

Tom Hawkes

From: Angus Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2025 10:54
To: Consultations
Subject: Canterbury Local Plan Consultation – Chartham

[REDACTED]
--Email From External Account--

Dear Sirs,

I am a member Stour Fishing Association and so can declare an interest in the above development and the potential adverse effect on the River Stour.

As a chalk stream, the River Stour is rare and a critical component of the wider river systems in, particularly southern England,

The Stour's ability to sustain a large variety of wildlife and protection from flooding is already compromised by abstraction for water supply and from development including obstructions, water abstraction, pollution – particularly by sewage effluent – and channel straightening.

The Water Framework Directive contains legislation to ensure that no further deterioration to the river can be caused by works and in tandem with the Environment act, any opportunity for developers to protect and improve the environment should be grasped

The impact of weirs, culverts and other barriers is to obstruct fish movement and reduce the quality of habitat. Obstructions in the Stour mean that fish passage can only be achieved at certain locations in high water conditions. Chartham Mill is one of those locations.

The effect of impoundment upstream of Chartham Mill is very evident with habitat effectively "drowned" with deeper, slower water and a silty bed. Such habitat is poor for the flora and fauna which should naturally occupy the river and the surrounding habitat.

Migratory fish, whose presence can indicate river health, have been under pressure and reducing in the Kentish Stour for many years, being deprived of free passage upstream to spawn as man-made obstructions (eg Chartham Mill) limit their movement.

Barriers degrade habitats and can lead to devastating effects on the health of fish populations and the river itself.

Well publicised pressures from climate change are only exacerbated.

Where practical, removal of manmade barriers to create a naturally connected river habitat is preferable to installing engineered fish passes which are expensive and require long-term maintenance.

I would respectfully ask that the health of the River Stour is given due consideration when assessing this latest development.

Yours faithfully,

Angus Roberts

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
