Address

Date

Dear X,

I am writing to inform you about the publication of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s State of Yorkshire’s Nature report on the 5th of June, offering the first-ever look at how our whole county’s wildlife is faring.

Working with partners, the Yorkshire Naturalist’s Union, Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire, the British Trust for Ornithology, and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, the State of Yorkshire’s Nature report establishes a baseline and provides crucial guidance on what action is now needed to create healthier, resilient and more abundant landscapes.

In the last 200 years nearly 2,000 species may have disappeared from Yorkshire, and a further 3,000 are at risk of extinction. Our beloved swifts have declined in Yorkshire by 50% in the last 30 years, and the range of our water voles has declined by 41% and red squirrels by 69% in the last 50 years. Less than 20% of our rivers are in good condition – places that are meant to be havens for people and wildlife to enjoy.

However, the report also sets out how important Yorkshire is for our wildlife. Our county is a stronghold nationally for some of the UK’s rarest and threatened creatures and plants, including wild orchids, curlew and barn owls. We are home to nationally rare habitats, from our amazing chalk cliffs and reefs at Flamborough Head to the limestone pavements of the Dales, the internationally important Humber estuary and our wild wetlands.

We have an opportunity to make Yorkshire a national leader in showcasing how nature can recover at scale. Our county is home to two-thirds of the UK’s species, something for us to be proud of and a unique opportunity to create a biodiversity boom on a scale never seen before.

**[Include your experience here]**

The State of Yorkshire’s Nature report contains information on what steps are needed to conserve and bring back Yorkshire’s wildlife, from which habitats can be restored for the maximum positive impact on our wildlife to how we can balance growing urbanisation and the need for farming and food with a wilder and healthier Yorkshire.

I am asking you to commit to protecting Yorkshire’s wildlife and habitats, and to use this report to map a future for Yorkshire’s wildlife in policies and decision making. Nature matters, and you must back its recovery with strong policies including bringing back Yorkshire’s lost wildlife, tackling river and costal pollution, providing more funding for nature-friendly farming, enabling healthy communities and tackling the climate emergency. This is an opportunity to use data never seen before to make a real difference for our wildlife – for us, and for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

**Your Name Here**