

Canterbury Local Plan Consultation - Chartham

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We all know that our rivers are precious and under threat, but less well-known is that the Kentish Stour is an aquifer-feed chalk stream, which is one of the rarest types of river habitat in the whole world. The river supports wild brown trout and sea trout (which are often seen leaping clear of the water in August) and even a few salmon.

The thing that I want to flag is that the new environment act asserts that there should be opportunities via planning process to ensure that the developer makes a significant contribution to river development.

Hence the proposed development at Chartham mill represents a rare opportunity to remove the weirs and culverts that currently obstruct fish movement at this location.

Wouldn't it be fantastic if the obstructions at Chartham mill were removed to encourage salmon to reach their spawning grounds upstream? This would be an inspiring conservation story for our city. In times of sad stories on degrading river quality, it would be a bit of good news that would serve as excellent publicity for our council and our city.

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