

Conservative Candidate Response

Dear Julie,

Thank you for getting in touch and for your question.

I have made 'protect the countryside' a key part of my plan for South Shropshire. This recognises the need to make every effort to preserve our beautiful area for generations to come.

The Conservatives in government passed the ground-breaking Environment Act 2021. The Act requires a new, historic legally binding target to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, as a core part of the UK's commitment to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

Other targets through the Environment Act include improving the Red List Index for England for species extinction risk by 2042, as well as restoring or creating over 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042. The Act also introduces a requirement to demonstrate biodiversity net gain on all development sites.

This is the sort of action I support to address the concerns that you raise. It is important that we protect the countryside and the important biodiversity in South Shropshire.

Thank you for contacting me on this issue.

Kind regards,

Stuart Anderson