment: Total and social investment relative to GDP	✗	✗	≈	≈	≈	
H3	Employment: Proportion of people of working age who are in work	≈	≈	≈	≈	✓	
H4	Poverty & social exclusion: Indicators of success in tackling poverty and social exclusion	✗	≈	✗	≈	✓	
H5	Education: Qualifications at age 19	⋯	✓	⋯	✓	✓	
H6	Health: Expected years of healthy life	✓	≈	✓	≈	≈	
H7	Housing: Households living in non-decent housing	⋯	≈	⋯	✓	✓	
H8	Level of crime	Violent crime	✗	✗	Revised	Revised	Revised
		Vehicles and burglary	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
		Robbery	na	na	✗	✗	✗
H9	Climate change: Emissions of greenhouse gases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
H10	Air quality: Days when air pollution is moderate or higher	⋯	✓	⋯	✓	✗	
H11	Road traffic	Traffic volume	✗	≈	✗	✗	✗
		Traffic intensity	✗	≈	✗	✓	✓
H12	River water quality: Chemical and biological river quality	≈	✓	✓	✓	✓	
H13	Wildlife: Populations of wild birds	Farmland birds	✗	✗	✗	✗	≈
		Woodland birds	✗	✗	✗	✗	≈
H14	Land use: New homes built on previously developed land	⋯	≈	⋯	✓	✓	
H15	Waste	Household waste	⋯	✗	⋯	✗	✗
		Waste arisings & management	⋯	⋯	⋯	⋯	≈

Indicator: Economic output

H1



Change since

- ✔ 1970
- ✔ 1990
- ✔ 1998

United Kingdom
Source: ONS

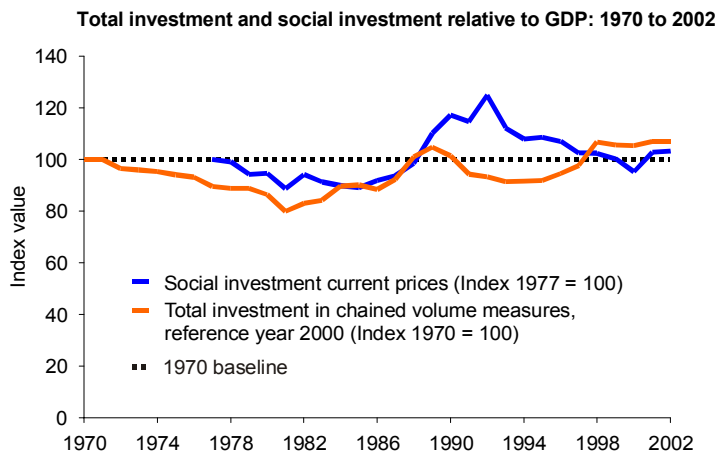
Note: 1. Chained volume measures rebased to 1970 = 100.

Objective: Our economy must continue to grow

- Between 1990 and 2003, GDP grew in real terms by 35 per cent. Output has increased steadily since the early 1990s, with a 13 per cent rise between 1998 and 2003.
- Output per head has increased at a slightly slower rate, by 27 per cent between 1990 and 2002 and just 9 per cent from 1998 to 2002, reflecting the fact that the population has also increased.

Indicator: Investment

H2



Change since

- ⊖ 1970
- ⊖ 1990
- ⊖ Strategy¹

1. 1992 (social investment),
1998 (total investment)

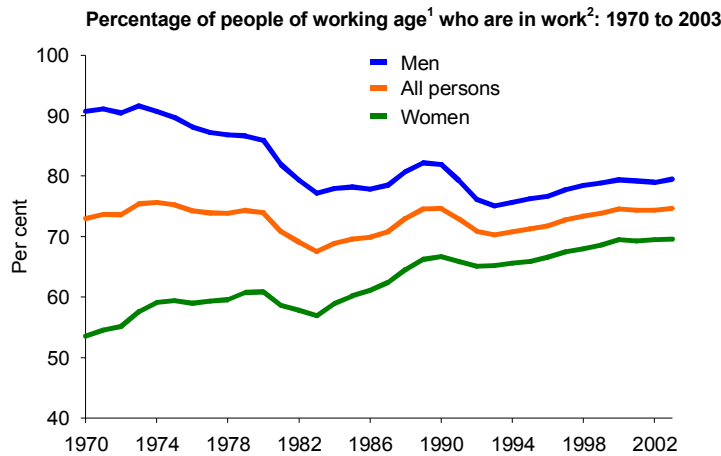
United Kingdom
Source: ONS

Objective: Investment (in modern plant and machinery as well as research and development) is vital to our future prosperity

- Total investment in real terms grew by 5 per cent relative to GDP between 1990 and 1998, and has since remained relatively stable.
- Social investment (railways, hospitals, schools) in current prices was around 2.0 per cent of GDP in 1990, and was 1.7 per cent in 2002.

