

# **MAKE BRITAIN A CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER**

## **Restoring our natural environment**

**Labour's Environment Campaign – the Socialist Environmental Resources Association, SERA** is delighted to contribute to Labour's National Policy Forum (NPF) 2026 consultation. SERA is the Labour Party's environmental affiliate, a democratic and member-led socialist society that has championed climate and nature leadership within the Labour movement for over 50 years. We are proud of our heritage, consistently championing 'eco-socialism', not 'eco-populism', and arguing that environmental change is only possible when combined with social justice.

Our contribution to the Labour movement has been made possible by our members over many years. We wanted to mention and recognise the significant contribution of one of our founding members who recently passed away and who we recently remembered at our AGM: Stan Rosenthal (1939-2026). In 1980, the Guardian commented on the pamphlet Stan produced titled 'Eco-socialism in a nutshell', stating that although some 'Labour trades' might think these ideas should be dismissed as 'freaky and fringe' they should be 'at the mainstream of political debate' - ideas like 'large and small scale sun...and wind energy usage. Total energy systems and district heating...' Thanks to his vision, passion and dedication to the Party and the environment, Stan helped to ensure that Labour has had and continues to have a strong record on climate and nature action.

### **An overview of SERA's submission**

As a membership organisation, our members are central to our work, and this submission is shaped by SERA members' views. Between December 2025 and March 2026, we ran a member survey to identify our members' policy priorities.<sup>1</sup> The key finding was that the Government should now prioritise strategic action to restore and protect nature, with many members disappointed by the rhetoric and policies of frontbench leaders that wrongly pitched nature and growth against each other. This analysis was shared by many of the stakeholders who took part in our stakeholder policy survey.<sup>2</sup>

As members and stakeholders noted, nature is fundamental to human health and wellbeing, thriving communities, food production, UK security and climate resilience and - to the UK's economic strength. The UK simply cannot prosper without action to reverse biodiversity and habitat loss and rebuild and secure ecosystems, as

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<sup>1</sup> Between December 2025-March 2026, 90 members responded to the SERA member survey on policy priorities

<sup>2</sup> Between December 2025-March 2026, 27 stakeholders responded to the SERA stakeholder survey on policy priorities

reflected in the stark warnings of the Government's national security assessment 'Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security'.<sup>3</sup>

While members raised concerns about the Government's approach to nature, most members were enthusiastic about the direction and outputs of the Secretary of State Ed Miliband and his team at Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). There was significant support for DESNZ to go further and faster, such as through stopping the Rosebank and Jackdaw gas and oil fields. On the other hand, there were mixed views on the Government's record on water reform. While noting some progress, many members were concerned that the Government lacks a sense of urgency on water reform and has not recognised the scale of reforms needed, which should include nationalisation of the water sector.

In our responses to the questions posed by the policy commission, this submission presents our surveys' findings in more detail, and outlines SERA's work to further key issues identified. As ever, we look forward to working with the Party and our elected representatives to deliver bold environmental action.

## **1. How can we restore Britain's natural environment?**

SERA strongly welcomes the policy commission's focus on restoring our natural environment. Over the past year, the Government's rhetoric on nature and the roll-back of nature protections in policies such as the Planning and Infrastructure Act and proposed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) reforms have rightly caused concern among many stakeholders, including our members and voters.

*The current 'war on nature' through PIB Part 3 and potential watering down of BNG is both shocking and misguided. It undermines many of the 2024 pledges...*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*The government needs to prioritise biodiversity- both in UK and globally. Domestically, they need to stop the dangerous rhetoric that nature is anti-growth.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*There needs to be a meshing of policies on development and environmental and wildlife protection, rather than posing them as competing priorities - we can have development AND protect our wildlife and green spaces.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

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<sup>3</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National\\_security\\_assessment\\_-\\_global\\_biodiversity\\_loss\\_ecosystem\\_collapse\\_and\\_national\\_security.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National_security_assessment_-_global_biodiversity_loss_ecosystem_collapse_and_national_security.pdf)

*Nature recovery needs to be a much higher priority - it shouldn't be traded away to please the developer lobbyists...*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*There was talk in the manifesto of action on biodiversity and nature - instead the opposite appears to be happening in relation to new planning rules.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

SERA and a broad range of pro nature organisations - including environmental NGOs, local planners and ecologists and BNG providers - stood together against these policies, resulting in the Government rolling back the scale of its more retrograde plans. Nonetheless, nature still lost out in some policy reforms, and these fights should not have been necessary with a Labour Government voted in on a strong environmental platform.

