



Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

14th April 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

We call on the Government to align itself with the nature-loving majority in Britain and grasp the opportunity to tackle the nature crisis, seizing a path that voters support which strengthens the economy and our communities.

There has been a conspiracy of silence for decades around the true cost of Britain's rapidly declining biodiversity, as major political parties have failed to confront the consequences of the ecosystems we depend on collapsing around us.

This Government was elected on a manifesto commitment to reverse this trend. The early goodwill this engendered was quickly undermined by attempts to weaken environmental protections and the adoption of an approach to politics that treats nature as an obstacle to progress, rather than a measure of it.

This is despite the absence of any credible evidence that environmental protections are holding back growth, housing or infrastructure - rather than developer incompetence, market dynamics and profiteering. This risks damaging Labour's trust with a public that consistently shows it wants more, not less, protections for nature.

The recent decision to scrap the most damaging nature elements of the Nuclear Regulatory Review presents an opportunity for a reset. This is a moment for the Government to commit to not crossing Red Lines for Nature:

- No further weakening of environmental protections.
- No funding cuts to environmental bodies.
- No more collapsing biodiversity: achieved through fully funded nature rescue plans to meet recovery targets, including increased support for nature-friendly farming and private sector nature markets.

Investing in nature recovery would deliver real benefits - creating high-skilled, well-paid jobs while improving public health and access to green space.

The stakes of failing to break with the status quo are stark. Our rivers are polluted, our meadows and hedgerows are in decline, dozens of species are on the brink and our ancient woodlands are under growing pressure. Our seas are under strain, with degraded habitats, diminishing marine life and rising pollution, leaving many ecosystems damaged and struggling to recover. Continued inaction, or further deregulation, will turn a crisis into a catastrophe.

The Government now has a rare opportunity not just to halt this decline, but to reverse it and to be remembered as the first administration in decades that truly left our country in a better state than it found it.

Yours,

Chris Hinchliff MP

Asad Rehman
CEO, Friends of the Earth

Darren Moorcroft
CEO, Woodland Trust

Richard Benwell
CEO, Wildlife & Countryside
Link

Joan Edwards OBE
Director of Policy & Public
Affairs, The Wildlife Trusts

Harry Bowell
Director of Land and Nature,
National Trust

Elli Moody
Director of Policy and
Advocacy, CPRE

Sally Haynes
CEO, Chartered Institute of
Ecology and Environmental
Management

Kit Stoner
CEO, Bat Conservation Trust

Nida Al-Fulaij
CEO, People's Trust for
Endangered Species

Nigel Palmer
CEO, Badger Trust

Rosie Wood
Chair, Badger Trust

Professor Jeremy Biggs
CEO, Freshwater Habitats
Trust.

Craig Macadam
Co-Leader and Director of
Conservation, Buglife

Fay Vass
CEO, British Hedgehog
Preservation Society

Julie Williams
CEO, Butterfly Conservation

Kathy Wormald
CEO, Froglife

Sandy Luk
CEO, Marine Conservation
Society

Nicola Hutchinson
Interim CEO, Plantlife

Leah McNally
CEO, Avon Wildlife Trust

Estelle Bailey MBE
Chief Executive, Berkshire,
Buckinghamshire &
Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Charlotte Harris
CEO, Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Matt Walpole
CEO, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Stephen Trotter
CEO, Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Debbie Tann MBE
CEO, Hampshire & Isle of
Wight Wildlife Trust

Laura Burrows
CEO, Hertfordshire &
Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Paul Wilkinson
CEO, Nottinghamshire Wildlife
Trust

Eliot Lyne
CEO, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Georgia Dent
CEO, Somerset Wildlife Trust

Julian Woolford
CEO, Staffordshire Wildlife
Trust

Christine Luxton
CEO, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Jo Lewis
CEO, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Rachael Bice
CEO, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Dr. Amy McDonnell and James
Sutton, Co-Executive
Directors, Zero Hour

Guy Shrubsole
Co-Director, Right to Roam
campaign

Dr Naomi Luhde-Thompson
Director, Rights Community
Action

Maddalena Bearzi
President, Ocean Conservation
Society,

Mary Cowell
Director, Curlew Action

Craig Llewellyn
Associate Ecologist and
Biodiversity Policy Specialist
(Atkins Realis)

Rob Pownall
Founder, Protect the Wild

Kate Fox
Founder, Verify Humanity

Rhys Giles
Director, The New Hunting Ban