

General Election Priorities

Stoke Central

Priority 1: Clean up and restore Stoke Central's rivers and streams

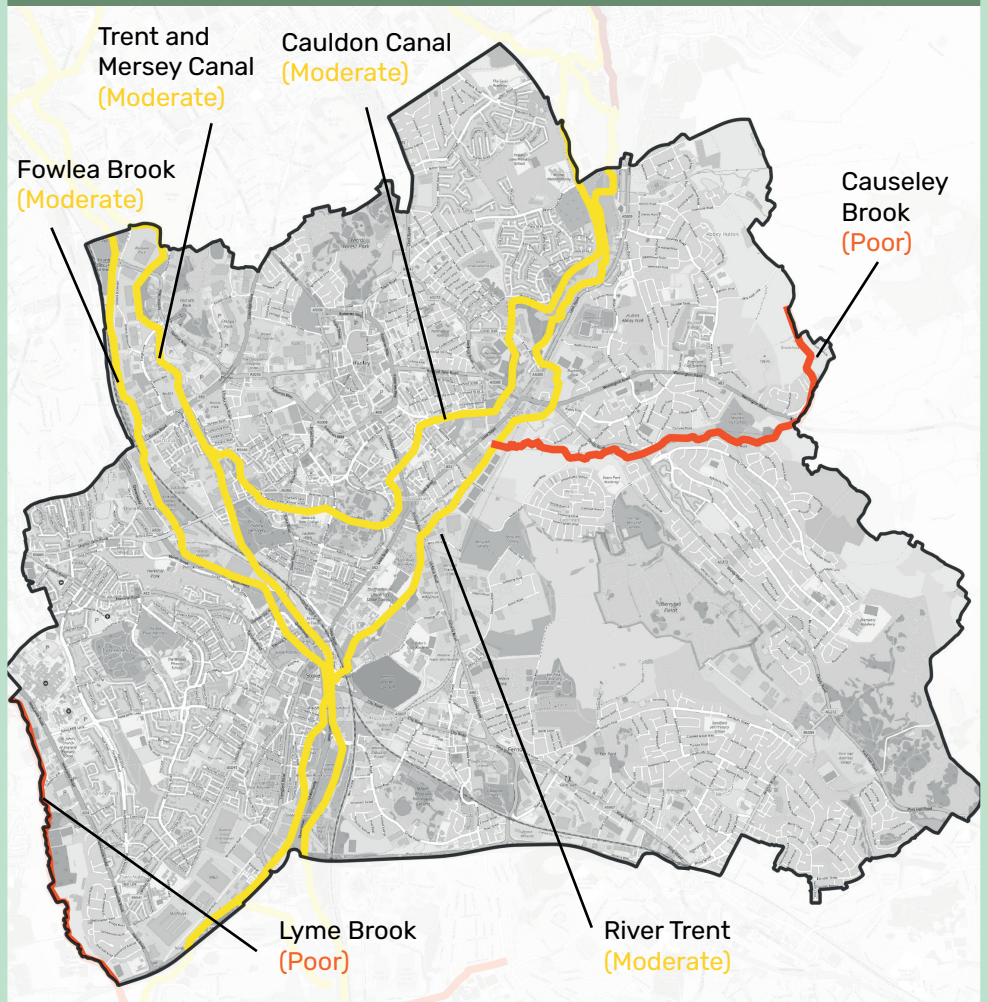
621
Number of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust members in this constituency

Every watercourse in Stoke Central is failing to meet legally-binding environmental standards under the Water Framework Directive.

Two watercourses - Causeley Brook and Lyme Brook - are classified as being in poor ecological health.

Sewage discharges and pollution from development and transport are the leading causes of poor water quality in the constituency.

Overall water quality status of watercourses in Stoke Central: latest figures from the Environment Agency (Water Framework Directive)



In 2023, untreated sewage was discharged into Stoke Central watercourses 619 times, for a total of 2,152 hours.

What must be done by Government to clean up our rivers

1 Cut nutrient pollution from farming, sewage and development in half by 2030, with proper funding for enforcement agencies to effectively monitor our watercourses and enforce penalties on polluters.

2 Invest in creating and repairing wild habitats to provide a natural solution to flooding, which will protect people's homes and businesses, and improve water quality.

3 Support the reintroduction of beavers living in wild to restore our rivers and wetlands.



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Priority 2: Bring back Stoke Central's lost wildlife

Across the UK, the abundance of wild species has fallen by an average of 19% since 1970*.

Priority species, which have been prioritised for conservation for reasons such as rapid population decline, have declined to 37% of their baseline value in 1970.

Similar wildlife declines are being seen across Stoke Central.

Over the last two decades, the number of water voles recorded in the constituency has fallen by 100%, while records of brown hare have declined by 50%.

These devastating declines are caused by a number of factors including climate change, pollution, urbanisation and changes to the way we manage our agricultural land.

*State of Nature report 2023



Terry Whittaker/2020VISION



Jamie Hall

To halt and reverse the collapse of our natural world, we need the Government to put nature into recovery by protecting and restoring **at least 30%** of land and water for nature by 2030.

3.3%

The percentage of land managed for wildlife in Stoke Central'

What must be done by Government

- 1 Increase the budget for nature-friendly farming, so farms can be both productive and bursting with wildlife
- 2 Prevent further loss of habitat by ensuring new development both protects and enhances nature.
- 3 Fund the restoration and creation of more, bigger and better natural habitats, to help wildlife recover and protect communities from the impacts of climate change.

1. Figure includes SSSIs, LNRs, nature reserves, Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) overlapping agri-environment schemes. Figure rises to 7% if LWS, SBIs, National Parks, AONBs and agri-environment schemes that don't overlap LWS are included.

Priority 3: Let nature help

Spending time in nature boosts physical and mental health, and healthy habitats protect us from the impacts of climate change, boost our food security and underpin our economic prosperity. We must ensure that everyone has fair and equal access to restorative natural places in their neighbourhood, and that natural solutions are implemented at scale across every community.

4,687 people living in Stoke-on-Trent don't have a park or local greenspace within a 10 minute walk²

What must be done by Government

- 1 Ensure everyone has easy access to healthy natural spaces in their neighbourhood, to support wellbeing and protect them from the impacts of climate change, particularly for those that have the least provision today;
- 2 Fund and integrate green prescribing into community-based health services.
- 3 Ensure all children enjoy regular outdoor learning opportunities at school.

Vote for Nature Survey results³

100% of survey respondents² from the Stoke Central constituency said when it comes to voting at the next General Election, strong policies to tackle the nature and climate crisis are important to them.

The biggest environmental concerns for respondents from the Stoke Central constituency are 'polluted rivers', and 'the impact of climate change'.

3: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Vote for Nature Survey, Nov '23 - March 24