



# General Election Priorities Tamworth

**997**  
Number of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust members in this constituency

## Priority 1: Clean up and restore Tamworth's rivers and streams

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

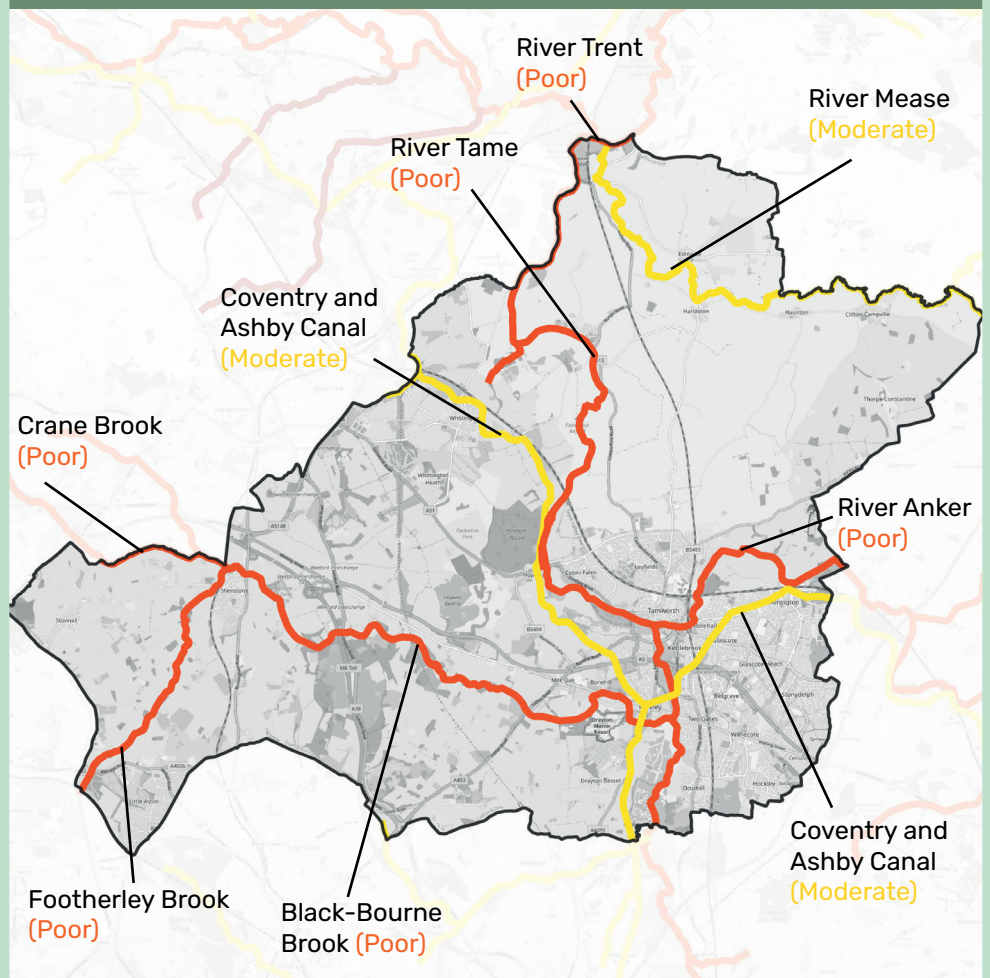
Many of the watercourses - the Rivers Tame and Anker, Fotherley Brook, Crane Brook and Black Bourne Brook - are classified as being in poor ecological health.

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



**In 2023, untreated sewage was discharged into Tamworth watercourses 339 times, for a total of 1,154 hours.**

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



## 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.



# General Election Priorities

## Tamworth

### Priority 2: Bring back Tamworth's lost wildlife

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

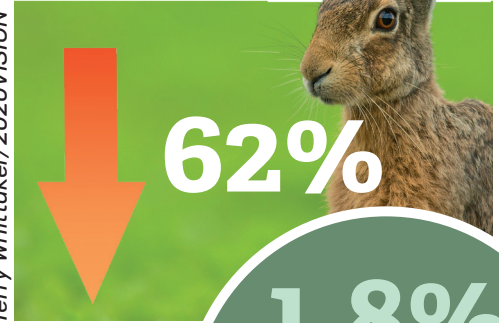
Priority species, which have been prioritised for conservation for reasons such as rapid population decline, have declined to 37% of their baseline value in 1970.

Similar wildlife declines are being seen across Tamworth.

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 62%.

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

\*State of Nature report 2023



62%

100%

1.8%

The percentage of land managed for wildlife in Tamworth'

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.

### 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 is 12.1% 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.

8,556 people living within the Tamworth local authority area don't have a park or local greenspace within a 10 minute walk<sup>2</sup>

### 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 results<sup>2</sup>

91% of survey respondents<sup>2</sup> from the Tamworth constituency said they wanted Government to increase funding for nature-friendly farming, so farms can be both productive and bursting with wildlife.

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

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