

Conservative Targets To Watch For

A Ó C

December 12, 2019

1 Conservative gains in line with polling

These are the seats that Boris Johnson will need to win to get the modest majority promised by the final YouGov poll. If there is difficulty winning these seats, the future Conservative government will be shackled yet again to the ERG and maybe even reliant on the DUP. If all of them are picked up by the Tories, they will safely be in majority territory.

Table 1: Conservative gains in line with YouGov MRP

Constituency	Incumbent	Party	2015	2017	MRP	2019
North Norfolk	Norman Lamb	LD	LD+8.2	LD+6.7	Con+15	
Barrow and Furness	John Woodcock	Lab	Lab+1.8	Lab+0.4	Con+14	
Derby North	Chris Williamson	Lab	Con+0.1	Lab+4.1	Con+13	
Penistone and Stocksbridge	Angela Smith	Lab	Lab+14.3	Lab+2.7	Con+10	
Eastbourne	Stephen Lloyd	LD	Con+1.4	LD+2.8	Con+10	
Dudley North	Ian Austin	Lab	Lab+11.0	Lab+0.1	Con+10	
Ashfield	Gloria De Piero	Lab	Lab+18.6	Lab+0.9	Con+9	
Wakefield	Mary Creagh	Lab	Lab+6.1	Lab+4.7	Con+8	
Peterborough	Fiona Onasanya	Lab	Con+4.1	Lab+1.3	Con+8	
Don Valley	Caroline Flint	Lab	Lab+20.9	Lab+11.2	Con+8	
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Paul Farrelly	Lab	Lab+1.5	Lab+0.1	Con+7	

Continued on next page

Table 1 – continued from previous page

Constituency	Incumbent	Party	2015	2017	MRP	2019
Bury South	Ivan Lewis	Lab	Lab+10.4	Lab+11.7	Con+7	
Bassetlaw	John Mann	Lab	Lab+17.9	Lab+9.3	Con+7	
Darlington	Jenny Chapman	Lab	Lab+7.7	Lab+7.3	Con+6	
Colne Valley	Thelma Walker	Lab	Con+9.5	Lab+1.5	Con+6	
Wolverhampton North East	Emma Reynolds	Lab	Lab+16.2	Lab+12.6	Con+5	
West Bromwich West	Adrian Bailey	Lab	Lab+22.1	Lab+12.4	Con+5	
Stoke-on-Trent North	Ruth Smeeth	Lab	Lab+12.5	Lab+5.6	Con+5	
Rother Valley	Kevin Barron	Lab	Lab+15.5	Lab+7.8	Con+5	
Blackpool South	Gordon Marsden	Lab	Lab+8.0	Lab+7.2	Con+5	
Bishop Auckland	Helen Goodman	Lab	Lab+8.9	Lab+1.2	Con+5	
Scunthorpe	Nic Dakin	Lab	Lab+8.5	Lab+8.5	Con+4	
Keighley	John Grogan	Lab	Con+6.2	Lab+0.5	Con+3	
Ipswich	Sandy Martin	Lab	Con+7.7	Lab+1.6	Con+3	
Crewe and Nantwich	Laura Smith	Lab	Con+7.3	Lab+0.1	Con+3	
Bolsover	Dennis Skinner	Lab	Lab+26.8	Lab+11.4	Con+2	
Wrexham	Ian Lucas	Lab	Lab+5.6	Lab+5.2	Con+1	
Sedgefield	Phil Wilson	Lab	Lab+17.7	Lab+14.6	Con+1	
Lanark and Hamilton East	Angela Crawley	SNP	SNP+18.3	SNP+0.5	Con+1	
Great Grimsby	Melanie Onn	Lab	Lab+13.5	Lab+7.2	Con+1	
Dagenham and Rainham	Jon Cruddas	Lab	Lab+11.6	Lab+10.1	Con+1	

2 An indubitable victory for Johnson

Tories winning these seats would be evidence that late tightening in polls was an error. Labour were not gaining after all and the decision to call an election while up by 12% has been vindicated. Comfortable Tory majority in this case and Johnson bolstered against the ‘gloomsters’ etc.

Table 2: Conservative targets for a +3% over-performance vs. polls

Constituency	Incumbent	Party	2015	2017	MRP	2019
Delyn	David Hanson	Lab	Lab+7.8	Lab+10.8	Tossup	
East Devon	Hugo Swire	Con	Con+22.4	Con+13.3	Tossup	
Ochil and South Perthshire	Luke Graham	Con	SNP+17.6	Con+6.2	Tossup	
Bradford South	Judith Cummins	Lab	Lab+17.2	Lab+16.3	Lab+1	
East Renfrewshire	Paul Masterton	Con	SNP+6.6	Con+8.8	SNP+1	
Gedling	Vernon Coaker	Lab	Lab+6.2	Lab+9.1	Lab+1	
Gordon	Colin Clark	Con	SNP+14.9	Con+4.9	SNP+1	
Lincoln	Karen Lee	Lab	Con+3.1	Lab+3.2	Lab+1	
Warrington South	Faisal Rashid	Lab	Con+4.6	Lab+4.1	Lab+1	
Winchester	Steve Brine	Con	Con+30.6	Con+17.5	LD+1	
Bury North	James Frith	Lab	Con+0.8	Lab+9.1	Lab+2	
Clwyd South	Susan Elan Jones	Lab	Lab+6.9	Lab+11.6	Lab+2	
Dewsbury	Paula Sherriff	Lab	Lab+2.7	Lab+5.9	Lab+2	
Hyndburn	Graham Jones	Lab	Lab+10.3	Lab+12.9	Lab+2	
Kensington	Emma Dent Coad	Lab	Con+21.1	Lab+0.1	Lab+2	
Workington	Sue Hayman	Lab	Lab+12.2	Lab+9.4	Lab+2	
Worsley and Eccles South	Barbara Keeley	Lab	Lab+14.1	Lab+18.4	Lab+2	
Stoke-on-Trent Central	Gareth Snell	Lab	Lab+16.7	Lab+11.8	Lab+2	
Angus	Kirstene Hair	Con	SNP+25.2	Con+6.6	SNP+3	
Central Ayrshire	Philippa Whitford	SNP	SNP+26.8	SNP+2.8	SNP+3	

