

Land Use Strategy must deliver nature restoration and secure our food

Adrian Ramsay, Co-Leader of The Green Party of England and Wales, MP for Waveney Valley, welcomes the start of the consultation process for the Land Use Framework.

“Food security and nature restoration are essential for our very survival. They must not be seen as in competition – the government must step up its efforts on both.

“We have one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth, yet we need our soils, pollinators and wider environment to be in a healthy state in order to secure our food supply – and farmers are crying out for adequate funding for nature friendly farming and natural flood management.

“Climate breakdown is already threatening our ability to produce food, with droughts and flooding at different times of the year making life very hard for farmers.

“This Land Use Framework represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address these critical issues and ensure our communities are more self-sufficient and resilient in our food supply. For this plan to work and deliver for communities, the Government must work to diversify what food we produce, which will strengthen our food security.”

“A new framework could – and should – support farmers to produce seasonal foods for local markets and tackle the power of the supermarkets who don’t give farmers a fair deal.”

“This happens throughout this country, with businesses like Hodmedods in Suffolk growing beans and pulses or Glebe Farm in Cambridgeshire producing homegrown oats. These examples show that we can diversify food production reducing our reliance on imports, ensuring food security for future generations.”

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Brexit anniversary sparks call for much closer relationship with EU

On the fifth anniversary of the UK’s exit from the European Union, Green MP

Ellie Chowns said:

"These five years have seen the economic, social and political costs of leaving the European Union become ever clearer.

"Far from 'taking back control', we have all lost out.

"Young people have been deprived of the chance to easily study and work in the European Union, while small businesses have found it increasingly difficult to export, and the UK is increasingly isolated on the international stage.

"No wonder, the proportion of the public believing Brexit to have been the right decision is at its lowest since 2020. (1)

"The Green Party is very clear that people and planet would benefit from much closer relationships between our country and the European Union.

"We will continue to press the Labour government to be braver and bolder in overcoming the negative impacts of Brexit.

"Full membership of the EU remains the best option for the UK, and we are in favour of pursuing a policy to re-join as soon as the political will is present.

"Of course, that means building the widespread public support we need before a decision to rejoin is made.

"There are win-win first steps that the government should be taking today. For instance, working with the EU on a youth mobility scheme that opens up the European Union to our youngsters.

"We should be working with the EU to tackle the twin crises of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss in the face of US President Donald Trump's disastrous decision to pull the US out of the Paris climate agreement.

"We should also rejoin the Customs Union to begin to overcome the obstacles that small businesses have faced in trading with our closest partners since Brexit.

"While joining the Single Market would provide benefits in terms of free movement of people, goods, services and capital, membership of the Single Market without membership of the EU would not be an ideal long-term solution because the UK would not be a full partner in decision making processes.

"We've learned from the divisiveness of Brexit that binary choices push people apart rather than bring people together.

"So, we are proposing the use of citizens' assemblies to support the wider public to make well-informed decisions about complicated political issues such as our future membership of the EU."

Mark Ormiston, a sixth generation managing director of Ormiston Wire that

manufactures a high quality products used in suspending lights, art installations, yacht rigging and surgical procedures, said Brexit is making it ever harder to get its components into final products manufactured abroad.

Mark Ormiston “We supply components not a final product so if the end product moves offshore, we have to try and supply that export market. With Brexit small exporters are being devastated and we must work very hard to persuade companies to use our quality and expertise.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

(1)

<https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/51484-how-do-britons-feel-about-brexit-five-years-on>

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Greens welcome Rosebank and jackdaw court ruling

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer MP has welcomed a Scottish court ruling that government approval of the giant new Rosebank and Jackdaw developments was unlawful because it did not account for the significant emissions that would be caused by burning the fields’ oil and gas.

Carla Denyer said: “This is a victory not just for the campaigners who have been fighting against new oil drilling at Rosebank and Jackdaw, but for common sense. The science is clear and the stakes are high: there can be no new oil and gas developments if we are to have a chance of staying within safe climate limits.

“We’ve already seen the effects of at least 1.2°C degrees of global heating: from record-breaking heatwaves on almost every continent and deadly floods taking people’s lives and livelihoods across the world. In this context, it would be morally scandalous to allow fossil fuel companies like Equinor to start extracting from new fields – for the sake of their own profits and regardless of the consequences for the rest of us.

“Aside from being a climate crime, opening new oil and gas fields like Rosebank goes entirely against what’s needed to strengthen the UK’s energy security, lower bills, and protect workers – which is to invest in a rapid and fair transition to renewable industries which have a long-term future.

“If this government is serious about protecting us from the climate crisis and securing a liveable future for our children, it will revoke Rosebank’s

license so that there is absolutely no question of this development going ahead. It must also refuse consent for the 13 other oil and gas drilling projects licensed by the previous government, and send a clear signal to the fossil fuel industry that they have no future in the UK.”

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“The idea that we have to choose between economic prosperity and safeguarding our children’s future is absolute nonsense”

Responding to [Rachel Reeves’ speech on economic growth](#), Green Party Co-Leader, Adrian Ramsay MP, said

“The idea that we have to choose between economic prosperity and safeguarding our children’s future is absolute nonsense – in fact it’s quite the opposite.

“Expanding airport capacity would wipe out all the benefits of the Government’s clean power plan, and won’t provide any benefits for ordinary people.

“The idea that expanding Heathrow can happen in line with legal, environmental & climate objectives, while meeting rules on carbon emissions, noise and air quality is just fantasy thinking.

“At one point in her speech, the Chancellor said net zero is the opportunity of the century.

“She’s right about that, yet much of what she announced will take us further away from net zero.

“Her strategy doesn’t add up and it felt more as if she was chasing headlines than chasing a sustainable, fairer future for the UK.”

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“Expanding Heathrow in the face of a climate emergency is the definition of irresponsible.” say Greens

Responding to the [news that Rachel Reeves is backing the expansion of Heathrow Airport](#), Green Party MP, Sian Berry MP said,

“The Chancellor talked about the ‘costs of irresponsibility’ but expanding Heathrow in the face of a climate emergency is the definition of irresponsible.”

“Worst still, we’re also expecting formal planning decisions from ministers on Gatwick and Luton airport expansion, which the Chancellor pre-empted today. Giving these permissions in the month before vital new advice is expected from the Climate Change Committee, today’s speech is nothing short of reckless.

“The carbon cost of expanding Heathrow, Luton, and Gatwick together will cancel out the benefits of Labour’s keystone clean energy plan, making Net Zero minister Ed Miliband’s task almost impossible.

“The Chancellor’s stated goal is ‘raising living standards in every part of the UK’ but more and bigger airports will serve only the very richest aviation bosses and the most frequent flyers whose wealth doesn’t help people’s daily lives get better.

“Tackling inequality and building a greener future should go hand in hand. That must mean investment in warmer homes, green energy and the local transport people use every day, not these bleak proposals.”

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