

General Election 26 MWT Candidate Question Briefing

This document provides an overview of the questions that will be asked during a short 30-minute Microsoft Teams conversation with Manx Wildlife Trust.

The purpose of the conversation is to understand your views on nature and the environment ahead of the General Election. A single summary blog will be published for MWT's 1,200 members and the wider public. All candidates are being offered the same opportunity and asked the same core questions.

The call will be recorded only to support accurate note taking. Candidates who choose not to participate will be listed in the published blog.

1. Values Based Question

- What personal experiences have shaped your view of the natural environment in the Isle of Man?

2. Quick Headline Questions (Yes or No)

1. Are you interested in environmental issues in the Isle of Man?
2. Would you be happy for the Isle of Man to be one hundred percent reliant on fossil fuels for its electricity generation?
3. Do you support the Isle of Man's legally binding net zero target of 2050?
4. Should the Island increase or reduce the amount of land and sea managed for nature?

3. Core Strategy Questions

A. Space for Nature

Background: Only 20% of the Island's land and 11% of our territorial waters are managed primarily for nature, and many species and habitats remain in decline.

Question: How would you create more space for nature in the Isle of Man's territorial land and waters?

B. Nature Based Solutions

Background: Nature based Solutions can reduce flood risk, capture carbon, improve water quality and support people's physical and mental wellbeing.

Question: How would you support the development and mainstreaming of Nature based Solutions across the Island?

C. People and Nature

Background: Most residents spend less time in nature than previous generations, which affects wellbeing and can reduce support for environmental action.

Question: How would you strengthen the relationship between people in the Isle of Man and the natural world?

D. Agriculture and Land Use

Background: Farming covers around 70 percent of the Island's land area.

Question: How would you support farmers to deliver food production alongside stronger nature and climate outcomes?

E. Planning and Development

Background: The planning system significantly affects habitats, land use and community wellbeing.

Question: How should the planning system balance development needs with the protection and restoration of nature?

F. Funding for Nature

Background: Nature recovery needs long term, stable funding.

Question: How would you ensure sustainable funding for nature conservation and environmental enhancement over the next five years?

G. Legislation and Governance

Background: Some environmental legislation is outdated, including the 1990 Wildlife Act.

Question: Are there any environmental laws, policies or governance structures you believe should be improved or updated?

4. Future Looking Question

- If elected, what is the single most important environmental action you would aim to progress during your first year as an MHK?