Dear Councillor [Name],

I’m writing to urge you to do all you can to put a stop to the UK Government’s attack on nature.

Suffolk boasts some of the UK’s rarest and richest places for nature – from reedbeds and fens to heathland and ancient grasslands and hedgerows. These habitats and the wildlife they are home to are vitally important for the health of our natural environment and of immense value to Suffolk, our economy, and our quality of life.

I’m deeply concerned that The Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust and others have warned that the recent announcement of the new planning and infrastructure law and ‘investment zones’ represent the weakening of protections that safeguard our already beleaguered wildlife, whilst putting our most precious local wildlife sites at threat from bulldozers and concrete. This is in addition to the new Retained EU Law Bill, where the UK Government threatens to tear up the basic wildlife protections we’ve relied upon for years.

What’s more, reversing plans to support nature-friendly farming, as pledged in the Government’s manifesto, would be a huge missed opportunity and devastating for nature. Returning to an agricultural system where farmers are paid with taxpayers' money based on how much land they own is unfair and unsustainable.

The UK Government is dismissing environmental protections as ‘burdens’, yet our economy depends upon everything that nature provides – from food production to clean air and water, and so much more. A commitment to deregulation, which allows developers to get away with trashing our most important wildlife sites and polluters to poison our rivers with more sewage, will only damage our country and economy.

The Conservative Government was elected in 2019 on a manifesto pledge to deliver the “most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth”. The weakening of vital environmental protections is a 180-degree U turn on that promise, which the Government has no mandate to do.

Please help me to defend nature in Suffolk by doing all you can to urge the Prime Minister and the Government to put a stop to this attack and instead ramp up action to protect our wildlife, our climate, and our futures.

XXX