This year, a shift in the Government's rhetoric towards nature has been notable and a flurry of pro nature policies were welcome. However, the approach to nature friendly policies has at times been piecemeal and has lacked the urgency, strategic vision and profile needed. On one hand, we welcomed the Government's updated Environment Improvement Plan published in late 2025, and its continued commitment to 30by30 and the Party's manifesto pledges - that 'Labour will deliver for nature' and 'work in partnership with civil society, communities and business to restore and protect our natural world'.

On the other hand, the current estimates indicate that the UK is unlikely to achieve the 30x30 goal. We would argue that the Government needs to publish an overarching 'Ambition for Nature' with a clearer action plan and pathway for nature recovery which sets out how we will mobilise the public and private sectors and civil society to invest greater resources and focus in driving change including equipping a whole cohort of people with the green skills to enable this. In this context, we welcomed the Government's new Land Use Framework, but it needs more teeth. We recommend that in addition to DEFRA's new Land Use Unit, there should be a special Land Use Strategic Committee created, which focuses on how you can properly implement a joined-up approach up to land use with regional authorities and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. There should be greater clarity on targets for land use and much greater transparency on annual performance. This should also be explicit on food production and security as well as nature recovery targets – as they are not mutually exclusive – for example regenerative agriculture can increase resilience to climate change.

SERA believes the health of our natural and social capital is the lynchpin of our prosperity as a nation. As one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, it is vital that all parts of the Labour Government put the restoration of nature at the heart of its purpose. Given this context and backed by strong support from our members for nature action, SERA has committed to focusing our policy development on nature

protection and restoration this year. To that end, we are partnering with the Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust, Campaign for National Parks, Mott MacDonald and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) to develop a Policy Roadmap to influence the Government's work on nature. In the development of this Roadmap, we will host a 'Nature Day' at Labour Party Conference to give nature the spotlight it deserves at Conference. We will also organise visits for ministers and MPs to sites around the UK where nature is flourishing alongside development, and where efforts to conserve and rewild are working. The Policy Roadmap will set out our collective policy asks and nature case studies.

With only three years left before the next general election and unknowns about who and what might come next in 2029, SERA is committed to working with our partners and the Labour movement to make 2026 the year that the Government really shows that it understands the importance of nature - to the economy, climate resilience, food production and healthy communities, through delivering bold and strategic actions to protect and restore it. We will share the Policy Roadmap with the Party nationally and locally and with elected Labour representatives across the nation.

## **2. What steps can the Labour Government take to improve access to nature and green spaces while delivering on the Plan for Change?**

The Government has an ambitious plan to deliver 1.5 million houses, which are much needed given longstanding issues of lack of housing and homelessness. SERA supports this policy ambition. However, Government reforms to planning policy in the form of Planning and Infrastructure Act and some dilution to BNG policies have sowed significant doubt about access to nature for the communities who will live in these future homes. This is for two key reasons:

- The Planning and Infrastructure Act's creation of Environment Delivery Plans will lead to nature being restored far away from the communities where the green space has been destroyed to build housing. This will be particularly problematic for developments in urban or suburban areas, where access to nature is already limited.
- Private investment into BNG needs policies that are clear and stable. Reforming policies before they have had time to be implemented and before the sector has been able to fully establish itself weakens the confidence of private investment into nature restoration BNG projects. This in turn reduces the ability for the BNG to deliver on BNG requirements, reducing access to nature in the process.

*The government seems to give with one hand while taking with the other - will we have just as many habitats destroyed through poorly thought-out planning changes?*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*Planting new forests is a bit of a fig leaf given that the horrendous Planning and Infrastructure Bill has just removed all the protections for existing mature forests and other important habitats - these cannot be replaced with a few fields of saplings in plastic tubes.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

The Government needs to restore confidence in the BNG sector by sending out strong signals for its continued support of BNG and related policies, and in communities and voters by developing policy guidance and secondary legislation that ensures EDPs will not reduce local community access to nature and greenspace.