Indicator: Employment

H3



Change since

- 1970
- 1990
- 1999

United Kingdom
Source: DWP, ONS

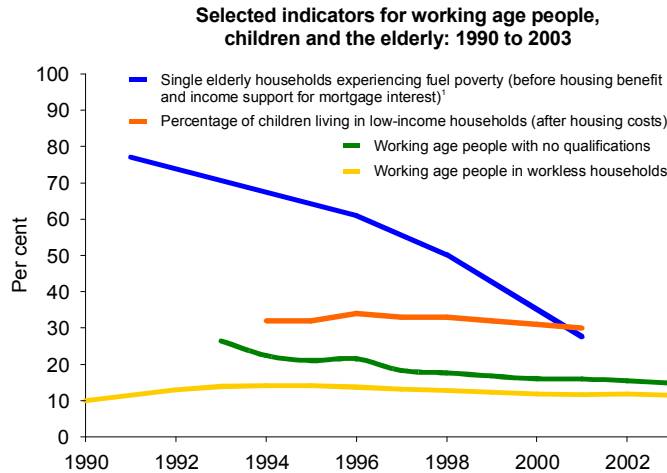
Notes: 1. From 1959-71 working age was 15-59/64; from 1972 onwards, 16-59/64.
2. Rate as in May-July quarter each year (seasonally adjusted).

Objective: Maintain high and stable levels of employment so everyone can share greater job opportunities

- In 2003, the percentage of working age people in work was 74.7 per cent, the same level as in 1990, but an increase from 73.9 per cent in 1999.
- There was a reduction in the proportion of working age men in employment between 1970 and 2003, from 90.7 per cent to 79.5, but a small increase was seen from 78.9 per cent in 1999. The proportion of women in employment continues to increase.

Indicator: Poverty and social exclusion

H4



Change since

- 1970
- 1990
- Strategy²

2. 1996 (single elderly households experiencing fuel poverty), 1996-7 (Children in low-income households), 1998 (working age people in workless households), 1999 (working age people with no qualifications).

Great Britain
Source: DWP, DTI

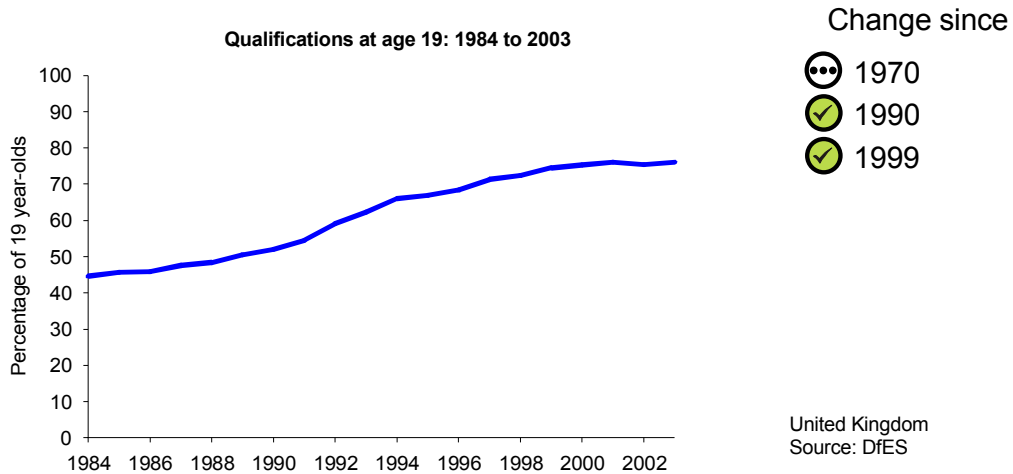
Note: 1. England.

Objective: Tackle poverty and social exclusion

- The proportion of working age people who live in households where no-one works has fallen gradually since the mid-1990s. There has been steady progress in reducing the proportion of working age people without a qualification, which has fallen from 26.4 per cent in 1993 to 14.8 per cent in 2003.
- The proportion of single elderly households experiencing fuel poverty fell from 77 per cent in 1991 to 28 per cent in 2001. The proportion of children living in households with relative low-incomes fell between 1996-7 and 2001-2, from 34 per cent to 30 per cent.

Indicator: Education

H5



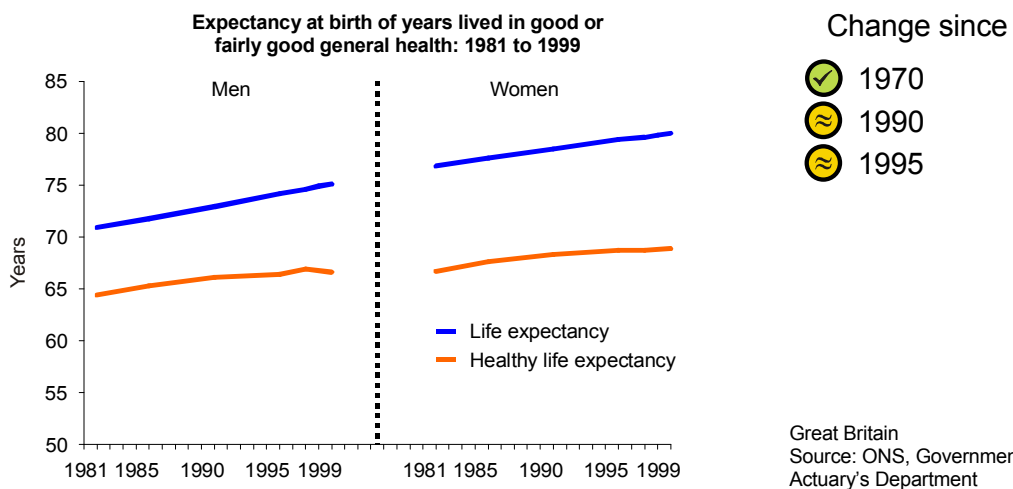
Notes: Spring quarter each year.
 Percentage with level 2 qualifications, for example 5 GCSEs at grade C or above.

Objective: Equip people with the skills to fulfil their potential

- The percentage of 19 year-olds with level 2 qualifications (e.g. five GCSEs at grades C or above, NVQ level 2 or equivalent) was 76.1 per cent in 2003 compared with 52.0 per cent in 1990.
- At present, just under a quarter of young people do not achieve qualifications equivalent to level 2 by the age of 19, and a small minority, 7.4 per cent, achieve no qualifications at all by this age.

Indicator: Health

H6

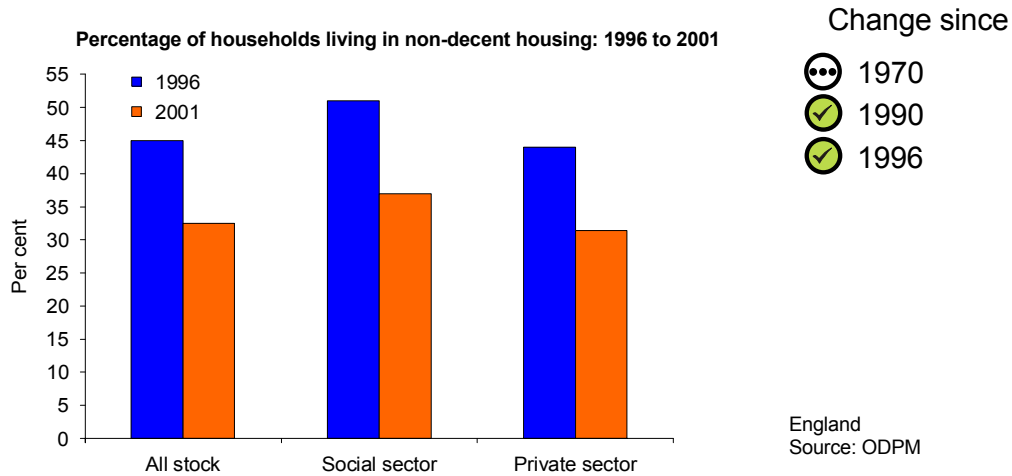


Objective: Improve health of the population overall

- Between 1981 and 1999, average life expectancy increased from 70.9 to 75.1 years for men (by 4.2 years) and from 76.8 to 80.0 years for women (by 3.2 years). Over the same period healthy life expectancy increased from 64.4 to 66.6 years for men (by 2.2 years) and from 66.7 to 68.9 for women (by 2.2 years). Therefore, whilst overall life expectancy has increased, an increasing proportion of those extra years are in poor health.

Indicator: Housing - conditions

H7

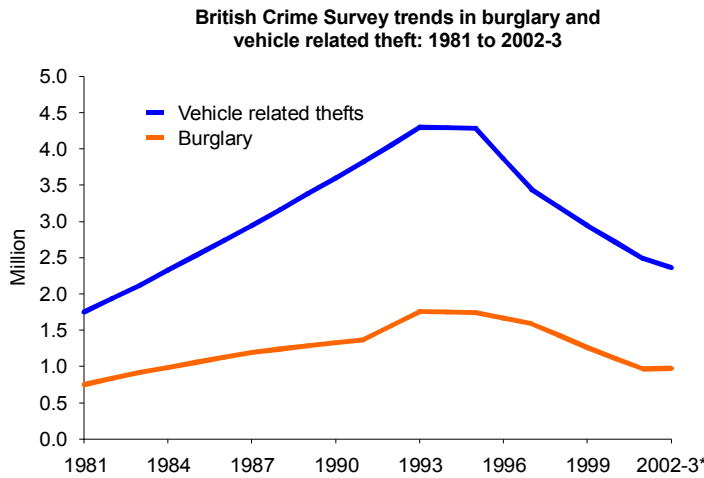


Objective: Improve the condition of housing stock (revised)

- Between 1996 and 2001 there was an improvement in the overall condition of housing in England. 45 per cent of households lived in non-decent dwellings in 1996, compared with 33 per cent in 2001.
- This improvement was seen in both the private and social sectors - 51 per cent of households in the social sector lived in non-decent housing in 1996 compared with 37 per cent in 2001, and in the private sector 31 per cent of households lived in non-decent dwellings in 2001, falling from 44 per cent in 1996.

Indicator: Crime

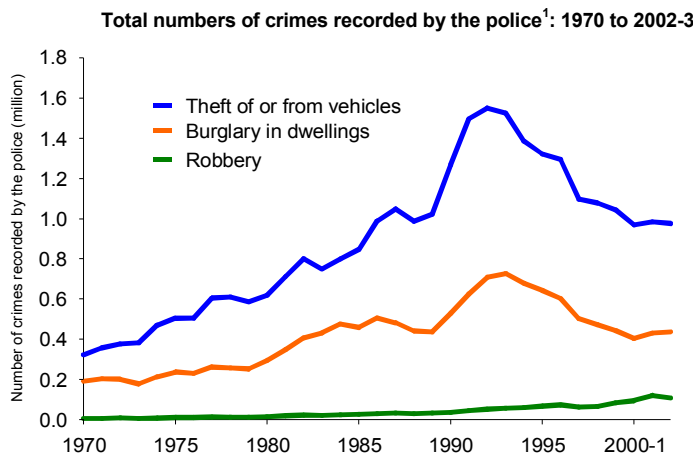
H8



Note: * 2001-2 and 2002-3 data are interview-based.

- Vehicles and burglary**
Change since
- ⊗ 1970
 - ⊙ 1990
 - ⊙ 1998-9
- Robbery**
Change since
- ⊗ 1970
 - ⊗ 1990
 - ⊗ 1998-9

England and Wales
Source: Home Office



Note: 1. 1970 to 1998-9 data are for the number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31st March 1998. After 1998-9, data are for the number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1st April 1998.

