



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

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

Ipswich constituency

Ipswich's natural environment is characterised by historic parks, woodlands, tree-lined streets, and a significant area of domestic gardens. Suffolk's largest town is home to a rich variety of wildlife, from hedgehogs and stag beetles to swifts and slow worms. The River Gipping flows through the town and into the River Orwell and Orwell Estuary, which is internationally important for breeding avocet in the summer and wading birds and waterfowl in the winter. Nature, and its many benefits for health and wellbeing is not enjoyed equally across the town though, with some neighbourhoods lacking access to wildlife-rich areas.

Nature in Ipswich and its surrounding countryside is under serious pressure. Making space for wildlife alongside new housing and commercial development is a challenge. The growth in recreational use of the Orwell Estuary is increasing pressure on the wildlife that lives there. Demand for new housing is putting pressure on water resources, and pollution by agricultural chemicals and un-treated sewage has reached levels that put both wildlife and people at risk.

If we fail to improve the state of nature in and around Ipswich, we not only risk losing the wildlife that lives there, but we also risk our food and water security, people's health and wellbeing, and our ability to combat climate change.

By protecting and restoring nature in Ipswich we have a chance to tackle some of its biggest environmental, social, and economic challenges at the

same time as bringing back nature. Providing sensitive access to nature for all can improve social equity and health outcomes and take pressure off sensitive wildlife areas like the Orwell Estuary. Reducing agricultural and sewage pollution will improve water quality and protect water resources. Restoring functional floodplains will protect homes and businesses from flooding and protect peat soils that remove and lock away atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has a vision for creating a wilder Suffolk where thriving nature and healthy rivers support resilient communities, businesses, and wildlife. In Ipswich, we are working with local partners and communities to improve the opportunities for people to access nature and all the benefits it brings, while seeking to reduce recreational impacts on wildlife on the Orwell Estuary.

Ipswich is a nationally-significant stronghold for stag beetles.




Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the 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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