



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust**

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Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government
The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

17 February 2025

CC: Secretary of State for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs, Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
CC: Minister of State, Matthew Pennycook MP

Re: Local councillors calling for chalk stream protections

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as elected, local representatives from all political parties, to share our – and our communities’ - deep concerns regarding the future of one of Britain’s most irreplaceable natural treasures: our chalk streams. The current reforms to planning in England offer a crucial opportunity for the Government to protect and enhance these precious streams for future generations and protect the rare biodiversity which depends on them.

Across our country, we are lucky to enjoy the characteristically clear and sparkling waters of our globally rare chalk streams. These precious habitats are a quintessential part of our natural environment and national heritage. Indeed, 85% of the world’s chalk streams are found in England alone, and they truly are some of the most biodiverse and ecologically significant freshwater ecosystems in the world.

As local representatives, we share the concerns raised to us by our residents about the ongoing degradation of our precious chalk streams. Despite their ecological value, they are exceptionally vulnerable to pollution, over-abstraction, and habitat degradation. Water quality in chalk streams across the UK continues to worsen, with unabated pollution from our highways significantly disrupting the unique and fragile ecology of these rivers, with detrimental impacts for wildlife. Salmon, genetically distinct to southern chalk streams, are at a tipping point of extirpation, compounded by deteriorating water quality.

While we welcome the Government’s launch of an Independent Commission into the water sector, we recognise that more urgent action must be taken to protect our chalk streams. Last year, polluting effluent flowed for a total of 10,901 hours into Hampshire’s Test and Itchen, 32,577 hours into Wiltshire’s Avon and 3,591 hours into Berkshire’s Kennet. In Norfolk, flood prevention efforts, including dredging and vegetation clearance, disrupt the sensitive ecology of the River Gaywood – placing protected species such as water voles at risk.

Local efforts alone are not enough. We need decisive national Government action in planning to ensure that these unique waterways are preserved for future generations. We urge you to utilise the opportunity of planning reforms to designate chalk streams and their catchments with a bespoke protection. We ask you to work with us and help support us in our efforts to protect our chalk streams so that we can deliver more homes across the country, without sacrificing the health of our waterways.

We are disappointed to hear recent reports that the Chalk Stream Recovery Pack has been abandoned.

To provide the continuity and certainty needed to underpin local action, we need the Government to urgently clarify its plan for chalk streams by releasing an improved version of the previously promised 'Chalk Stream Recovery Pack'. This action plan must be decisive and ambitious, outlining a specific designated protection for chalk streams, offering enhanced legal protections, strengthened enforcement mechanisms and immediate investment in restoration and conservation.

We stand ready to support the implementation of these measures and to work collaboratively to support the recovery of our chalk streams. Thank you for considering this urgent issue and we look forward to hearing from you.

To discuss the concerns raised in more detail, please email lorna.selby@hiwwt.org.uk to arrange a meeting with a delegation of the signatories.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr	David	Adams	Isle of Wight Council	Nettlestone and Seaview
Cllr	Tim	Adams	North Norfolk District Council	Cromer
Cllr	Stacie	Allensby	Warminster town council	West Ward
Cllr	Liz	Alstrom	Wiltshire Council	Chippenham Hardens and Central
Cllr Dr.	Rachel	Aron	Winchester City Council	St Michael
Cllr	Chloe	Ashfield	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Whitchurch, Overton and Laverstoke
Cllr	Karl	Attrill	Eastleigh Borough Council	Hiltingbury East
Cllr	Chrissie	Bainbridge	Fareham Borough Council	Portchester Castle
Cllr	Lesley	Bambridge	Norfolk County Council	King's Lynn North and Central Division
Cllr	Katherine	Barbour MBE	Southampton City Council	Portswood
Cllr	Kimberly	Barrett	Portsmouth City Council	Milton
Cllr	Paul	Basham	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Norden
Cllr	Al	Bayliss	Salisbury City Council	Salisbury Milford
Cllr	Alistair	Beales	Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Massingham with Castle Acre
Cllr	Peter	Berry	Broadland District Council	Thorpe St Andrew North West
Cllr	Louise	Bevan MSc	East Hampshire District Council	Petersfield Heath
Cllr	Paul	Bicknell	Eastleigh Borough Council	Eastleigh South
Cllr	Richard	Blackman	Southampton City Council	Bassett
Cllr	Ed	Blake	Isle of Wight Council	Ventnor and St Lawrence
Cllr	Harry	Blathwayt	North Norfolk District Council	Hickling
Cllr	Gary	Blundell	South Norfolk District Council	New Costessey
Cllr	Toby	Bolton	Norwich City Council	Wensum
Cllr	Jenny	Bolwell	Salisbury City Council	Fisherton and Bemerton Village
Cllr	Andrea	Bowes	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Brighton Hill
Cllr	Claire	Bowes	Norfolk County Council	Watton Ward & Watton Division
Cllr	Ginny	Boxall	East Hampshire District Council	Alton Whitedown
Cllr	Ann	Briggs	Hampshire County Council	Waterlooville and North Stakes
Cllr	Alan	Broadhurst	Eastleigh Borough Council	Chandler's Ford
Cllr	Andrew H	Brown	North Norfolk District Council	Stody Ward
Cllr	Richard	Brown	Havant District Council	North East
Cllr	Jan	Budzynski	Test Valley Borough Council	Andover St Mary's
Cllr	Sarah	Butikofer	North Norfolk District Council	Priory
Cllr	Peter	Candlish	Portsmouth City Council	Eastney & Craneswater
Cllr	Craig	Card	Rushmoor Borough Council	St Marks
Cllr	Jess	Carrington	Norwich City Council	Catton Grove

