



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust

**West Suffolk 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

West Suffolk constituency

**West Suffolk has a diverse landscape rich in wildlife.** More than 12,000 different species have been recorded in The Brecks, including many plants found nowhere else in the UK. The River Lark runs through the middle of the constituency and is one of only a handful of chalk rivers in Suffolk (only 200 are known globally). Newmarket's chalk grasslands are rare in Suffolk and one of the only places chalk hill blue butterflies are found in the county. West Suffolk's woodlands and hedgerows are home to dormouse and turtle doves, and its heaths and grasslands support rare stone-curlews.

**Nature in West Suffolk is under serious pressure** from climate change, habitat loss, inappropriate and unsustainable development, and pollution. Meeting the growing demand for water to supply new housing, agriculture, and businesses in one of the driest parts of the country while leaving enough water for wildlife in our rivers and streams is increasingly difficult. Meanwhile, pollution by agricultural chemicals and un-treated sewage is putting the future health of rivers, wildlife, and people at risk.

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

**By protecting and restoring nature in West Suffolk** we can tackle some of its biggest environmental, social, and

economic challenges at the same time as bring 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 protect peat soils the 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 creating a wilder Suffolk where thriving nature and healthy rivers support resilient communities, businesses, and wildlife.** In West Suffolk, we are working to make sure growth and development is genuinely sustainable and does more to help wildlife. At our **Lackford Lakes** and **Wangford Warren** nature reserves we are restoring wildlife habitats and providing places people can experience and enjoy the benefits of spending time in nature.



Chalkhill blue are only found in chalk grasslands in southern England.

General election 2024




Ask your prospective parliamentary candidates and parties in the West 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)

