



8th October, 2025

A Wilder Wales: Urgent Action for Nature and Communities

Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS,

Wales has an opportunity to lead the way in building a stronger, fairer rural economy—one rooted in our culture, language, and deep connection to the land and sea. To seize this moment, we must move beyond conventional thinking and give nature the chance to lead. By supporting rewilding, the Welsh Government can unlock investment, create new green jobs, and revitalise communities, while safeguarding the landscapes and heritage that define our nation for future generations.

Rewilding is already happening in Wales. It is practical, cost-effective, and globally recognised. But it is not yet supported in policy at the scale required. The moment to change this is now, as we close in on the launch of the Sustainable Farming Scheme and the passing of the Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity (Wales) Bill.

Five Transformational Steps

We call on Welsh Government to:

1. **Pay for Natural Grazing** – Embed rewilding and natural process-led approaches, that create dynamic and complex landscapes, where wildlife can move and adapt, in the Sustainable Farming Scheme. Reward land managers who restore ecosystems and not just fragmented habitats, creating a meaningful contribution to the 30% land-for-nature target.
2. **Lead by Example** – Empower Natural Resources Wales to manage the public estate in ways that show-case large-scale restoration, beginning with upland reserves and uneconomic forests.
3. **Bring Back Lost Species** – Create and adopt a national keystone species reintroduction strategy, starting with beavers, to ensure we see their return to the major river catchments of Wales within the next 5 years. This will strengthen climate resilience and create the conditions for the restoration of ecosystems.
4. **Empower Communities** – Create a Community Right-to-Buy for land, as part of a commitment to a Land Reform Act for Wales, and a Nature Creation Licence for the ocean, giving local people the power to restore ecosystems and build green jobs.
5. **Define and Deliver OECMs** – Make large-scale restoration central to biodiversity targets under the Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Bill, using OECM's as a key framework to bring in fresh thinking, approaches and delivery routes to the creation of new land for nature and community. .



A Vision for Wales

Imagine a Wales where wildlife flourishes again, lost species return, rivers run freely, and restored seas protect our coasts. A Wales where communities lead this change, building new green livelihoods while strengthening culture, language, and local economies. This vision is within reach—if we act with courage now.

Call to Action

We urge the Welsh Government to remove the barriers to large-scale restoration, to put communities at the heart of change, and to make Wales a world leader in rewilding.

We would like to, please, request a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss how these five steps can be delivered together.

Signed,

James Hitchcock

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