



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

Suffolk Coastal 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

Suffolk Coastal constituency

The **Suffolk Coastal constituency** is one of the most highly protected parts of the UK for its wildlife and natural landscapes. More than half of the constituency is designated as a National Landscape and its estuaries, coastal marshes, and heathlands are internationally important for the habitats and species they support. The wealth of wildlife found here is almost too great to begin to list, from bitterns and adders to nightjars and natterjack toads. Nature is a huge draw for visitors and makes a vital contribution to employment and economic activity, as well as the recreational opportunities and health and wellbeing of local people.

Nature in Suffolk Coastal constituency is under threat. Coastal change and development have led to the loss of much of our intertidal habitat. Energy infrastructure projects like Sizewell C, and new housing are increasing demand for water and leaving less of it for wildlife in our rivers. The disruption of the natural functioning of rivers and their flood plains leaves homes and businesses at greater risk of flooding during increasingly frequent climate change-related extreme rainfall. Pollution by agricultural chemicals and un-treated sewage has reached levels that put the future health of our rivers, wildlife, and people on the constituency at risk.

If we do not improve the state of nature in the Suffolk Coastal constituency, we risk losing much of the rare and threatened wildlife that lives there, jeopardising food production, water security, people's health and wellbeing, our ability to combat climate change, and the area's visitor appeal.

By protecting and restoring nature we have a chance to tackle some of our biggest

environmental, social, and economic challenges at the same time as looking after 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. Increasing sensitive access to nature can improve social equity and health outcomes.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is bringing back nature across the Suffolk Coast. With our partners, farmers, and landowners, we are working to improve water quality and wildlife in the River Deben and Deben Estuary through initiatives like the River Deben Source to Sea project. At our nature reserves, including **Martlesham Wilds** 'wilding' reserve, we are restoring wildlife habitats and helping people to enjoy and connect with nature.



Ground-nesting Dartford warbler lives on lowland heathland across the Suffolk coast.




Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the Suffolk Coastal 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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