



Marie Rimmer CBE, MP
Member of Parliament for St. Helens
South & Whiston
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

Hedgerows and Netting

I have concerns about hedgerows, bushes and trees being covered with netting to prevent birds from nesting. A parliamentary petition with over 360,000 signatures has called to make the netting of hedgerows a criminal offence. That petition was debated in Parliament on the 13 May 2019.

I believe we must ensure that the cruel practice of netting precious bird nesting sites comes to an end and call out developers who use this inhumane tactic against our wildlife.

Netting around bird nesting sites contributes to the wider issue of habitat loss. Research has found that the UK has lost significantly more nature over the long term than the global average, with 56% of species, including birds, having declined between 1970 and 2013.

It is concerning that the budget for Natural England, the body responsible for biodiversity in England, has more than halved over the past decade. Moreover, the UK is on track to meet only five of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets.

There is an urgent need for effective action to end the catastrophic decline in species that we are seeing. One of the key priorities for environmental action must be reversing the decline of biodiversity and protecting natural habitats.

The Government has said netting trees and hedgerows is only appropriate where genuinely needed to protect birds from harm during development. It has written to developers to remind them of their legal obligation to consider the impact of any project on local wildlife and, where necessary, to take precautionary action to protect habitats.

There will also be a requirement in the forthcoming Environment Bill to make biodiversity net gain compulsory for developments when granting planning permission.

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP

Constituency Office:

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,
marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.marierimmer.co.uk