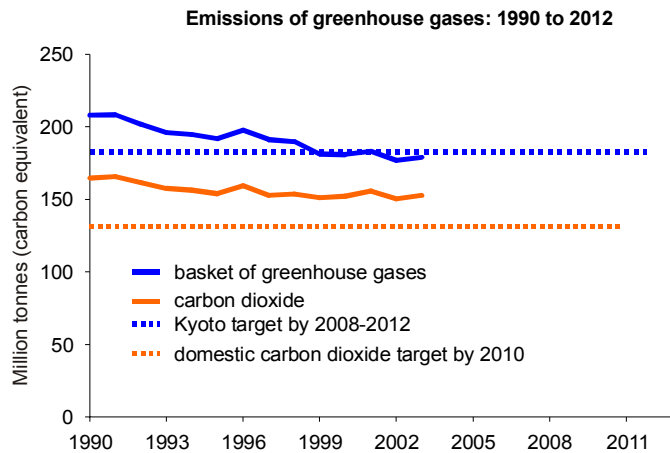
England and Wales
Source: Home Office

Objective: Reduce both crime and fear of crime

- British Crime Survey (BCS) data show that vehicle thefts fell by 38 per cent and burglary fell by 29 per cent between 1991 and 2002-3. Recorded vehicle crime fell by 23 per cent, and burglary in dwellings fell by 17 per cent between 1990 and 2002-3.
- Between 1999 and 2002-3, the BCS shows that vehicle thefts fell by 20 per cent and domestic burglary fell by 23 per cent. Over the same period recorded vehicle crime fell by 9 per cent and recorded domestic burglaries fell by 8 per cent.
- The number of robberies recorded by the police increased from about 36,000 in 1990 to 67,000 in 1998-9 and 108,000 in 2002-3. However, 2002-3 represented a fall of 11 per cent from 2001-2 (equating to a 14 per cent fall once adjusted for the National Crime Recording Standard).

Indicator: Climate change

H9



Change since

- ✓ 1970
- ✓ 1990
- ✓ Strategy¹

1. 1997 (basket of greenhouse gases), 1998 (carbon dioxide)

United Kingdom
Source: NETCEN, Defra, DTI

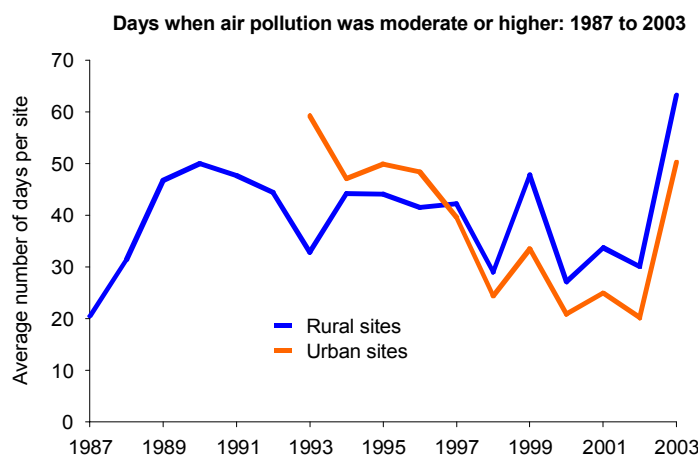
Note: 2003 estimates are provisional

Objective: Continue to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases now, and plan for greater reductions in the longer term

- Emissions of the 'basket' of six greenhouse gases are provisionally estimated to have fallen by 14 per cent between the 1990 baseline and 2003.
- Between 1997 and 2003, they are provisionally estimated to have fallen by about 6 per cent.
- Carbon dioxide emissions were about 7 per cent lower in 2003 than in 1990, following a rise of about 1.5 per cent between 2002 and 2003.

Indicator: Air quality

H10



Change since

- ☹ 1970
- ✓ 1990
- ✗ 1998

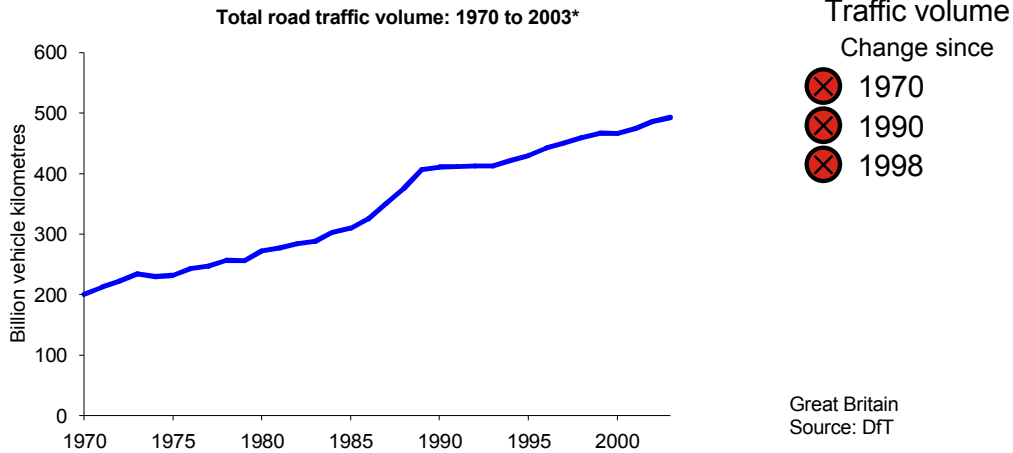
United Kingdom
Source: Defra, NETCEN

Objective: Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve through the longer term

