



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust

South Suffolk constituency

# NATURE, WHO CARES?

A photograph of a small brown bird, possibly a sparrow, perched on a branch with green leaves and small buds. The bird is facing left with its beak open as if singing.

## 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

South Suffolk constituency

**South Suffolk's landscape** is one of river valleys, rolling farmland, and remnant ancient woodlands alive with wildlife including stag beetle, dormouse, nightingale and turtle dove. The River Stour flows through the heart of the Dedham Vale National Landscape along the Suffolk-Essex border, and with tributaries – including the Rivers Brett, Box and Glem – supplies water for drinking, growing food, and for wildlife. South Suffolk's rivers also provide valuable health and recreational benefits such as access to nature for people who live and work in the constituency, as well as supporting the local nature-based tourism economy.

## Nature in South Suffolk is under serious pressure.

Historic habitat loss has left ancient woodlands fragmented and isolated, and wildlife less able to disperse through the landscape. In one of the driest parts of the country, increasing pressure on water resources leaves rivers depleted in the summer. Inappropriate development and loss of functional flood plains has increased the vulnerability of farmland, homes, and businesses to flooding. Pollution by agricultural chemicals and un-treated sewage has reached levels that put the future health of the river, wildlife, and people at risk.

**If we fail to improve the state of nature in South Suffolk**, we risk losing more of the rare and threatened wildlife that lives there, as well as our food and water security, people's health and wellbeing, and our ability to combat climate change.

**By protecting and restoring nature in South Suffolk** we can have a healthier natural environment that benefits local people and communities, and

supports the local economy whilst also increasing wildlife.. Reducing agricultural and sewage pollution will improve water quality and protect water resources. Restoring natural habitats and floodplains will protect homes and businesses from flooding and protect peat soils that remove and lock away atmospheric carbon dioxide. Increasing sensitive access to nature can improve social equity and health outcomes and support tourism jobs.

## Suffolk Wildlife Trust has a vision for restoring and reconnecting wildlife habitats to create and wilder Suffolk.

In South Suffolk we are working with partners, farmers, landowners, and local communities to make this vision a reality through initiatives like the 'Connecting Gainsborough and Constable Country' Landscape Recovery project, which aims to connect woodlands for wildlife across 20,000ha of South Suffolk and North Essex.

Our Landscape Recovery project aims to create more habitat for dormouse.



General election 2024




Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the South Suffolk 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](https://suffolkwildlifetrust.org/general-election)