Cllr	Karen	Caws	Eastleigh Borough Council	Bishopstoke
Cllr	Gary	Champion	Norwich City Council	Sewell
Cllr	Samuel	Charleston	Wiltshire Council	Salisbury St Paul's
Cllr	Kevin	Chatburn CEng	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Tadley and Pamber
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Cllr	Tony	Clarke	Hart District Council	Crookham West & Ewshot
Cllr	Paul	Claussen	Breckland District Council	Mattishall
Cllr	Mark	Coates	Havant Borough Council	Hayling East
Cllr	Selena	Coburn	Hart District Council	Hook
Cllr	Adrian	Collett AIGD	Hampshire County Council	Yateley East and Blackwater Division
Cllr	Rob	Colwell	Norfolk County Council	Gaywood South
Cllr	David	Conquest	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Tadley North, Kingsclere and Baughurst
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Cllr	Malcolm	Cook	South Norfolk District Council	Newton Flotman
Cllr	Geoff	Cooper	Test Valley Borough Council	North Baddesley
Cllr	Nick	Couldrey	Eastleigh Borough Council	Fair Oak and Horton Heath
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Cllr	Steve	Davies	New Forest District Council	Milton
Cllr	Karen	Davis	Norwich City Council	Town Close
Cllr	Jan	Davis	Broadland District Council	Brundall
Cllr	Pallavi	Devulapalli	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	Airfield
Cllr	Sean	Dillow	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Kempshott and Buckskin
Cllr	Chris	Dorn	Hart District Council	Odiham
Cllr	Philip	Dowd	New Forest District Council	Hythe Centre
Cllr	Celia	Dowden	Test Valley Borough Council	Valley Park
Cllr	Rodney	Downer	Isle of Wight Council	Wroxall, Lowtherville and Bonchurch
Cllr	Barry	Du-Crow	Eastleigh Borough Council	West End South
Cllr	Stephen	Dugan	Fareham Borough Council	Hill Head
Cllr	James	Easter	South Norfolk District Council	Burston & Bressingham
Cllr	Andrew	Evans	South Norfolk District Council	Thurlton
Cllr	David	Evans	East Hampshire District Council	Horndean Kings & Blendworth
Deputy Mayor	Munazza	Faiz	Havant Borough council	Leigh Park Central & West Leigh
Lord Mayor	Jason	Fazackarley	Portsmouth City Council	Nelson
Cllr	Lorna	Fielker	Southampton City Council	Swaythling Ward
Cllr	Marie	Finn	Southampton City Council	Portswood
Cllr	Thomas	Finn AATQB	Gosport Borough Council	Brockhurst and Privett
Cllr	Angie	Fitch-Tillett	North Norfolk District Council	Poppyland
Cllr Dr.	Andrew	Fletcher	North Norfolk District Council	Briston
Cllr	Wilf	Forrow	Havant Borough Council	Hayling West
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Cllr	Amanda	Fox	Norwich City Council	Mancroft
Cllr	Wendy	Fredericks	North Norfolk District Council	Mundesley
Cllr	Noel	Galer	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	East Flegg
Cllr	Lucy	Galvin	Norwich City Council	Nelson
Cllr	Keith	Gilbert	Breckland District Council	Watton
Cllr	Alexander	Gillies	Test Valley County Council	Andover Winton
Cllr	Sheena	Grassi	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Basing and Upton Grey
Cllr	Thomas	Gravatt	Southampton City Council	Swaythling
Cllr	Philippa	Gray	Havant Borough	Bedhampton
Cllr	Luigi	Gregori	Test Valley Borough Council	Andover Harroway
Cllr	Andrew	Griffin	Melksham Town Council	Melksham South
Cllr	Julie	Harper MA PGCE	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	South Ham
Cllr	Gillian	Harris MBE	Havant Borough Council	Havant St Faiths
Cllr	Antonia	Harrison	Havant Borough Council	Purbrook
Cllr	David	Harrison	Hampshire County Council	Totton South & Marchwood
Cllr	Stacy	Hart	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Hatch Warren and Beggarwood
Cllr	Chris	Harvey	Breckland District Council	Burrell
Cllr	James	Harvey	Broadland District Council	Plumstead (BDC)
Cllr Dr.	Paul	Harvey	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	Norden
Cllr	Susanne	Hasselmann	Test Valley Borough Council	Anna
Cllr	John	Haywood	New Forest District Council	Ringwood North and Ellingham
Cllr	Stephen	Highley	Hart District Council	Odiham
Cllr	Hannah	Hoechner	Norwich City Council	Nelson Ward
Cllr	Jonathan	Hulls	Havant Borough Council	Hayling West
Cllr	John	Hutchinson CEng	East Hampshire District Council	Petersfield Causeway
Cllr	Andrew	Jamieson	Norfolk County Council	North Coast Division
Cllr	Christopher	Jarman J.P.	Isle of Wight Council	Totland and Colwell
Cllr	Ben	Jones	North West Norfolk Council	North Lynn
Cllr	Julian	Jones	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Oakley and the Candovers
Cllr	Julie	Jones-Evans	Isle of Wight Council	Newport Central
Cllr	Kenneth	Kelly	Broadland and South Norfolk Council	Taverham South
Cllr	Daisy	Khepar	Hart District Council	Fleet East
Cllr	Alice	Kloker	Southampton City Council	Shirley
Cllr	Andy	Konieczko	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	Brighton Hill
Cllr	Eleanor	Laming	Broadland District Council	Brundall
Cllr	Brian	Laming	Winchester City Council	Badger Farm & Olivers Battery
Cllr	Paula	Langford-Smith	Winchester City Council	Denmead
Cllr	Philip	Lashbrook	Test Valley Borough Council	Bellinger
Cllr	Ritchie	Latham	Winchester City Council	Bishop's Waltham
Cllr	Valerie	Laurent	Southampton City Council	Harefield
Cllr	Kelsie	Learney	Winchester City Council	St Barnabas
Cllr	Danny	Lee	Winchester City Council	Central Meon Valley
Cllr	Kate	Leith	North Norfolk District Council	North Walsham East
Cllr	Michael	Lind	Havant Borough Council	Bedhampton Ward
Cllr	Elizabeth	Lloyd	Havant Borough Council	Stakes

