

From: Caroline Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 December 2019 10:50
To: conservation <swtconservation@sussexwt.org.uk>
Subject: What will you do for wildlife?

Dear Henri,

Thank you for your email. I have provided some answers below. It'd be great if you can indeed share them with your members and publish them on your website as you suggest. I hope it's not too late! If I am re-elected later this week, I'd really love to hear from you and from members of Sussex Wildlife Trust about what they think, and what more I can do for wildlife, both locally and nationally.

As you may have seen, last week I launched an independent report on wildlife policy, called 'A New Deal for Nature'. This was produced on a voluntary basis by five conservationists and nature writers to inform my parliamentary work and shape wider policy making and public debate. There's a nice write up of it with links to the report [here](#).

The objective of launching the New Deal for Nature with a week to go until polling day was to put the nature and biodiversity crisis at the heart of the election campaign by shaping media, political and public debate. More importantly, I wanted to put nature at the top of the agenda for action in the next parliament, as I wrote in this [comment piece](#). To coincide with the launch, I asked people to share pictures of what nature means to them on social media and was overwhelmed by the positive response - you can find some of them using the #VoteNature hashtag on twitter.

Thanks again for getting in touch, please let me know if you need any clarification of my answers, and I very much hope I will be able to continue to work closely with you over the coming months and years.

Best wishes, Caroline

1. How will you and your party act decisively to tackle the crises in the natural environment?

Greens will seek to put the nature at the very heart of government decision making. That means all policy making must recognise the importance of biodiversity and a healthy natural environment – for the sake of wildlife and species, and because nature provides the foundations of human wellbeing and prosperity too.

Greens recognise that the climate and biodiversity crises are symptoms of a broken economic system. I will continue to push for radical reform at the Treasury, including repurposing the economy by replacing consumption and GDP growth as measures of economic success with indicators that measure ecological health and human wellbeing instead. Major changes to transport and infrastructure decision making are also crucial to addressing the nature and climate crises, for example scrapping destructive projects such

as HS2, airport expansion, and major road schemes - including the A27 Arundel Bypass.

Our manifesto contains over 70 policies relating to wildlife and nature - many of them set within the context of our Green New Deal. They include: a ban on burning peatlands and on compost made from peat; a natural history GCSE and more outdoor learning for all; legally binding targets for biodiversity, soil health and water quality via a Sustainable Economy Act – going much further than the previous government’s Environment Bill; and a new law on ecocide.

If I’m re-elected I hope to continue my work in parliament as a member of the Environmental Audit Committee and through many vital All Party Parliamentary Groups including the APPG on Limits to Growth, the APPG on the Environment, the APPG on Agroecology, and the newly-created APPG on Nature.

I would also be pushing forward the Green Party's [manifesto](#) commitments on nature, promoting proposals from the [New Deal for Nature](#) report, and campaigning for other new wildlife policies too. As part of that, I'm keen to work closely with conservation organisations and experts, and to listen to what matters the most to Brighton Pavilion residents.

2. What will you do to ensure we have farming policies that support land managers in contributing to nature’s recovery?

Greens will make nature-friendly farming the norm rather than the exception, through a 10-year transition to agroecology, working closely with farmers, wildlife experts and others. This will include:

- Redirecting subsidies towards nature-friendly food production, including organic farming, agroforestry and mixed farming.
- Moving away from intensive meat and dairy towards regenerative farming and a major shift to more plant-based diets: considering the impacts on wildlife and habitats in the UK and globally through animal feed and imports.
- Cutting agrochemical use dramatically including through ambitious targets for the reduction of pesticide use and phasing out non-agricultural use of pesticides.

We want to maintain at least the current £3.2bn annual farm payment budget and redirect it towards nature-friendly farming and environmental land management. This will be based on the principle of ‘public money for public goods’ that has gained support at local, national and EU level as an important guide for farm subsidies.

The Green manifesto also pledges a £1bn annual R&D fund to support the shift to wildlife-friendly agriculture, which farmers themselves will be able to shape and benefit from. Additional investments will be directed towards tree and hedgerow planting and regeneration, the creation of an Environmental Protection Commission, and larger budgets for Natural England and the Environment Agency.

If the UK leaves the EU, trade deals and deregulation will pose an enormous threat to farming, food and environmental standards. This is one reason why Greens believe strongly

that remaining in the EU is the best option for nature and wildlife; we will work together with allies to secure better policies for nature and wildlife across the whole continent.

