



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust

Waveney Valley 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

Waveney Valley constituency

**The River Waveney connects many of the Waveney Valley's most precious places for nature**, while providing water for homes and businesses, and for growing food, as well as access to nature and its associated health and recreational opportunities for people who live and work here. Some of the UK's rarest habitats and wildlife are found in the Waveney Valley's fen and floodplain wetlands such as fen raft spider, marsh fragrant orchid, bittern, lapwing, and water vole.

## Nature in Waveney Valley is under serious pressure.

Unsustainable use of water has threatened the survival of rare fen wetlands like Suffolk Wildlife Trust's **Redgrave & Lopham Fen nature reserve** for more the half a century, and 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 Waveney Valley**, we risk losing more of the rare and threatened wildlife that lives there, jeopardising food production, water security, people's health and wellbeing, and our ability to combat climate change.

**By protecting and restoring nature in Waveney Valley** we have a chance to tackle some of the area's biggest environmental,

social, and economic challenges whilst also helping to bring back nature. 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 has a vision for creating a wilder Suffolk where thriving nature and healthy rivers support resilient communities, businesses, and wildlife.** We are working with farmers and landowners in Waveney Valley to realise that vision by restoring wildlife habitats and the natural function of the river and its floodplains.

Bittern numbers are increasing across many of our reserves along the Waveney Valley.



General election 2024



Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the Waveney Valley 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)

