
Canterbury Local Plan Consultation – Chartham

From Adrian Morris [REDACTED]
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To Whom it may concern,

I have a particular interest in the environmental health of the Kentish Stour which runs through Chartham. I am a fisherman and conservationist and am passionate about the quality of the rare chalk stream habitat of the Kentish Stour, which supports wild brown trout, and migratory sea trout and occasional salmon, as well as a unique and diverse fauna and flora . Over the past two hundred years or so, the numbers of these fish have declined drastically, principally due to changes in water quality and volume, and to changes in the flow, due to obstructions such as weirs and culverts which block migration of fish and eels. All these effects are the result of population growth in the region and interference with the structure of the river and water quality.

As you know, further development within the Kentish Stour catchment is restrained by the Water Framework Directive that must ensure that no further deterioration to the river can be caused by work done. So the plans for 165 new houses at the Chartham Mill site are very likely to further degrade this precious habitat, and should preferably be significantly restricted, and if approved, must comply with this. At the the very least, any development should include the removal of barriers at the old paper mill, and the restoration of the banks with wetland for flood mitigation, and enhancement of habitat biodiversity.

I am aware of the urgent need to build new housing, but please consider seriously the absolute need to preserve the river, and use this opportunity to reverse some of its man-made structural problems and enhance its environmental health.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Adrian Morris

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