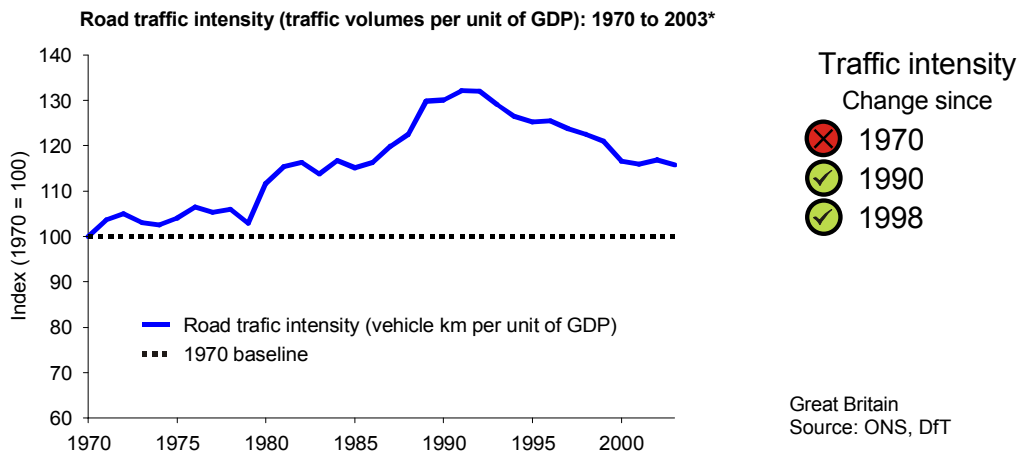
- Urban air quality has generally improved significantly since 1993, while rural air pollution, caused largely by ozone, has shown no overall trend.
- Shorter term trends can be masked by variation caused by the weather. The hot summer and other pollution episodes in 2003 led to an unusually high number of pollution days. The assessment reflects the high 2003 figures rather than being a conclusion about the underlying trend, which remains unclear.

Indicator: Road traffic

H11



Note: * 2003 figure is provisional



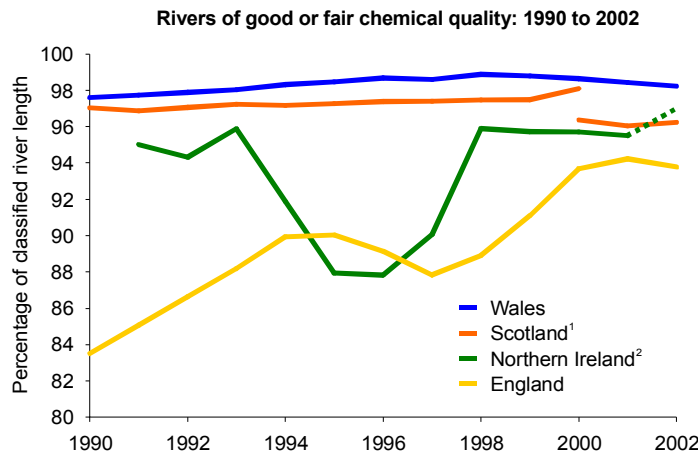
Note: * 2003 figure is provisional.

Objective: Improve choice in transport; improve access to education, jobs, leisure and services; and reduce the need to travel

- Total road traffic in 2003 was provisionally estimated to be 20 per cent higher than in 1990, and 7 per cent higher than in 1998. It has more than doubled since 1970.
- Road traffic intensity (vehicle kilometres per GDP), however, fell by 11 per cent between 1990 and 2003 and by 5 per cent between 1998 and 2003, therefore showing some 'decoupling' between road traffic and economic growth since 1990.

