

Top tips for speaking to your MP

What to expect

MPs want to know what it is you care about. Not only do they want to hear from you, they have a duty to listen – their job is to represent you in Parliament. MPs are generally friendly and open for a chat, but they are pressed for time so don't expect meetings to last too long. Appointments will generally last for around 10 – 15 minutes, so make sure you have your key messages ready.

You might find it helpful to prepare in advance and perhaps even rehearse what you want to say beforehand. It is also important to research who your MP is. Find out what they care about and whether or not they have taken an active interest in the environment before – that way you can go into the meeting fully prepared.

All MP surgeries are slightly different, but in most cases you are likely to be sat in a waiting room before your appointment, with people from your local area. Once it is your turn, you'll be invited into an office for your chance to persuade your MP why they should be supporting a new law for nature's recovery.

How can I make my meeting effective?

Share your story: MPs love personal stories. Share yours with them, choosing experiences that have taken place in your local area and meant a lot to you. This way you can show your MP how much the natural environment in your area matters. Perhaps there are some moments shared with your Wildlife Trust, or events you have attended that stand out? Can you think how even more wildlife in your area would help to improve it?

Have a clear ask: To make your meeting as successful as possible, make sure you have some clear things to ask your MP to do for you. You could ask them to write to their Party Leader, for example: Theresa May or Jeremy Corbyn and their environment team, to support an ambitious Environment Act for all the reasons shared above. You can also ask them what they themselves think they can do to help make this happen.

Don't worry if you're not an expert: It's your MP's job to listen to you and you will probably know far more than them - just be passionate about the issue.

Take a photo: Ask your MP if you can take a photo with them (you could include one of the posters at www.lancswt.org.uk). This is a great way to let others know that people have been speaking to them about nature's recovery, and to encourage them to do the same. MPs often like the publicity too!

Next steps

Following up with your MP is a good way to keep your meeting fresh in their mind. Sending them a quick 'thank you' email with the photo you took is a nice way of doing this.



What should I be asking for?

We want to see a strong Environment Act that doesn't just protect our natural world, but also ensures it can thrive. We want a wilder future!

Here are three key areas you can raise with your MP, but remember to keep it personal to you.

Nature targets

Legal targets for nature's recovery that politicians must ultimately achieve and regularly report on progress towards, for example: safer air to breathe in our cities.

A Nature Recovery Network

A joined-up network of habitats on land and at sea that provide enough space for wildlife to recover and adapt to change, and for people to thrive both physically and mentally.

A Nature Watchdog

An independent body to help people challenge bad decisions made by Government and councils, which have a negative impact on wildlife and our natural environment

Keeping it personal

When talking to your MP about these key areas, remember to tell them why it's important to you and your local area. Perhaps you live in a City and would like to see more greenspace, perhaps you live on the coast and want assurances that our seas and coastlines will be there for many years to come. If you are a member of the Wildlife Trust, or a volunteer on one of our projects then be sure to talk to them about that and why it's important to you.

Thank you for making a noise for nature

