

Green Party: Government oceans pledge a victory for campaigners



Green Party

25 September 2018

The Green Party has welcomed news the Environment Secretary has called for 30% of the world's oceans to be protected by 2030 [1], and praised campaigners who have been pressing the Government to take action to safeguard seas.

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, called on Michael Gove to create marine conservation zones to protect marine life in British seas as a next step.

Bartley said:

“This is a victory for campaigners. It's good to see the Government willing to take a lead in looking after the world's oceans. The plastic crisis, climate change and over-fishing are putting our oceans in jeopardy and we need strong protections like this if we are to stand any chance of safeguarding them for the future. The Environment Secretary has shown he is willing to listen to scientists and activists, and now he must create marine conservation zones to protect marine life in British seas.”

Notes:

1. <https://news.sky.com/story/uk-to-call-for-third-of-worlds-oceans-to-be-protected-by-2030-11507876>

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Green Party responds to news police plan to use drones to monitor badger cull protesters



Green Party

24 September 2018

Green Party animal rights spokesperson Keith Taylor MEP has responded to the news police in the South West are considering using drones to monitor anti-badger cull protesters [1] by suggesting the plans are symptomatic of a wider crackdown on the civil liberties of environmental protesters.

The senior Green politician, and Vice Chair of the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup, said:

"It is truly astonishing that the authorities have managed to tie the government's war on wildlife in with the continued war on our civil liberties. It is a malevolent act of authoritarian, anti-wildlife and anti-environment decision making. Not content with making badgers public enemy number one, the state is now wasting yet more taxpayers' money targetting those who have the temerity to disagree with the Tories' cruel, expensive and anti-science cull."

"It is gobsmacking that this news comes in the wake of 10,000 people joining the weekend's Walk for Wildlife [2], all of them urging the government to do more to protect our precious wildlife in the face of a terminal decline in Britain's non-human animal inhabitants."

The Green MEP for the South East previously condemned the government's plans to extend the badger cull earlier this month and called for an end to the 'scientifically illiterate and spectacularly expensive' programme [3].

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/24/police-consider-drones-to-monitor-badger-cull-protesters>
2. <https://theecologist.org/2018/sep/24/ive-never-seen-hedgehog-warning-after-peoples-walk-wildlife>

<https://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/news/greens-call-immediate-end-scientifically-illiterate-ps30m-badger-cull-new-licences-issued>

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[Green Party: Theresa May's desperate bluffing boosts People's Vote campaign](#)



Green Party

21 September 2018

The Green Party has responded to Theresa May's speech on Brexit following the EU summit in Salzburg [1]

Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"The only thing Theresa May's desperate bluffing has achieved is boosting the campaign for a People's Vote on Brexit. It is clear we have reached a Brexit deadlock and that negotiations have gone from failure to farce, with the Prime Minister seeming to now blame the EU for the chaos her government has created.

"There is no doubt a no-deal Brexit would be catastrophic for Britain and the Prime Minister's increased threat today is an act of great recklessness. It is more important than ever the people of Britain have the final say on Brexit with a People's Vote."

Notes:

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45603192>

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Sian Berry: Trident report reveals lie behind Govt claim nuclear weapons keep us safe



Green Party

21 September 2018

The Green Party has responded to a report from the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee [1] which has said Trident is 'not fit for purpose', and faces a funding black hole of almost £3 billion.

Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, said the report must be the "final wake up call" for ministers to stop ploughing billions into nuclear weapons which can never be used, and scrap Trident for good.

Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"This report reveals the lie behind the Government's claim nuclear weapons keeps us safe. The fact Trident has been found unfit for purpose must be the final wake up call to ministers who are ploughing billions into these weapons which can never be used, while inflicting further cuts on an NHS and public services in crisis. It's time to stop throwing good money after bad and scrap Trident for good."

Notes:

1. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/publications/>

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Caroline Lucas calls for Natural History GCSE ahead of People's Walk for Wildlife with Chris Packham



Green Party

19 September 2018

The Green Party's Caroline Lucas MP has called on the Government to introduce a GCSE in Natural History ahead of the [People's Walk for Wildlife](#) being organised by Chris Packham this Saturday.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove agreed earlier this year to meet Caroline to discuss nature deficit disorder – young people's increasing alienation from the natural world.

The MP for Brighton Pavilion will this weekend join Chris and people from across the country on the Walk from Hyde Park to Whitehall, which is designed to demonstrate the public's concern at the decline of nature and wildlife in the UK.

With a [Government-funded study](#) finding in 2016 that more than one in nine children in England had not visited a park, forest, beach or any other natural environment for at least 12 months, Caroline believes introducing natural history lessons to schools is vital to ensuring the next generation understands and cares about the natural world.

The idea was originally conceived by the producer and writer [Mary Colwell](#), who has proposed that as part of the GCSE, children would:

- Observe plants, birds, mammals, insects and amphibians in various habitats (gardens, parks, woodlands, seashore, moorland, etc).
- Record and observe nature coherently and scientifically in words and sketches at different times of the day and year.
- Name the major plants and animals in any one habitat.
- Understand the basics of ecology (the relationships between individual species and their environment) in different habitats.
- Be able to produce a scientifically useful set of notes that can be used to contribute to national databases.
- Be able to identify native from non-native species and record their distribution in an area.

- Study the history of how nature has been depicted in art, music and literature and study the influence of nature on TV, radio and other media.
- Learn about the history of natural history recording.

Saturday's People's Walk for Wildlife will bring together people from all ages and backgrounds who care about reversing the rapid decline of many common wildlife species. Because of climate change, industrial agriculture and the use of pesticides in farming, unnecessary mowing of roadside verges and many other harmful practices, there are:

Chris has today launched a [People's Manifesto for Wildlife](#), setting out 200 ideas for saving what's left of the UK's insects, birds, mammals and sealife.

For the day of the Walk, he has released a [recording of once familiar birdsong](#) – including sounds of blackbirds, chiff-chaffs, nightingales, robins and skylarks – and is urging all those attending to download it onto their phones and play it loudly on repeat to drown out the city with the voices of millions of missing birds.

Caroline Lucas MP said: “We are spending less time outdoors just as our wildlife and natural environment are being decimated by pesticides and industrial agriculture.

“Our children are growing up in a world with less life – but they aren't even being given a chance to know what they're missing.

“The People's Walk for Wildlife is a chance for everyone who cares about saving what's left of nature to take action.

“The Government needs to urgently put in place a strategy for far less intensification of agriculture and much more ambitious action to cut pesticide use. But unless we educate young people on the value of nature, the next generation won't be able to recognise the scale of the loss we're living through or do anything to reverse it.

“Creating a Natural History GCSE would get children back outside, instil them with a love of nature and give them tools they'll need to restore our land and replenish our seas.”

Chris Packham said: “If we wake up to the fact that we have somehow normalised living without wildlife, if we collectively realise that it's now or never, that our wildlife needs us, and needs us more than ever, then we can have our 'little bits of bread and cheese' back and a bright yellow bird will stir hearts from hedgerows again.

“So please, whoever you are, get off your arse and join us on Saturday in London and help us make the ground shake because we need to change the world now.”

Green Party co-leader Sian Berry, who will also be joining the Walk, said: “I was lucky to live on the edge of town and was taught about wildlife on our doorstep. For those of us joining the People's Walk for Wildlife, Britain's

badgers, birds, and birchwood forests bring a bit of wonder into our everyday lives – but too many children aren't having those formative experiences in nature.

“Introducing a Natural History GCSE would get our teenagers outside again and send an important signal that understanding the environment is just as important as understanding maths or history. Ministers should get to work on it now.”

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