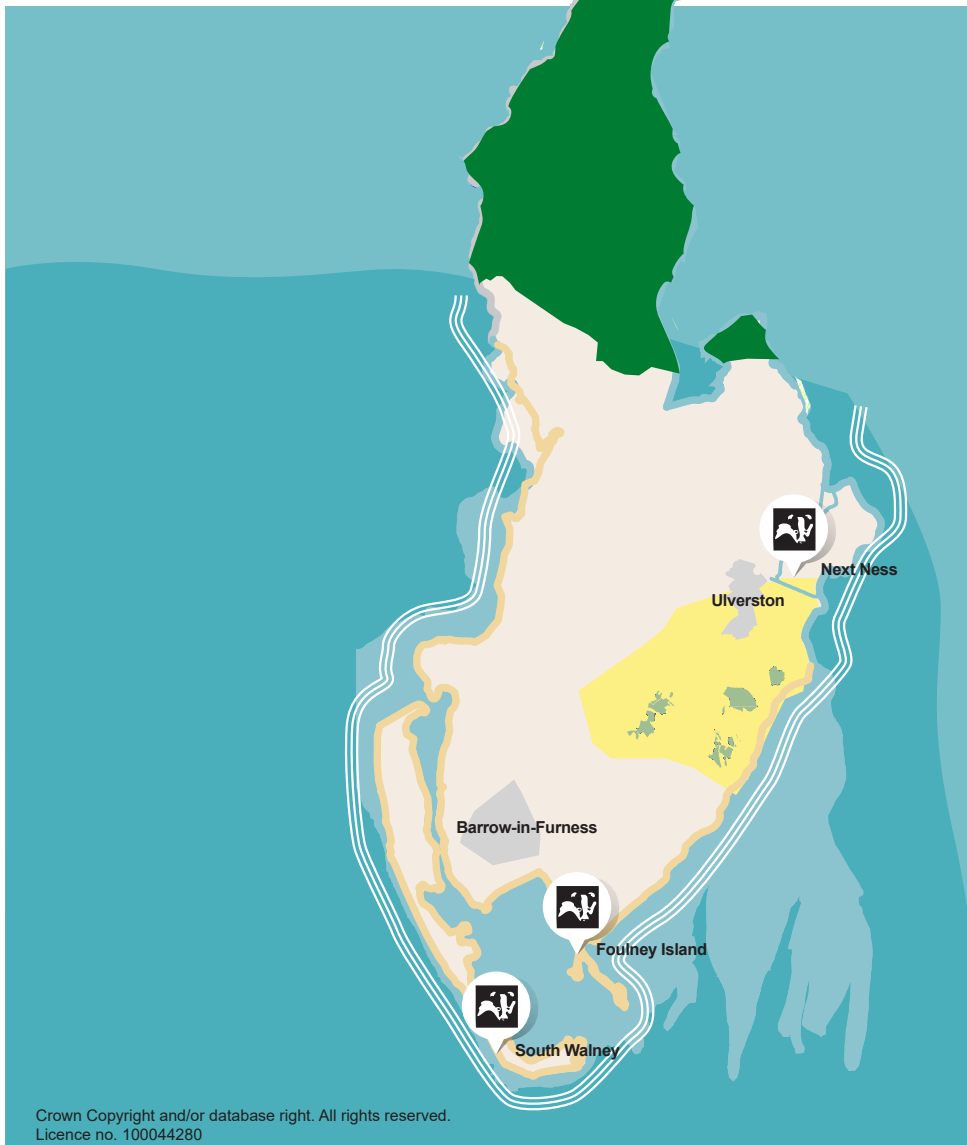


Barrow and Furness Constituency



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust



Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria. The Trust stands up for wildlife, creates wildlife havens, and seeks to raise environmental awareness.

In your constituency the Trust has:

- ❖ 1,623 members
- ❖ 3 nature reserves
- ❖ 2 Local Support Groups

KEY

	Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve		Lakeland Fells & Dales Living Landscape
	Coast		Morecambe Bay Limestones Living Landscape
	River/Stream		Limestone Pavement

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Nature in the constituency

The coastline is incredibly important in the Barrow and Furness Constituency. The entire length, except for a short section on Walney Island, is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) because it is environmentally important.

The coastline

The coast is made up of a diverse mosaic of shingle, sand dune and salt marsh. Vegetated shingle at Foulney Island is an important habitat supporting a number of drought-tolerant plants and various insect populations. The shingle provides breeding

sites for a number of birds, especially Arctic and little terns.

Sand dunes

Sand dunes can protect beaches from erosion and are vital in our fight against coastal erosion. In 2020 we will be working on the Dynamic Dunescapes project, to help protect these important habitats. Sand dunes support highly specialised plant species such as sea rocket and Portland spurge and natterjack toads breed in the shallow pools or slacks that form between the successive ridges of sand dune systems.

Morecambe Bay

Morecambe Bay is the most important estuary in Britain for its seabird and waterfowl populations and has the third largest number of wintering wildfowl in Britain. It contains 5% of the UK's total area of salt marsh which provide an important feeding habitat for birds such as the pink-footed goose.

South Walney

Our nature reserve is home to the North West's only breeding colony of grey seals. A record 483 were counted here in 2019.

There are 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK working towards A Living Landscape and Living Seas. A Living Landscape is a recovery plan for nature to create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and provide ecological security for people. Within Living Seas wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows, wildlife and habitats are recovering, adapting to climate change, and inspiring people.

A vision for your constituency



South Walney Nature Reserve enjoys many visitors including these eider ducks.
Photo: Phil Jones

Nature's recovery in your constituency

We have established interesting and diverse species-rich habitats for our nature reserves on Walney and Foulney islands. We worked closely with the local community and volunteers on our Dunes of Barrow project to achieve this. Sand dune restoration work will continue at South Walney with the new Dynamic Dunescapes project. Restoration of sand dune and shingle habitats is vital to the wildlife that relies on them.

Our vision is that wildlife and habitats are recovering from past decline as our use of the seas' resources becomes environmentally sustainable.

Over the past 10 years we have campaigned to secure designation of a number of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) designed to protect our sea's most important habitats and marine life. Muddy and sandy habitats off Walney Island are now protected as an MCZ and damaging fishing practices have been prohibited. This MCZ is also co-located with five offshore windfarms.

In 2019 we have been working with local, small-scale fishermen from Barrow and the windfarm developers to promote sustainable use of the marine environment, demonstrating how marine conservation, sustainable fisheries and sustainable development can work together.

Morecambe Bay holds the most southern colony of eider ducks in Britain and is the only site on the west coast of England.

Cumbria holds over half of the UK's population of natterjack toads with a large number of colonies situated in the sand dunes around Barrow.

Every autumn migratory birds fly to over-winter in Morecambe Bay. The bay regularly supports over 200,000 waders and 20,000 seabirds making it one of the country's best bird watching sites.



Barrow is a haven for urban wildlife

We are calling on the national parties to pledge to:

- ❖ **Back an ambitious Environment Act** with legally binding targets to restore nature, a powerful, independent environmental watchdog, and a Nature Recovery Network to protect and join-up important places for wildlife
- ❖ **Introduce an Agriculture Bill** that pays farmers for helping wildlife and for rebuilding our natural countryside, so that public money is used for the good of everyone and farmers help create a connected landscape
- ❖ **Revive our marine environment** through a network of Highly Protected Marine Areas and a new Marine Strategy to guide how we develop at sea, how we fish within environmental limits and how we restore our marine ecosystems to support plentiful fish and wildlife

Volunteers help with practical conservation



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

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All 46 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238).