Cllr	Judith	Lubbock	Norwich City Council	Eaton
Cllr	Stewart	MacDonald	Test Valley Borough Council	Mid Test
Cllr	Jade	Martin	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Central and Northgate
Cllr	Nadia	Martin	Rushmoor Borough Council	Wellington
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Cllr	David	Millar	New Forest District Council	Fordingbridge, Godshill & Hyde
Cllr	Steve	Miller	Winchester City Council	Bishops Waltham and Durley
Cllr	Paul	Miller	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Chineham
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Cllr	Roger	Mullenger	East Hampshire District Council	Liss
Cllr	Phil	Munday	Havant Borough Council	Havant St Faiths
Cllr	Jim	Neal J.P.	Test Valley Borough Council	Millway
Cllr	Paul	Neale	Norfolk County Council	Nelson
Cllr	Peter	Neatherway	North Norfolk District Council	Trunch
Cllr	David	Neighbour	Hart District Council	Yateley East
Cllr	Phil	North	Test Valley Borough Council	Bourne Valley
Cllr	Paul	Nother	Fareham Borough Council	Portchester Wicor
Cllr	Keith	Oborn	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Bramley
Cllr	Cate	Oliver	Norwich City Council	Town Close
Cllr	Adam	Parker	New Forest District Council	Brockenhurst and Denny Lodge
Cllr	John	Parker	Test Valley Borough Council	Romsey Tadburn
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Cllr	Clare	Pinniger	Winchester City Council	Alresford & Itchen Valley
Cllr	Steve	Pitt	Portsmouth City Council	Milton
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Cllr	Jackie	Porter	Hampshire County Council	The Worthys, Itchen Valley Division
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Cllr	Grainne	Rason	Havant Borough Council	Emsworth
Cllr	Joe	Reilly	New Forest District Council	Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh
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Cllr	Janet	Richards	New Forest District Council	Downlands & Forest North
Cllr	Sharon	Rideout	Salisbury City Council	St. Francis and Stratford
Cllr	Callum	Ringer	North Norfolk District Council	Gresham Ward

