



Manuela Perteghella

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The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: MP01375

27 February 2025

Dear Rt. Hon. Angela Rayner MP,

Protect Nature in Housing and Infrastructure Plans

Many constituents of Stratford-on-Avon have written to me of their concern for the protection of nature in new building plans.

The new Government has made clear its priority to build new infrastructure, new homes and transition to clean energy by 2030. I am asking you to ensure this development delivers both for people and wildlife.

The UK Government has legally binding commitments to halt the catastrophic decline of species in England by 2030. This can only be achieved by creating - and crucially, maintaining - protected spaces for nature.

Government should not treat restoring nature as an inconvenient impediment to development – our planning system needs to be designed not just to minimise harm to nature, but to enable its recovery alongside new development.

New building and the protection of wildlife should not be treated as separate goals. By ensuring mandatory biodiverse greenspace, and the incorporation of wildlife-friendly features such as bird and bat boxes, hedgehog holes and sustainable drainage in new buildings, both goals can be achieved simultaneously. Moreover, housing that fosters wildlife creates healthier, happier places for people to live, and communities to thrive.

Renewable energy projects should include wildlife-rich hedgerows around solar farms, and measures taken to protect birds around wind farms.

Of particular interest to many of my constituents are Swift Bricks. Swift bricks such as the S Brick by Action for Swifts can be incorporated in standard brick or rendered walls. They are light and easy to install, and are recommended but have not been made mandatory by the National Planning Policy Guidelines. This means that only a small amount are installed.

In your response, please can you inform me as to how the Government plans to:

1. Incorporate protection for nature and natural habitats into Government prescribed building targets.

2. Support the development of planning expertise in Local Planning Authorities, many of which have been starved of resources and lack environmental specialists.
3. Protect the UK's ancient woodland and blanket bogs, and other important habitats, from new buildings.

Please may you also explain why it is preferable to have the responsibility of making Swift Bricks mandatory at a local level, rather than as part of the National Planning Policy Guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Manuela Perteghella'.

Dr Manuela Perteghella MP
Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon