



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

Lowestoft 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

Lowestoft constituency

The constituency of Lowestoft lies between the North Sea and onto the southern part of The Broads National Park. Inland, it extends up The River Waveney to Beccles and Suffolk Wildlife Trust's newest nature reserve, Worlingham Marshes. Having one of the UK's largest areas of wetland on its doorstep offers many opportunities for people and businesses to benefit from nature, as well as the amazing wildlife this part of Suffolk is known for: from marsh harrier and lapwing to water voles and Norfolk hawker dragonflies.

Nature in Lowestoft constituency is under serious pressure from climate change, urban growth, and unsustainable land use. By the time it reaches Beccles, the River Waveney has gathered water from its large, mostly agricultural catchment on its way to the North Sea. Over-abstraction and pollution by agricultural chemicals and untreated sewages have caused the health of the river to deteriorate to historically low levels. Meanwhile climate change is increasing the risk of flooding and drought, putting wildlife, people, and businesses all at risk.

If we fail to improve the state of nature in Lowestoft and Suffolk's part of The Broads National Park, we risk losing more of the rare and threatened wildlife that lives there, as well as jeopardising food production, water security, people's health and wellbeing, and our ability to combat climate change.

By protecting and restoring nature in Lowestoft we have a chance to tackle some of its

biggest environmental, social, and economic challenges at the same time as bringing back nature. Reducing agricultural and sewage pollution will improve water quality and protect water resources. Restoring functional floodplains will protect homes and businesses from flooding and protecting peat soils will remove and lock away atmospheric carbon dioxide. Providing sensitive access to nature can help improve social equity and health outcomes.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has a vision for restoring nature along the length of the River Waveney. We are working with farmers and landowners to restore and connect the natural landscape of the river between Beccles and Lowestoft – for wildlife and people. At Carlton Marshes people have the chance to spend time in and learn about nature, while helping to protect homes and businesses from flooding. At Worlingham Marshes we are embarking on an ambitious scheme to restore another part of the River Waveney's floodplain wetland.



Marsh harrier populations are increasing across our reserves in north-east Suffolk.

General election 2024



Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the Lowestoft 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