### **3. What further measures are needed to ensure water companies are held accountable?**

SERA led the Stop the Sh\*t show campaign in the 2024 general election, taking it to over 60 constituents electing Labour MPs. This campaign arose from the concern of SERA members but clearly resonated with voters across the country outraged by years of Conservative neglect overseeing record pollution of our waterways, spiralling consumer costs, infrastructure underinvestment and huge payouts to water company shareholders. While this Labour Government is committed to fixing these issues, it has yet to take the decisive, urgent action to regain the confidence of local communities as demonstrated in member responses to our policy priority survey. Sewage continues to be discharged into our rivers too frequently, putting human health and the environment at risk, while fines to water companies are still not sufficient to change behaviour. While responses were mixed, more members responded that the Government is performing poorly on the issue than well. Many members considered nationalisation to be a key solution to overcome the scale of the challenges.

*The Water Act doesn't seem to have solved the problem - it's a weak response.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*The Water Act is good but does not go far enough - we need to bring back water into public ownership.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*Nationalise Water Companies!*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

SERA released its position on water reform earlier this year and this is set out below.

**I. SERA welcomed many of the Independent Water Commission's recommendations but Government reform lacks urgency, clarity and required scale**

The Commission's Report set out many critical reforms to address the massive system failure and was an important turning point. We welcomed many of the recommendations and commended the then Environment Secretary Steve Reed's swift action in response to them. Clearly committed to delivering change, Reed's adoption of key reforms was welcome, including a single, powerful regulator responsible for the entire water sector, a new statutory ombudsman to protect customers; the end of operator self-monitoring to support transparency; and devolved planning powers to nine regional water authorities. These were solid foundations towards cleaning up our waterways and rebuilding public trust. The announcement in the King's speech of a Water Reform Bill, incorporating the Commission's recommendations, is also promising but seems to lack the sense of urgency, clarity and scale of reform that communities expect and that is needed to address the human health and environmental problems that our waterways continue to present.

**II. SERA questions whether a privatised system can be fixed**

SERA President Feargal Sharkey's much shared responses to the Commission's Report were right on privatisation: the current model is broken and privatisation has not delivered. The question remains whether a privatised model can ever deliver the national water system England and Wales need. The Commission explicitly ruled out exploring nationalisation as an option for reform. This was a missed opportunity. Renationalisation of the water sector is [supported by 82% of the general public](#), and may be the only solution to addressing the scale of the challenges.

### III. SERA is calling for a true analysis of nationalisation

SERA wants to see the government make it explicit that water companies are being put on notice. They should be given no more than 24 months to deliver real results on pollution, investment affordability and infrastructure upgrades in the context of the proposed reforms. Without this progress, SERA will be calling for nationalisation of the sector. However, any steps towards nationalisation require an independent analysis of its true costs and benefits. The current quoted estimate of £100bn is based on research funded by water companies, while many other sources have provided much lower estimates. For example, Moody's rating agency has estimated that [nationalisation could cost £14bn](#). DEFRA and the Treasury must now commence an investigation into the viability of nationalisation to uncover the true costs and benefits to the nation. The Government cannot afford to overlook this option.

#### 4. How does the restoration of nature support families and businesses with the cost of living during the transition to clean energy?

There are two key ways that restoring nature supports communities with the cost-of-living crisis: 1) through protecting against rising annual household costs associated with climate change and nature loss, and 2) through providing health and wellbeing benefits. These are discussed in more detail below.

##### Countering rising annual household costs

The Government's national security assessment 'Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security' estimates that failure to intervene to reverse the biodiversity and nature crisis has a high risk of resulting in GDP losses of up to 12% in the years ahead, that is a financial impact equating to more than double the shock of the 2008/9 financial crisis.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, research from the Green Alliance reveals that the impact of the nature and climate crises are already being felt on household annual bills, with annual household costs rising by £233.49 across England through higher insurance premiums, water bills and food prices.<sup>5</sup> To address these crises, the Green Alliance recommends that the Government manages land differently by working with farmers and increasing funding for the Environmental Land Management scheme, which pays farmers to boost biodiversity and tackle water pollution alongside other nature restoration and climate resilience measures. In addition, financial incentives and/or

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<sup>4</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National\\_security\\_assessment\\_-\\_global\\_biodiversity\\_loss\\_ecosystem\\_collapse\\_and\\_national\\_security.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National_security_assessment_-_global_biodiversity_loss_ecosystem_collapse_and_national_security.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://green-alliance.org.uk/briefing/the-impact-of-nature-loss-and-climate-change-on-the-cost-of-living/>

regulatory measures could be used to encourage the use of organic fertilizers to replace a portion of current oil-based fertilizer, which will both benefit the environment and make better use of the imminent increase in food-waste digestate.

