

Jane Hunt MP



House of Commons

23 March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about nature and the *Agriculture Bill*.

As set out in the [25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), the decision to leave the European Union has created an historic opportunity to deliver a Green Brexit, where environmental standards are not only maintained but enhanced.

As many of you are aware, the *Agriculture Bill*, which I am fully supportive of, will enable a balance between food production and the environment. This will safeguard our countryside and farming communities for the future. In addition, the Bill sets out how farmers and land managers in England will be paid public money for “public goods,” rewarding them for the work they do to safeguard our environment. This will help our country meet crucial goals on climate change and protecting nature and biodiversity.

The new *Environment Bill* will also place environmental ambition and accountability at the heart of Government. Legislative measures will be introduced to address the biggest environmental priorities of our age, including nature recovery, ensuring we can deliver on the commitment to leave the natural world in a better condition than we found it.

With regards to nature recovery, in the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government committed to developing a Nature Recovery Network and, in the long term, to create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site series. A new framework for Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be legislated for in the *Environment Bill*, to help support the Nature Recovery Network and better direct investment in the environment and green infrastructure – creating places that are richer in wildlife and provide wider benefits for local communities. The Bill will also require the preparation and publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, mapping nature-rich habitats, so that investment can be targeted where it will make the most difference. These local plans will embrace local knowledge to strengthen links between neighbouring communities and support the wider Network.

Finally, the Government will establish a £640 million Nature for Climate Fund. The Fund will be used to dramatically increase tree-planting rates in England with more research into the most appropriate species to plant across the country.

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I hope that this information is reassuring. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane".

Jane Hunt MP