



Canterbury Local Plan Consultation - Chartham

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I am writing to you re the above to emphasise some vital issues and opportunities that have arisen from the possible development of the Chartham Mill site (165 houses) contained in your local plan consultation.

You will be aware that England has over 80% of the world's chalkstreams and we are lucky enough to have one of them on our county, the Kentish Stour. The Stour has been under increasing environmental pressure due to a number of factors, not least water abstraction from its aquifers, inadequate sewage treatment, channel straightening and man made obstructions such as weirs.

The river and its floodplain corridor can, if allowed, provide natural protection from flooding, but its capacity to do so has been greatly diminished over the years by human actions in various forms. You now have an enormous opportunity to restore a great deal of this capacity, allow the river's flora and fauna to recover, and, vitally, restore the ability for Salmon, Sea Trout and Brown Trout to migrate freely and breed along a large stretch of this internationally important natural asset.

This is the opportunity to remove all the manmade structures, naturalise the banks and river environment, and re-store flow to the river and environmentally important feeder streams such as the Horton Brook.

What an opportunity, to provide much needed housing **and** re-store nature to such an environmental asset.

Please do your duty and ensure these vital habitat improvements are included and enforced in your subsequent plans.

Yours sincerely
Simon Langworthy



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