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**Anger in UK over wildlife pictures on banknotes – 19th March 2026**

## **Level 0**

People in the UK are angry about their banknotes. The Bank of England will replace famous historical figures with wildlife. More than 26,000 people voted. Nature was the most popular theme. An expert on sustainability said: "This is a powerful reminder of how deeply people feel connected to...British wildlife."

Pictures of wildlife are more secure and make banknotes more difficult to fake. However, politicians are unhappy about the change. One politician called it "silly". She said removing historical figures was "erasing our history". Another leader said: "I can't think of a worse time to do this with a war...in Europe."

## **Level 1**

People in the UK are angry that banknote pictures will change. The Bank of England is replacing historical figures like WWII leader Sir Winston Churchill with wildlife. More than 26,000 people took part in a vote. Nature was the most popular theme. An expert on sustainability said: "This is a powerful reminder of how deeply people feel connected to...British wildlife....It's a beautiful opportunity to put biodiversity in our hands."

The Bank said images of wildlife were more secure and would make banknotes more difficult to fake. However, politicians are unhappy about removing historical figures. The Conservative Party called it "silly". It said: "Removing Churchill from banknotes is erasing our history." Another leader said: "I can't think of a worse time to do this with a war...in Europe." Churchill's granddaughter had no problem with an animal replacing her grandfather.

## **Level 2**

People in the UK are angry that pictures on banknotes will change. The Bank of England is replacing famous historical figures with wildlife. A democratic process saw 26,000 people have a public discussion and vote. Nature was their most popular theme. This means national heroes like WWII leader Sir Winston Churchill will be replaced by animals and birds. An expert on sustainability said: "This is a powerful reminder of how deeply people feel connected to and value British wildlife." She added: "It's a beautiful opportunity to put biodiversity in our hands."

The Bank explained that images of wildlife would make banknotes more difficult to fake. It said nature was great for the security of banknotes. However, many politicians are unhappy about removing the historical figures. The Conservative Party said: "Removing Churchill from banknotes is erasing our history. Changing the pictures...is a silly thing to do." The Liberal Democrat Party leader said: "I can't think of a worse time to do this with a war...in Europe." However, Churchill's granddaughter had no problem with an animal replacing her grandfather.

## **Level 3**

Some people in the UK are angry that pictures on British banknotes will change. Their anger has been caused by the Bank of England replacing famous historical figures with wildlife. The process to make this change was democratic. More than 26,000 people voted after a public discussion. The theme of nature was the most popular choice. This means national heroes like WWII leader Sir Winston Churchill, writer Jane Austen, and artist JMW Turner will be replaced by animals and birds. Sustainability expert Ali Fisher said: "This is a powerful reminder of how deeply people feel connected to and value British wildlife." She added: "It's a beautiful opportunity to put biodiversity in all our hands."

The Bank explained that images of wildlife would make faking banknotes more difficult. It said nature was a great choice when looking at the security of banknotes. Despite this, many leading politicians are very unhappy about removing the historical figures. The head of the Conservative Party said: "Removing Churchill from banknotes is erasing our history. Changing the pictures to put wild animals on them is a silly thing to do. I absolutely do not support it." The Liberal Democrat Party leader said: "I can't think of a worse time to do this with a war waging in Europe." However, Churchill's granddaughter had no problem with an animal replacing her grandfather.