

Welsh Conservatives Priorities for Nature in Wales

Wales has committed to the international goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Urgent action will be needed in the next Senedd term to achieve this. What will you do to put nature in Wales on a path to recovery?

Welsh Conservatives believe that under Labour and Plaid Cymru, there has been a lack of meaningful action on protecting our natural environment. Action on environmental challenges has been sidelined in favour of virtue signalling while our rural communities have been neglected.

Our Welsh Conservative vision represents a comprehensive roadmap to transform our economy while protecting our unique national heritage. We are committed to reducing Wales's carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change, but we will do so in a way that champions, rather than punishes Welsh households and businesses, and our world-class farming and agricultural sectors.

A Welsh Conservative Government will clean up our rivers and improve bathing water quality, and use modern technology to improve monitoring, we will enhance air quality monitoring to tackle pollution, protect public health and prevent respiratory diseases. The Welsh Conservatives will establish a £20 million Wildlife Wales Fund to support conservation efforts across Wales and will scrap Natural Resources Wales and replace it with an independent, fit for purpose regulator. We will also increase penalties and improve enforcement for fly-tipping, dog fouling, graffiti and littering to ensure that those responsible pay for their actions. In doing so will allow the natural environment to recover from human damage.

During the process of the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill the Welsh Conservatives supported the general principles of it, however wanted to ensure an assessment of the impact of the target on agricultural output since being set in regulations and an evaluation report must also set out the Welsh Minister's assessment of the impact of the proposals on agricultural output. However these amendments were voted down. The Welsh Conservatives believe that the agriculture industry should not be hindered by the SFS which includes unrealistic targets for trees and biodiversity. All of these areas should be treated with respect to the other.

This Bill came 8 years after the Welsh Labour Government initially committed to legislate to address the governance gap, it is clear the Labour government have dropped the ball in protecting our waterways in Wales. In the time without a governance body, companies like Dŵr Cymru have been allowed to dump waste illegally for years, harming the biodiversity in our waterways for as long. The Welsh Conservatives have a plan to clean up our rivers, and waterways after 27 years of Labour and Plaid being complicit in keeping them clean and healthy to be in for us and the biodiversity of the waterways.