



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

Central Suffolk and North
Ipswich constituency

NATURE, WHO CARES?



Vote with nature in mind this general election

Vote for space for nature, cleaner rivers, healthier communities and natural climate solutions

**General
election
2024**

A manifesto for nature

Central Suffolk and North Ipswich constituency

Central Suffolk and North Ipswich is a mostly rural constituency, shaped by farming and its impact on the landscape. Rivers which flow into the Suffolk Coast's famous estuaries – The Ore, The Alde, The Deben and The Gipping (Orwell) – gather water that supplies homes and businesses, waters crops, and sustains wildlife in river valley wetlands, woodlands, and flood plains. Birds like yellowhammer and skylark inhabit the hedgerows and fields while green-winged orchids and snake's head fritillary flower in the remnant meadows of once extensive grasslands.

Nature in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich is under threat.

Development, habitat loss, and the disruption of the natural functioning of rivers and their flood plains has increased the risk of flooding just when climate change is causing more extreme weather. Droughts combined with increasing demand for water from new housing, food production, and industry mean there is less water in the summer to maintain the health of our rivers. Pollution by agricultural chemicals and un-treated sewage has reached levels that put the future health of our rivers, wildlife, and people at risk.

If we don't improve the state of nature in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, we will lose more of the rare and precious wildlife that live here, and our food and water security, people's health and wellbeing, and our ability to combat climate change.

By protecting and restoring nature in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich we can have a healthier natural environment that

benefits local people, communities, and businesses as well as benefitting wildlife. Reducing agricultural and sewage pollution will improve water quality and protect water resources. Restoring floodplains will protect homes and businesses from flooding and protect peat soils that remove and lock away atmospheric carbon dioxide. Providing sensitive access to nature can improve social equity and health outcomes.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has a vision for creating a wilder Suffolk where thriving nature and healthy rivers support resilient communities, businesses, and wildlife.

For example, we are supporting farmers and landowners in the Upper Deben to improve the health of the river and its wildlife while working with partners in the River Deben *Source to Sea* project to restore land, water, and nature throughout the River Deben catchment and estuary.

Green-winged orchid can only be found in uninterrupted grassland.




Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich constituency what they are going to do to help create a wilder Suffolk and support our **five priorities for nature**:

- 1 Bring back lost wildlife
- 2 End river pollution and water scarcity
- 3 Fund wildlife-friendly farming
- 4 Enable healthy communities
- 5 Tackle the climate emergency by protecting and restoring nature



Tell your candidates why wildlife matters to you and make sure your next MP makes bringing back nature a priority:

 suffolkwildlifetrust.org/general-election



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