

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Malvern Group

Thursday April 19th 2018

Caroline Corsie: Farming and Nature

The State of Nature Report of 2016 showed that much of Britain's wildlife is in serious decline. The problem over the last 50 years has been a combination of intensive agriculture, climate change, damaging developments and pollution by chemicals and plastic. Caroline Corsie, who is the Senior Land Advisor for Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, gave a comprehensive and detailed account of how successive governments have supported unsustainable practices over the years, through the system of subsidies. There is now an opportunity to replace the Common Agricultural Policy with a system that is fair to farmers and also supports positive environmental outcomes for the whole of society. Instead of paying farmers to produce cheap food, we should be rewarding them for benefits like clean water, healthy soils, and a wildlife-rich countryside.

In an unprecedented move, the Government is asking the public what they think about the future of the national farming policy. The consultations are open until Tuesday May 8th. Information is on the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust website under the title #ActSwiftly. All supporters of wildlife should ask the government to prioritise the needs of future generations and our natural world.

The next meeting of the Malvern Group is on Thursday May 3rd at 7.30 pm in the Lyttelton Rooms, Church Street, Malvern. Paul Hobson will talk about the Wildlife of British Woodlands.

Alison Uren