## Providing health benefits

As seen during the Covid pandemic, accessing nature is beneficial for human health and wellbeing and many people used nature as a healer during that time.<sup>6</sup> The same benefits can be realised during a cost-of-living crisis, when people experience more anxiety and depression due to the pressures of managing their finances and particularly lower socioeconomic groups.<sup>7</sup> Advice from mental health organisations to people struggling with depression and anxiety is to spend time in nature.<sup>8</sup> Mounting evidence also shows that accessing more biodiverse nature increases the positive impact of nature on human health and mental wellbeing.<sup>9</sup> Climate Outreach and More in Common's annual research 'Britain Talks Climate & Nature' with 7,000 people in the UK, 81% of respondents agree that "being in nature makes me very happy".<sup>10</sup> Further research by More in Common in November 2025, found that two-fifths of Britons say the mental health benefits of green spaces are the most important benefit to them, rising to almost 6 in 10 of people who live with mental health conditions.<sup>11</sup>

Worryingly, however, there are deep imbalances across the country in access to nature and its quality. For example, the Woodland Trust recently released research showing that millions of people in UK towns and cities are living in 'tree deserts', with these communities more exposed to poorer health outcomes, air pollution and rising temperatures.<sup>12</sup> Clacton-on-Sea in Essex is the worst performing town or city in England. Further, income-deprived areas generally disproportionately suffer from tree deserts,<sup>13</sup> while research undertaken by the Health Foundation shows that people living in more deprived areas, minority ethnic groups and younger people are more likely to live in areas with less access to green space.<sup>14</sup>

We recommend that Labour Government establish an emergency taskforce to review how the restoration and creation of green space in urban areas, particularly in deprived areas can be accelerated and delivered – in effect acting as a 'Natural Health Service' to support our National Health Service. This could include a focus on additional investment from the private sector, as well as the creation of an Environmental Service for young people to learn green skills and be actively involved

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<sup>6</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8983608/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/cost-of-living-crisis-is-worsening-the-mental-health-of-most-vulnerable>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/a-z-topics/nature-and-mental-health>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/biodiversity-is-key-to-the-mental-health-benefits-of-nature-new-study-finds>

<sup>10</sup> [https://climateoutreach.org/?btc\\_year\\_qv=2025](https://climateoutreach.org/?btc_year_qv=2025)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/research/parks-pride-and-place-the-role-green-spaces-can-play-in-building-pride-in-place-and-support-at-the-ballot-box/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/press-centre/2026/05/uk-tree-deserts-affecting-health/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/research-and-evidence/biowell-research/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/evidence-hub/surroundings/inequalities-in-access-to-green-space>

in regenerating our environment (this has already been planned in Wales with National Lottery Funding). Whilst Reform threaten to enact policies that effectively steal young peoples' future, Labour can demonstrate its commitment to future generations and the planet.

### **5. What additional steps can be taken by the Labour Government to build on the work already done in reducing carbon emissions, supporting the clean energy economy, securing Britain's energy independence and delivering green jobs across the country?**

SERA commends the leadership, commitment and work of the Secretary of State for DESNZ. The speed at which DESNZ are delivering meaningful and lasting policy change through rolling out clean energy, setting up GB Energy and delivering funding to retrofit British homes and businesses to reduce their emissions and energy bills is world leading. Most members in our policy priority survey endorsed this work and ranked Government performance in clean energy and climate change first and second respectively.

*Miliband's great lead on clean energy is the best policy of Labour. He just seems to be a lone voice in cabinet.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*Onshore wind is a huge step forward and will allow more cheap electricity in the future as demand for power grows and puts us in a better position to break free from relying on international gas markets.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*GB Energy gives us our best hope at a clean transition and I'm glad it's being done to drive jobs and skills.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

SERA has long campaigned for an end to new oil and gas licences so strongly welcomes the announcement in the King's Speech that the Energy Independence Bill will put into legislation Labour election manifesto pledge on this issue. This Bill will need to ensure that the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) is reformed to support the transition away from oil and gas, including support for jobs and workers and alignment with climate science and global warming contained to 1.5 degrees.

