



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Write to your MP

Make sure they know you care about the wildlife in your area

A hand crafted letter outlining why nature is important to you and what you want your MP to campaign for on your behalf has a huge impact. One hand crafted letter from one constituent is important, a handful from several shows it's an issue and a dozen or more give a strong impression that it's something requiring more urgent action.

We are calling for a progressive and powerful Environment Act, helping us to build a Nature Recovery Network that is enshrined in law. You can find out more about the campaign at wildlifebcn.org/naturesrecovery. But whatever you choose to write about, here are some top tips:

1. **Include your name and address.** They need to know you are a genuine constituent, and to have an address to send a reply to.

2. **Be succinct.** Your letter doesn't need to be more than two sides of A4 (in fact, we recommend it isn't). Your letter will be clearer if you focus on one topic, ie. The Environment Act

3. If it's your first time writing to your MP, be sure to **introduce yourself** with a paragraph about who you are and why you care about the wildlife in your area.

4. **Use the EPIC format.** The acronym 'EPIC' is a useful way to remember how to structure the main part of your letter. After the introductory paragraph, your letter should follow this structure:

E = Engage your MP with a short summary. Get your MP's attention with one dramatic fact or short statement. There are lots of hard-hitting facts about the decline of nature in our country:

- More than half of the UK's species are in decline;
- 44 million birds have gone from our countryside since the 1960s;
- Of the 218 countries assessed for 'biodiversity intactness', the UK is ranked 189, making it one of the most nature-depleted in the world;
- 97% of our flower-rich meadows have been destroyed.

Pick something you really care about. It could be one of these, or something else that you have personal knowledge of.

P = State the problem. We believe a lack of strong legislation has allowed the destruction of wildlife and habitat for the sake of short economic gain.

I = Inform them about the solutions. We believe a new Environment Act will need:

- Nature Targets: legal targets for nature's recovery that politicians must ultimately achieve and regularly report on progress towards;
- A Nature Recovery Network: a joined-up network of habitats that provide enough space for wildlife to recover and for people to thrive;
- Nature Watchdog: an independent body to help people challenge bad decisions made by Government and councils, which have a negative impact on wildlife and our natural environment.

Please do point them to our recent report 'Towards A Wilder Britain' here: wtru.st/naturesrecoveryreport. The report includes ideas for specific wildlife goals which you can reference, but it's also ok to keep it more general.

C = Call to Action. Now you need to let your MP know what you want them to do about it all. We suggest you ask them to speak to their party leaders and DEFRA teams about the Environment Act, and the issues you've raised.

5. **Ask for a response.** Make sure they know you want to be kept informed about this matter.

Find the name address of your MP at: www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps