

**LOVE NATURE
WHERE YOU LIVE?
HAVE YOUR SAY
ON 4 JULY.**



**WOODLAND
TRUST**

Show your support for woods and trees by displaying this poster in your window. You can use our example questions and answers to quiz your candidates on nature.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATES IF ELECTED, WILL THEY:

Would you support new laws to better protect our most important ancient trees and ancient woods?

Good: Yes, I think the current Tree Preservation Order (TPO) system needs overhauling, a new category of 'long-established woodland' should be protected by the planning system, and to kick-start the restoration of ancient woodlands I'll introduce a new £250 million Ancient Woodland Restoration Fund.

Okay: The planning system certainly needs to be overhauled to better protect the existing natural environment in (insert town name here).

Bad: I'm glad you asked me about that but there are much more important things to worry about, such as...

Would you maintain and enhance our existing environmental protections?

Good: Yes. Existing protections do not go far enough to restore or create a net positive for nature. I would deliver the 30 by 30 target on time, through stronger protections for our most precious landscapes as well as creating greater duties to recover biodiversity.

Okay: Existing environmental protections need to be properly upheld, but I agree that these protections need to go further for our natural environment.

Bad: Existing environmental protections are more than enough; they perhaps go too far if you ask me...

Would you put trees and woods at the heart of new land use policy?

Good: Trees and woods are vital to nature's recovery. I would incentivise and support farmers to protect their existing trees as well as plant trees on unused farmland to help mitigate climate change and support biodiversity.

Okay: Trees and woods should be considered in new land use policy, and it is important that pockets of land are set aside for more tree planting.

Bad: Land use policy should focus on food production and infrastructure. Trees and woods get in the way of this.

Would you champion the health and wellbeing benefits of trees and woods?

Good: Access to nature, including woods and trees, is hugely unequal, meaning a lot of people do not get the health benefits of these spaces. I would introduce a £100 million Woods for People Fund to create accessible, publicly owned and wildlife-rich woodland in these areas.

Okay: Access to nature, including woods and trees, is hugely unequal, meaning a lot of people do not get the health benefits of these spaces – we need to address this.

Bad: Trees and woods will not cure disease; we should focus our efforts on other areas to solve healthcare issues.

Would you work to increase tree planting rates?

Good: I would increase planting rates by increasing native tree canopy cover in England to 16%, with a minimum requirement of 30% for new development. I would also protect and restore existing trees with a £250 million Ancient Woodland Restoration Fund.

Okay: I have always championed tree planting in our constituency, and I would continue to do this if elected.

Bad: Trees take up valuable space and we are already planting enough.



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