## Additional steps

When asked to prioritise other areas on which the Government should advance this agenda in our member survey, SERA members listed the following:

- **Delivering national grid upgrades**, identified as a top priority for delivery of the Change manifesto goals
- **Stopping Rosebank and Jackdaw and upholding the spirit of the manifesto pledge to end new licenses for oil and gas** - an issue that many SERA members support. Young SERA has been leading our campaigning on this issue to show the Secretary of State that he has support to make the right decision, and to counter the misinformation peddled by the Conservatives and Reform about drilling in the North Sea. Drilling in the North Sea will not benefit Britons as most oil and gas from the North Sea will be sold to the highest bidder on the international market. Drilling in the North Sea will not make UK energy bills cheaper or more secure despite UK taxpayers paying to develop fields. Further, Labour has a significant opportunity to use a rejection of Rosebank and Jackdaw as a powerful signal to voters, investors and its global partners that it is committed to the green transition and jobs. Critically, it also sends a message to young voters, anxious about their future, that Labour is serious about minimising climate harm and will not sanction decisions that make limiting global warming to safer temperatures impossible. Our Executive Member, Mike Reader MP, has also written on this issue: [On energy, politicians should be on the side of bill payers, not billionaires – Labour Environment Campaign – SERA](#)
- **Effectively implementing the Local Power Plan**, which many members view as a significant opportunity to disrupt the energy sector by putting communities at the centre of the energy transition. Southwest SERA member David Saunders has written about the Plan's potential: [Community energy is Labour's opportunity to win the future – Labour Environment Campaign – SERA](#)
- **Green jobs and skills**. Labour should ensure that the transition creates visible pathways into good, secure green jobs. Young SERA's Our Earth in 2050 engagement found that young people are enthusiastic about climate action but often lack clear information about careers, vocational routes and opportunities beyond the energy sector. Embedding sustainability and nature skills across education and training would help ensure that the benefits of the transition are shared by every generation and every community
- **Using less nuclear power**, which some members noted was too expensive and environmentally risky.

- **Developing a long-term strategy for transport**, to include restoring the 2030 phase-out of diesel and petrol vehicles and stopping airport expansion. Further, Government should resist any calls to soften the UK's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate targets, particularly given the current geopolitical crisis that further evidences the need for the UK to transition away from fossil fuels to clean, homegrown energy as soon as possible.
- **Using sustainable housing materials**, alongside appropriate housing standards and designs, and
- **Publishing and implementing a Circular Economy Strategy**, which is critically needed to help reduce the use of resources and related emissions from every point of the supply chain and market.
- **Bringing in secondary legislation to enable the enforcement of Schedule 17 of the 2021 Environment Act.** The destruction of tropical forests is not only the greatest threat to the world's biodiversity given 80% of known species live there, but it also significantly increases global emissions by reducing global carbon sinks. The UK is part of the problem as we import palm oil, beef, soy and other products from illegally cleared land. Schedule 17 of the 2021 Environment Act was brought in to try and prevent this. The Conservative Government failed to bring in the necessary secondary legislation required to enforce this Schedule and hence it is currently toothless. Secondary legislation would define the commodities, business thresholds and specific penalties. It would also determine the length of the grace period required to allow businesses time to prepare. By enacting this secondary legislation, the UK will help support tropical forest countries to enforce their laws and stop illegal clearance. It will protect vital forest habitat for endangered wildlife. It will also support the indigenous people and forest communities who depend on this land for their livelihood.

### **In focus: communicating to the general public**

A key lesson from the May 2026 elections, and that was mentioned in our member survey, is the Government's failure to get its message out about its climate and clean energy achievements and why they are important. While a shift in messaging has rightly been evident in DESNZ communications over the past year, so that it now emphasises and leads with the benefits of clean energy in relation to reducing consumer costs and increasing energy security to protect against international shocks, it has not been enough to cut through the hostile right wing media on this issue. Government must invest in education and communications that give the public the facts about the energy system and how it works, and why drilling more oil and gas will not improve energy affordability and deliver energy sovereignty. This will need investment in multiple communication channels and the tailoring of messaging to all audiences. Examples include the National Emergency Briefing is rolling out the People's Emergency Briefing, a film it hopes to show in every community across the

country.<sup>15</sup> It also wants the film to be aired on public television and has asked Keir Starmer to do just that.

