

Nature in the constituency

With some of the highest mountains in England, superb lakes and the Solway estuary off its coast, the Workington constituency has some of the finest wildlife to be found anywhere in England.

Lowland raised bogs

The Solway Mires form part of a once extensive landscape of deep peat that stretched across the low lying Solway Plain. The four peat bogs that make up Solway Mosses are considered exceptional examples of lowland raised bog in England and support a host of special plants and animals.

Solway Firth

The Solway Firth is the third largest estuary in England and one of the most significant for wildlife. Internationally important numbers of birds such as pink-footed and barnacle geese flock to feed in the estuary and surrounding salt marsh, making this a mecca for birdwatchers.

The coast is made up of a mosaic of shingle, sand dune and salt marsh. Vegetated shingle is a nationally important habitat supporting a number of drought-tolerant plants as well as diverse insect populations, and the shingle provides breeding sites for a number of birds.

Sand dunes

Sand dunes support highly specialised plant species, such as sea rocket and Portland spurge. The rare natterjack toad breeds in the shallow pools or slacks that form between the successive ridges of sand dune systems and beautiful orchids such as pyramidal, bee and northern marsh orchid also find a home here.

A vision for your constituency



Drumburgh Moss Nature Reserve has been restored to ensure it is once again a peat forming bog which stores carbon

Your wildlife trust is leading efforts to secure nature's recovery in your constituency

The Trust has undertaken extensive restoration of the lowland raised mire at Drumburgh Moss Nature Reserve. Working with surrounding landowners we have worked hard to re-wet this area, creating the perfect conditions for peat formation. Storing carbon in the Solway Mires will help the Workington constituency become more carbon neutral.

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

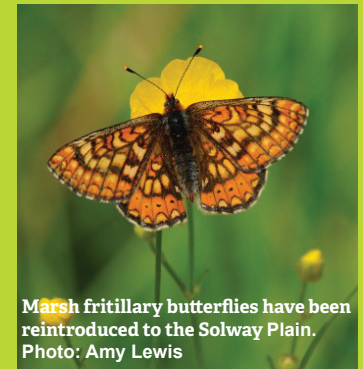
environmentally sustainable. Over the past 10 years we have campaigned to secure designation of a number of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) designed to protect our sea's most important habitats and marine life.

Sandy, muddy and living reef habitats within Allonby Bay are now protected and the Solway Firth is designated to safeguard one of the few remaining smelt fish populations. We are continuing to work closely with other stakeholders to ensure that these MCZs are managed appropriately, seeking the best outcomes for wildlife and sea users both within and beyond MCZs.

Our Get Cumbria Buzzing project started in 2019. It will create 115 hectares of wildflower-rich habitat across north west Cumbria to help boost bumblebees and other pollinators - that's an area half the size of Maryport.

Cumbria holds over half of the UK's population of natterjack toads with a large number of colonies situated in the sand dunes along the coast of your constituency.

The rare marsh fritillary butterfly, close to extinction in Cumbria, has been subject to a reintroduction at Finglandrigg National Nature Reserve on the Solway Plain.



Marsh fritillary butterflies have been reintroduced to the Solway Plain. Photo: Amy Lewis

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



Honeycomb worm reefs are a key feature of north west England's coastline and Allonby Bay contains some of the best examples of these reefs in the UK



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

Contact details

Stephen Trotter
Chief Executive Officer
stephent@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
t 01539 816300
www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
www.wildlifetrusts.org

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