Indicator: River water quality

H12



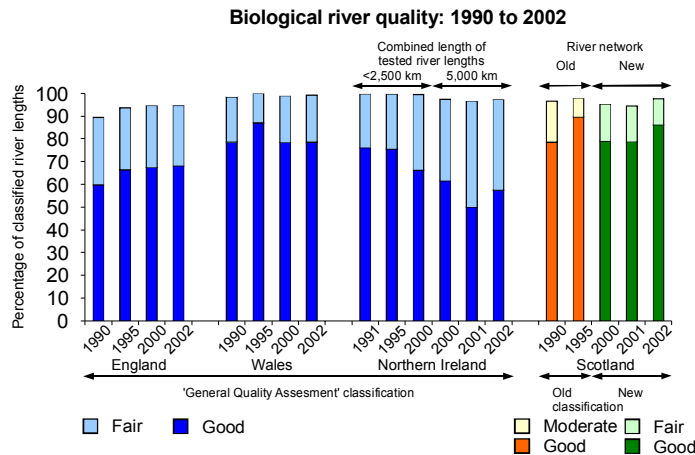
Change since

- ✓ 1970
- ✓ 1990
- ✓ Strategy³

3. 1998 (chemical water quality),
1995 (biological water quality)

Notes: 1. Scottish river classification network changed in 2000
2. Northern Irish network expanded significantly in 2002

United Kingdom
Source: EA, SEPA, EHS



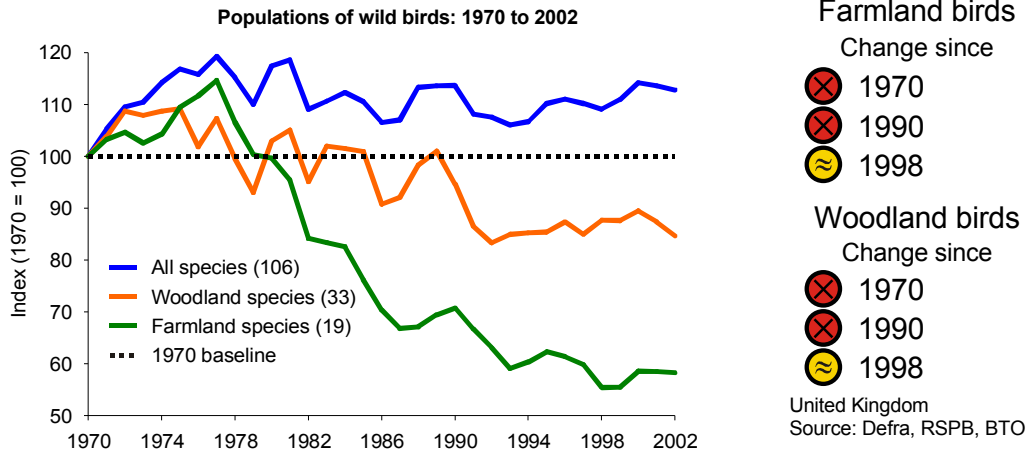
United Kingdom
Source: EA, SEPA, EHS

Objective: Improving river quality

- The biggest improvements in both chemical and biological river quality since 1990 have been in English rivers, bringing more of them up to the quality seen in the rest of the UK.
- In 2002, 94 per cent of English rivers were of good or fair chemical quality, compared with 89 per cent in 1998. The chemical quality of rivers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland has been maintained at high levels over this period.

Indicator: Wildlife

H13



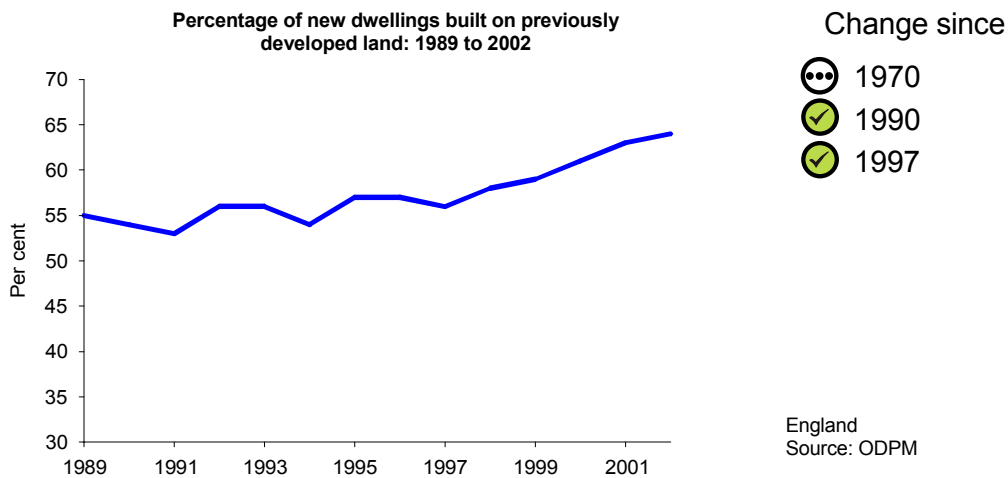
Note: Figures in brackets give the number of species included in each category

