

17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## Dear General Election Candidates 2017, How will you make a #GreenerSW ?

We are a group of leading environmental organisations who believe passionately that thriving wildlife, healthy seas, clean air, unpolluted water and access to nature and wild places are fundamental to the well-being of our country and its residents and businesses. The South West's beautiful natural environment underpins the regional economy and makes us happier and healthier. It is amongst the strongest factors that people in the South West value about where they live.

Nature provides us with so much - clean water, clean air, pollinated plants - and protects us against flooding, all for free. But these vital services are under huge pressure and nature is struggling. In our lifetimes, nearly 60% of UK species have declined and 15% are at risk of extinction. Yet it doesn't have to be like this. There is now overwhelming evidence that working with nature saves money, makes us safer and improves our health.

This election is particularly crucial to our aims and to our members - collectively over one million within the South West - as decisions made as the UK leaves the EU are likely to have a profound effect on our environment and the laws on which its protection relies. There is every opportunity that this could be for the better; the risk is that it is for the worse. Our organisations have no political affiliations but we are determined that nature should not be the forgotten issue and we are interested in what candidates of any party have to say about nature and the environment.

So, we are asking you to tell us:

1. What will you do to ensure our wildlife is protected and restored after Brexit?
2. What will you do to ensure that wildlife thrives in our seas once more?
3. What will you do to ensure we have new farming policies that support nature's recovery?
4. What will you do to make sure we move to a low-carbon economy?

This is an opportunity for you to get your environmental vision out to a significant number of your prospective constituents. Please post your response in full on your website and tweet us using #GreenerSW

Yours faithfully,



Mark Harold  
South West Regional Director  
National Trust



Nick Bruce-White  
South West Regional Director  
RSPB



Harry Barton  
Chief Executive  
Devon Wildlife Trust



Dr Simon Cripps  
Chief Executive  
Dorset Wildlife Trust



@NTSouthWest



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