

Orchards vanishing from the landscape,
says National Trust
英國國家信託基金會：果園正從景觀中消失

英國國家信託基金會（National Trust）開展的研究顯示，果園正在從景觀中消失，自 1900 年來，其消失的面積大小相當於維特島（the Isle of Wight）。

Apple and other fruit trees are among the first to **bloom**, but according to the National Trust, this burst of spring **blossom** is becoming a rarer sight as **orchards** are torn down to **make way for** housing developments and modern agriculture.

蘋果樹和其它果樹是最早開花的樹木之一，但據國家信託基金會稱，由於果園被拆除，為開發住房和現代農業讓地，滿園春花欣欣向榮的景象將越來越罕見。

The Trust's analysis of historic maps using artificial intelligence techniques suggests more than half of orchards in England and Wales have vanished in little over a hundred years. And that's bad news for people and nature, they say.

該信託基金會使用人工智慧技術對歷史地圖進行的分析表明，僅在 100 年多一點點的時間內，英格蘭和威爾士超過一半的果園都消失了。該機構說，這對人類和自然來說都是壞消息。

Traditional orchards can be a **haven** for wildlife with flowers providing a food source for **pollinating** insects and branches giving a home to patrolling bats.

傳統果園可作為野生動植物的庇護所，那裡的花朵為傳粉昆蟲提供了食物來源，樹枝為飛來飛去的蝙蝠提供了棲息處。

The National Trust has vowed to plant four million blossoming trees as part of its commitment to **cultivate** 20 million trees across England, Wales and Northern Ireland by 2030.

英國國家信託基金會承諾到 2030 年，將在英格蘭、威爾士和北愛爾蘭栽培 2000 萬棵樹，其中包括種植 400 萬棵開花的樹木。

1. 詞彙表

bloom	開花
blossom	(樹木) 開花，花簇
orchards	果園
make way for	被...取代，給...讓路
haven	庇護所
pollinating	傳授花粉的
cultivate	栽培，種植

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. True or false? *Apple trees are one of the first to bloom.*
2. Why are orchards torn down?
3. What does the National Trust's analysis of historic maps suggest?
4. How many blossoming trees is the National Trust committed to cultivating across England, Wales and Northern Ireland by 2030?

3. 答案

1. True or false? *Apple trees are one of the first to bloom.*

True. Apple and other fruit trees are among the first to bloom.

2. Why are orchards torn down?

Orchards are torn down to make way for housing developments and modern agriculture.

3. What does the National Trust's analysis of historic maps suggest?

It suggests more than half of orchards in England and Wales have vanished in little over a hundred years.

4. How many blossoming trees is the National Trust committed to cultivating across England, Wales and Northern Ireland by 2030?

20 million trees.