Objective: Reverse long-term decline in populations of farmland and woodland birds

- The overall population of British breeding birds has increased since 1970, but farmland and woodland birds have declined significantly.
- Farmland bird populations fell by 42 per cent between 1970 and 2002, and woodland bird populations by 15 per cent.
- Farmland bird populations increased by 5 per cent between 1998 and 2002. Woodland birds decreased by 3 per cent over the same period.

Indicator: Land use

H14



Note: Includes conversions which are estimated to add 3 percentage points

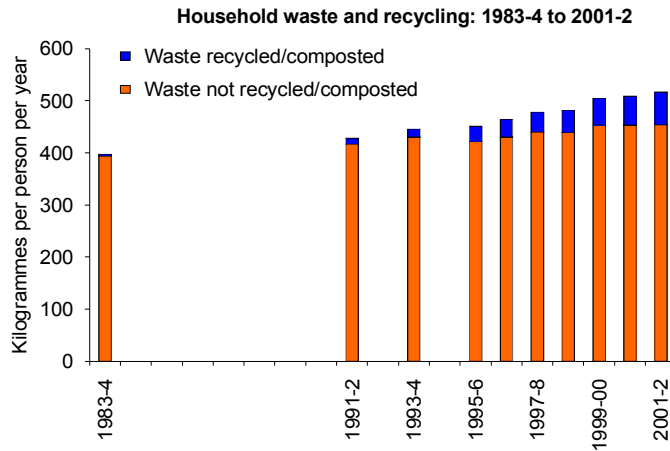
Objective: Re-using previously developed land, in order to protect the countryside and encourage urban regeneration

- The percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land or through conversion of existing buildings increased from 54 per cent in 1990 to 64 per cent in 2002.

Indicator: Waste

H15

Household waste

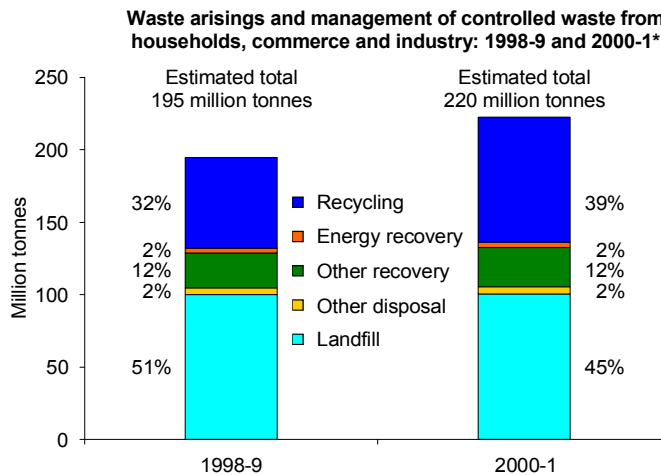


Change since

- ☹️ 1970
- ☹️ 1990
- ☹️ 1997-8

England and Wales
Source: EA, Defra

Waste arisings and management



Change since

- ☹️ 1970
- ☹️ 1990
- 😊 1998

United Kingdom
Source: Defra et alⁱ

Note: * Includes estimated figures for industrial and commercial waste

Objective: Move away from disposal of waste towards waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery

- In 2000-1, around 220 million tonnes of controlled waste were produced by households, commerce and industry (including construction and demolition). Just under half was disposed of in landfill sites (lower chart).
- The increase in total arisings from 1998-9 to 2000-1 is not statistically significant.
- Household waste (upper chart) accounts for about one sixth of all controlled waste. The amount generated that was not recycled or composted increased from 417 to 454 kilograms per person, or 9 per cent, between 1991-2 and 2001-2.

ⁱ Defra, EA, ODPM, SEPA, WAG, NIEHS