Cllr	Charles	Robert	Havant Borough Council	Emsworth
Cllr	Colin	Rose	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Upwell and Delph
Cllr Dr.	Catherine	Rowett	Norfolk County Council	West Depwade
Cllr	Jo	Rust	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	Springwood
Cllr	Dhan	Sarki	Rushmoor Borough Council	Wellington
Cllr	John	Savage	Southampton City Council	Portswood Ward
Cllr	David	Sayers	Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Gaywood North Bank
Cllr	Martin	Schmierer	Norwich City Council	Mancroft
Cllr	Nick	Sear	East Hants District Council	Bramshott and Liphook
Lord Mayor	Dave	Shields	Southampton City Council	Freemantle
Cllr	John	Smart FRPharmS	East Hampshire District Council	Clanfield
Cllr	Chris	Smith	Norwich City Council	Town close
Cllr	Peter	Spink	Isle of Wight Council	Freshwater North and Yarmouth
Cllr	Katy	Stenhouse	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Bradwell South and Hopton
Cllr	Benedict	Swann	Portsmouth City Council	Copnor & Anchorage Park
Cllr	Barbara	Tansey	East Hampshire District Council	Eastbrooke
Cllr	Martin	Tod	Winchester City Council	St Paul
Cllr	Chris	Tomblin CEng	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Bramley
Cllr	John	Toye	North Norfolk District Council	Erpingham
Cllr	Kate	Tuck	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	Basing & Upton Grey
Cllr	Jacky	Tustain	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Popley
Cllr	Adam	Varley	North Norfolk District Council	St. Benet
Cllr	Rhydian	Vaughan MBE	Hampshire County Council	Calleva
Cllr	Malcolm	Wallace PhD	Hampshire County Council	Meon Valley
Cllr	Alan	Warnes	Test Valley Borough Council	North Baddesley
Cllr	Suzanne	Wateridge	South Norfolk District Council	Bunwell
Cllr	Myla	Watts	Chippenham Town Council	Cepen Park and Hunters Moon
Cllr	Gary	Watts	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	South Ham
Cllr	Maxine	Webb	Norfolk County Council	Wensum
Cllr	Jim	Webber	South Norfolk Council	Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross
Cllr	Suzanne	White	Winchester City Council	Central Meon Valley
Cllr	Peter	Wildsmith	Hart District Council	Fleet East
Cllr	Margaret	Wilkinson J.P. (Rtd)	King's Lynn West Norfolk Borough Council	Fairstead
Cllr	Anthony	Williams	East Hampshire District Council	Headley
Cllr	Kirsten	Wiltshire	Fareham Borough Council	Fareham Town
Cllr	William	Withers Lt Col (Retd)	Hampshire County Council	Aldershot South Division
Cllr	Phil	Woods	New Forest District Council	Fordingbridge, Godshill and Hyde Ward
Cllr	Joshua	Worley ACIM	Norwich City Council	Thorpe Hamlet
Cllr Dr.	Jane	Worlock	Hart District Council	Hook
Cllr	Sally	Yalden	Test Valley Borough Council	Ampfield & Braishfield
Cllr	Julie	Young	Norwich City Council	Nelson

Cllr	Emily	Young	East Hampshire District Council	Alton Westbrooke
Cllr	Tony	Yousefian	Broadland District Council	Taverham North