



Wilder
FUTURE

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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A Manifesto for a Wilder Future

General Election 2019

This is a nature emergency

Our natural world is in deep trouble. We're facing a climate and ecological emergency. Wildlife is in serious decline, constrained to shrinking, isolated pockets, and the UK has become one of the most nature depleted nations in the world.

Here in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight we are also witnessing devastating losses. Half of our ancient woodlands have been destroyed within a lifetime. Three quarters of our world famous chalk streams are in poor condition. Nightingales and breeding waders such as redshank and curlew are perilously close to extinction. Saltmarshes are disappearing so fast there may be none left within a generation.

We are already feeling the local impacts of global heating, relentless development and intensive agriculture. These effects will continue to gather pace if we don't do things differently. We depend on nature. Our home, our water, our food, our physical and mental health and our future prosperity are all now at risk.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Nature's recovery is the most important political and social issue of our time.

2020 is a critical year. A turning point. Decisions taken now will affect the next thousand years. Within the next decade we need to see nature recovering, wildlife returning and ecosystems restored.

Investing in nature's recovery now by protecting and restoring natural habitats will reap real, lasting benefits. It will help tackle the spiralling climate crisis by soaking up carbon, help cope with the changing climate by holding water, providing shade and absorbing pollution, allow wildlife populations to recover, and build stronger, healthier communities.

Our vision for a wilder future is beautiful and vital.

We want great places to live that are good for people and good for wildlife.

We want nature to be normal, for children to grow up with wild green spaces to explore.

We want a deafening din, a cacophony of chirping, churring and buzzing.

We are asking all parliamentary candidates to pledge to:

- **Prioritise natural climate solutions** at a local and national level, driving investment in wetland, woodland, heathland, meadow and marine habitats to capture carbon and build resilience to change.
- **Back an ambitious Environment Act** - with legally binding targets to restore nature, a powerful, independent environmental watchdog, and a Nature Recovery Network to protect, expand and join-up places for wildlife.
- **Help farmers to help nature** – Introduce a new Agricultural Bill that pays for farming with nature and encourages landowners to restore and re-wild areas of our countryside for the benefit of wider society.
- **Revive our marine environment** through a network of Highly Protected Marine Areas and a new Marine Strategy. The Strategy should set out how we develop at sea, how we fish within environmental limits and how we restore our marine ecosystems to help tackle the climate crisis and support plentiful fish and marine life.

• **Support our plans to create a wilder Hampshire and Isle of Wight.** Our aim, as set out in WILDER 2030, is for the space for wildlife to be trebled and for hundreds of thousands of local people to be supported and encouraged to take individual and collective action in support of nature.

We know that people across our counties want and need nature to recover.

Now is the time to act for a wilder future.

For more information contact wilder@hiwwt.org.uk