3. What will you do to ensure we protect and revive our seas?

We will ensure at least 30% of UK domestic waters are fully protected marine protected areas by 2030. Whilst some sites have been designated, it's a scandal that the wildlife and habitats within them remain largely unprotected from damaging activities. I will advocate for this to be achieved via the expert proposals set out in the [New Deal For Nature](#) report that I commissioned. The marine section of this includes:

- Ending overfishing via mandatory Total Allowable Catches and introducing a stronger bycatch strategy
- Rebalancing quotas to small scale local low impact fishing operations
- Ending commercial exploitation of sand eels and sprats
- Reducing use of agrochemicals and farming methods that result in soil loss into aquatic environment
- Taking an economy-wide approach to ending plastic pollution in our seas
- Restoring coastal habitats such as sea grass, oyster beds, sand dunes and saltmarshes

Internationally, Greens will work with British Overseas Territories (BOTs) to increase the 'blue belt' protecting BOTs' waters from commercial extraction. We will advocate strongly for an increase from the current 32% of coverage to 50% and for an ambitious Global Oceans Treaty.

We want to rethink trade policy to recognise that increasing international trade means more shipping (and/or aviation) and an inexorable increase in the related harms to marine wildlife and ecosystems (and/or the climate) such as pollution, noise, the spread of invasive alien species, and collisions with whales and other marine mammals. Greens are already advocating for the redesign of the global trade system so that it does not undermine the regeneration of ecosystems.

4. How will you and your party prioritise and fund nature-based solutions to the climate crisis?

Natural climate solutions such as expanding hedges and tree cover, securing heathy soils and peatlands, creating more wetlands and wild spaces are a major part of our Green New Deal - as well as part of our plans to restore biodiversity.

However, natural climate solutions must not be a substitute for leaving fossil fuels in the ground, or an excuse to continue with high carbon and environmentally destructive development, such as airport expansion. Natural climate solutions would be funded as part of the £100bn annual investment in the Green New Deal as well as through other mechanism such as CAP subsidies, and potentially carbon taxes, in line with the polluter pays principle.

5. What will you do to ensure that development is within environmental limits and truly sustainable in Sussex?

Without changes to government policy and funding priorities at national level, incentives to pursue environmentally harmful developments at local level will persist. That is why if re-

elected I will continue to advocate for far-reaching reforms across the whole of government to ensure the nature and climate crises are given top priority - in transport schemes, in planning policy, and in economic decision making. I will continue to oppose specific developments that are harmful to nature too, working closely with local campaign groups and individuals.

I believe strongly that there is more than enough cross-sectoral expertise and experience to design and deliver the infrastructure we need in a way that respects nature and helps tackle the climate emergency - whether that is housing, transport or something else.

I am determined to work hard to ensure policy i designed to make ecologically-friendly development the norm - drawing on example that show what is possible - and I would love to hear from anyone in Brighton Pavilion and in Sussex more widely who has stories, ideas and solutions that could help us achieve that together.

Caroline Lucas, Green Party candidate for Brighton Pavilion

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If you would like to receive weekly email news bulletins from Caroline Lucas please reply to this message putting 'email bulletin' in the subject line.

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Promoted by Steve Harris on behalf of Caroline Lucas and Brighton and Hove Green Party, all at 39-41 Surrey Street, Brighton BN1 3PB.

From: conservation <swtconservation@sussexwt.org.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:42

To: Caroline Lucas

Subject: What will you do for wildlife?

Dear Caroline,

As your local Wildlife Trust, we work on the ground to protect and recover nature in Brighton Pavilion.

In Sussex, we manage 33 nature reserves for wildlife and the enjoyment of people including the Deneway Nature Reserve where we run our Wild Side of the Tracks project. With the support of over 400 committed volunteers and 35,000 members we speak up for nature and engage local people through delivering the Brighton & Hove environmental education and Wild About Brighton projects.

The upcoming General Election is a crucial moment for wildlife in the UK. Our natural environment is in crisis – the UK is one of the most nature-depleted places on earth and over half of our wildlife species are in decline.

We are utterly dependent on nature for our wellbeing and prosperity, so it is vital that the next government enacts the kinds of ambitious measures that will guarantee wildlife's recovery. There is evidently widespread support among the public for such decisive action.

Our members would be very interested to know what you will do for wildlife in Brighton Pavilion and across the country. I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

1. How will you and your party act decisively to tackle the crises in the natural environment?
2. What will you do to ensure we have farming policies that support land managers in contributing to nature's recovery?
3. What will you do to ensure we protect and revive our seas?
4. How will you and your party prioritise and fund nature-based solutions to the climate crisis?
5. What will you do to ensure that development is within environmental limits and truly sustainable in Sussex?

We are asking all candidates in Sussex these questions. If you have no objections, we will share your responses with our members and publish them on our website along with those from other candidates.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Brocklebank
Director of Conservation Policy and Evidence