Continued on next page

Table 2 – continued from previous page

Constituency	Incumbent	Party	2015	2017	MRP	2019
Perth and North Perthshire	Pete Wishart	SNP	SNP+17.8	SNP+0.0	SNP+3	
Putney	Justine Greening	Con	Con+23.8	Con+3.3	Lab+3	
Birmingham Northfield	Richard Burden	Lab	Lab+5.9	Lab+10.5	Lab+3	

3 Johnson beats even his best polls

Winning and/or holding these seats would be a sign that the Conservatives are on track to beat the final polls by 5%. In any other era, this kind of over-performance would be chalked up to shy Tories and would be the difference between a Labour government and a Tory government (cf. 2015). Today however with Tories already leading substantially in the polls, such a victory would be an enormous rebuke of the Labour Party and would seem to raise existential questions about the future of the opposition in Britain. The ‘Red Wall’ would almost certainly be a condemned structure after this whacking.

Table 3: Conservative targets for a +5% over-performance vs. polls

Constituency	Incumbent	Party	2015	2017	MRP	2019
Alyn and Deeside	Mark Tami	Lab	Lab+8.1	Lab+11.7	Lab+4	
Bridgend	Madeleine Moon	Lab	Lab+4.9	Lab+10.9	Lab+4	
Chipping Barnet	Theresa Villiers	Con	Con+14.4	Con+0.6	Lab+4	
Coventry North West	Geoffrey Robinson	Lab	Lab+10.0	Lab+17.2	Lab+4	
Leigh	Joanne Platt	Lab	Lab+31.2	Lab+20.4	Lab+4	
South Cambridgeshire	Heidi Allen	Con	Con+33.5	Con+24.6	LD+4	
Stroud	David Drew	Lab	Con+8.0	Lab+1.1	Lab+4	
Warwick and Leamington	Matt Western	Lab	Con+13.1	Lab+2.2	Lab+4	
West Bromwich East	Tom Watson	Lab	Lab+25.3	Lab+19.7	Lab+4	
Argyll and Bute	Brendan O’Hara	SNP	SNP+16.3	SNP+2.8	SNP+5	
Batley and Spen	Tracy Brabin	Lab	Lab+12.0	Lab+16.7	Lab+5	
Newport West	Paul Flynn	Lab	Lab+8.7	Lab+13.0	Lab+5	
North West Durham	Laura Pidcock	Lab	Lab+23.5	Lab+18.4	Lab+5	
Redcar	Anna Turley	Lab	Lab+25.4	Lab+22.3	Lab+5	
Weaver Vale	Mike Amesbury	Lab	Con+1.7	Lab+7.8	Lab+5	

4 Boris Johnson changes British politics ... for the worse?

If these seats are won by the Tories, we're looking at an 8% overperformance on polling and a landslide for the Conservative party. This won't just be a firm rejection of the alternative offered by Jeremy Corbyn and a full-throated endorsement of Boris Johnson's deal. This scale of victory would elevate Boris Johnson's campaign and fact-light, slogan-heavy style of doing politics as a mould for future leaders on both sides of future British politics.

Table 4: Conservative targets for a +8% over-performance vs. polls

Constituency	Incumbent	Party	2015	2017	MRP	2019
Blyth Valley	Ronnie Campbell	Lab	Lab+24.0	Lab+18.6	Lab+8	
Burnley	Julie Cooper	Lab	Lab+8.2	Lab+15.8	Lab+7	
Chesterfield	Toby Perkins	Lab	Lab+29.8	Lab+20.0	Lab+8	
Coventry South	Jim Cunningham	Lab	Lab+7.3	Lab+16.9	Lab+6	
Eltham	Clive Efford	Lab	Lab+6.2	Lab+13.6	Lab+8	
Gower	Tonia Antoniazzi	Lab	Con+0.1	Lab+7.2	Lab+7	
Halifax	Holly Lynch	Lab	Lab+1.0	Lab+11.1	Lab+6	
Hartlepool	Mike Hill	Lab	Lab+7.7	Lab+18.3	Lab+8	
High Peak	Ruth George	Lab	Con+9.6	Lab+4.3	Lab+6	
Lancaster and Fleetwood	Cat Smith	Lab	Lab+3.0	Lab+14.5	Lab+7	
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Debbie Abrahams	Lab	Lab+13.5	Lab+17.4	Lab+8	
Salford and Hyde	Jonathan Reynolds	Lab	Lab+16.3	Lab+19.0	Lab+6	
Stirling	Stephen Kerr	Con	SNP+20.1	Con+0.3	SNP+8	
Stockton North	Alex Cunningham	Lab	Lab+21.1	Lab+20.4	Lab+8	
Walsall South	Valerie Vaz	Lab	Lab+14.4	Lab+20.2	Lab+6	