*To bring the general public together in environmental action there needs to be public involvement and education.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*Public education about the scale and consequences of the climate and nature crises is critical to building political support for action on both mitigation and adaptation.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

SERA has also developed a campaign, **Ground Truth**, to help promote Government's climate and nature achievements.<sup>16</sup> We will be rolling out Ground Truth across CLPs in coming months and years. Our aim is to equip Labour activists with the tools they need to effectively talk about Labour's environmental progress. In the design of Ground Truth, we have worked with Climate Outreach and used findings from their research with More on Common – Britain Talks Climate and Nature.<sup>17</sup>

A critical recommendation from this research is to lead not with news of how an action will reduce emissions or help reduce climate change, but rather of how that action will benefit nature. This is because the research showed that nature is a unifier across our communities and the political spectrum. More in Common's research on 'Parks, pride and place: The role green spaces can play in building pride in place and support at the ballot box' also found that Britons overwhelmingly rank green space, parks and nature as their favourite thing or biggest source of pride about where they live.<sup>18</sup> The research concludes that the protection and improvement of nature offers a tangible way for elected representatives to restore public confidence in their ability to improve lives and communities.

These findings are important for DESNZ as nature restoration can help mitigate climate change, while climate change exacerbates the nature crisis. Both climate and nature actions and benefits must be addressed and promoted by DESNZ, and indeed by all government departments given the cross-cutting nature of their impacts and solutions. The Labour Party must also heed these lessons and proudly recognise and promote its longstanding green credentials, including in relation to

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

<sup>16</sup> [Ground Truth – defending environmental progress – Labour Environment Campaign – SERA](#)

<sup>17</sup> [https://climateoutreach.org/?btc\\_year\\_qv=2025](https://climateoutreach.org/?btc_year_qv=2025)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/research/parks-pride-and-place-the-role-green-spaces-can-play-in-building-pride-in-place-and-support-at-the-ballot-box/>

support for nature restoration and protection. SERA is keen to help the Party and Government do that.

*Nature also needs to be a core part of Labour's next election strategy. The enormous public support for nature documentaries shows how powerful and emotive the issue is for the public, so giving people a really stake in the animals they love at the next election would be an important way to cut through the current perception that the party is overly bureaucratic and lacking empathy. This would also be very practical from an economic perspective. Research from the Green Finance Institute indicates that the UK could be 12% poorer in the 2030s due to biodiversity loss and degradation, a bigger hit than either the 2008 financial crisis or COVID-19.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

*This government has to do more for nature. Climate is polarising; nature is not. And when we act for nature we're acting for the climate too. Beaver releases, national forests and river walks all resonate with the public. This government can do far more, like on its 30by30 commitment, to protect 30% of land for nature in the UK by 2030. 30by30 is not yet well known by the public, but those who hear about it want to know more, want to restore nature across the country, and want to access and enjoy those spaces in cities, towns and the countryside.*

**SERA member, member survey 2025-26**

**6. What are the specific implications of policy proposals in this area for (a) women, (b) Black, Asian and minority ethnic people (c) LGBT+ people, (d) disabled people and (e) all those with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?**

As highlighted above, access to green spaces and the ability to travel to the countryside is heavily impacted by inequality, and poor access to nature impacts health outcomes. Labour has an opportunity to address nature inequity and support access to nature for all, as it did with the right to roam and the creation of National Parks in 1949, following the iconic mass trespass on Kinder Downfall when working class people protested against wealthy landowners who forbade public access.

**7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?**

The Welsh Government established the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act, and Scotland has a focus on the well-being economy. Arguably in line with the United Sustainability Development Goal for health and wellbeing, there is an opportunity for Labour to create a stronger cross UK focus that links wellbeing, health and the improvement of our natural environment and green spaces as we face the challenging impacts of climate change and hotter temperatures at work and home.

Young SERA's Our Earth in 2050 engagement has highlighted a strong desire among young people for a greater voice in shaping the decisions that will define their future. A UK-wide Wellbeing for Future Generations approach would help ensure that policy priorities across devolved nations and regions are aligned, and guided not on immediate outcomes, but on its contribution to long-term prosperity, resilience and intergenerational fairness.