
(Regulation 19 draft local plan consultation) In regards to the Chartham paper mill site.

From Xeno Morph [REDACTED]
Date Wed 5/13/2026 12:39 PM
To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

--Email From External Account--

To Whom it may concern, we hope this email finds you well.

We are both very concerned about the potential of harming the Great Stour chalk stream due to the amount of pollution that would be created during deconstruction and during construction at this site.

The amount of dust created in the air will be very significant throughout. There will be a lot of dust and debris that could get washed or blown into the stream, especially if there is wind or rain.

There is a lot of asbestos at the site as well, and due to such close proximity to many parts of a very important and very rare chalk stream it is causing many a sleepless night.

The nature in this unique stream has taken a battering in recent years, such as the outbreak of bird flu which has decimated the swan population, children with catapults killing the wildlife and of course the oil spill from the site itself which again killed many animals. The fact it was so easy for the oil to get into the stream, vandals or not does not make us feel confident it will not happen again due to the pollution that would be created on such a large scale, from large debris down to particulate matter.

The drains themselves all around the site empty straight into the stream, so there are many points of entry the pollution could get into the stream by land and air.

We have had many animals, some of which are rare, including nesting pairs, over recent years such as beavers, kingfishers, swans, water voles, ducks, cranes and fish which would be absolutely terrified by the amount of noise and vibrations which would seriously disrupt their natural instincts. Much of the aquatic vegetation of which chalk streams are plentiful of could become inaccessible to them. There is a reason these majestic creatures have made this stream their home and they will have no way of getting safely past, as what living creature would go towards the cacophony of noise, vibrations and pollution that would certainly ensue.

Little more than 200 chalk streams exist globally and of which 85% are in southern and eastern England which goes to show how truly rare they are. None of the chalk streams in England are considered to be in good overall health so have become even more fragile. We are truly terrified of another potential environmental disaster from which it may not recover from. Even with the best of intentions the risks are extremely high.

Biodiversity, water and flood risk all scored significantly negative effects in the site appraisal, written in the Canterbury district local plan.

As there is an effluent plant on the site there is also a real possibility of accidental damage to the piping of the site which would release untreated sewage and would drain directly into the stream.

Southern Water said themselves in their drainage and wastewater management plan that pollution risk, sewer collapse risk and flooding due to hydraulic overload are very significant risks and are their main concerns.

A quote from their plan "we consider that the current performance of the drainage and wastewater system needs to be improved to reduce the impacts on our customers and/or the environment. We will plan investment to reduce the current risks by actively looking to invest capital funding in the short term to address current performance issues (and consider future risks when implementing improvements)".

The amount of new construction suggested and the significant amount of new waste water that would be created because of it would surely overburden a system that is nearing breaking point.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely, concerned residents of Chartham Lisa and Alex Deacon