

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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CC: Darren Jones MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Emma Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Mary Creagh CBE MP, Minister for Nature

7th October 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

Do not weaken the laws protecting National Parks and National Landscapes

The British public loves our National Parks and National Landscapes. Like you, millions have beloved memories of family holidays and days out enjoying their natural beauty and wildlife. Alongside the NHS, National Parks and National Landscapes are among the most successful and popular British institutions. They were established after the Second World War as part of national renewal, driven by a Labour Government who understood the value of such places for the nation and that the simple joy of beautiful landscapes was part of what makes a good life which should be the right of every citizen, whether they live in a town, city or the countryside.

Now, we understand some in your government intend to significantly weaken protections by amending or removing the protected landscapes duty (s.245 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023) a move at odds with this proud history and values. Considering such a significant change to the law at the very end of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill process, without any consultation, would undermine parliamentary conventions and public trust, creating serious uncertainty for businesses and public authorities.

Such a change would betray those values and constitute a serious backward step environmentally, socially and economically. National Parks and National Landscapes are enjoyed by 245 million visitors per year, generating at least £36bn in visitor spend. Time spent in these landscapes is scientifically proven to boost physical and mental health (annual savings to the NHS from outdoor exercise is an estimated £8bn). Their natural beauty supports thriving businesses, from local food producers to outdoor recreation, tourism, and green finance.

National Parks and National Landscapes are essential to delivering the UK's international commitment to protect and manage 30% of land for nature by 2030 and England's legally binding biodiversity targets. Removing or weakening the legal duty on public bodies to help

make these landscapes deliver more for people and for nature will erode what makes them special and undermine their economic and environmental potential.

The health of our environment underpins the health of our economy. Clement Attlee's post-war Government understood this: it is why they created National Parks and National Landscapes as part of post-war economic renewal, protecting landscapes alongside rapid housebuilding. They understood that people need places to live, and we also need places to thrive, to enjoy, to immerse ourselves in the wonders of nature.

Just ten months ago, your government celebrated 75 years of National Parks and National Landscapes, championing the protected landscapes duty. Reversing course now would set back nature recovery, economic growth, and your government's historic relationship with these special areas.

We urge you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely

Rose O'Neill, Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks
Hilary McGrady, Director General, National Trust
Beccy Speight, Chief Executive, RSPB
Richard Benwell, Chief Executive, Wildlife and Countryside Link
Craig Bennett, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts
Roger Mortlock, Chief Executive, CPRE, the Countryside Charity
Vanessa Rowlands, Chair, National Parks England
John Watkins, Chief Executive, National Landscapes Association
Paul Ratcliffe, Chief Executive, British Mountaineering Council
Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society
Ross Maloney, Chief Executive, Ramblers
James Blake, Chief Executive, Youth Hostel Association
Julia Aglionby, Executive Director, Foundation for Common Land
Judy Ling Wong CBE, Honorary President, Black Environment Network
Rebecca Wrigley, Chief Executive, Rewilding Britain
Tom Usher, Chief Executive, Dartmoor Preservation Association
Jonathan Riley, Chair, Friends of the Dales
Kate O'Sullivan, Chair, Exmoor Society
Michael Hill, Chief Executive, Friends of the Lake District
Sarah Nield, Chair, New Forest Association
George Winn-Darley, Chair, North Yorkshire Moors Association
Dr Mark Collins, Chair, The Broads Society
David Green, Chair, Friends of the South Downs
Julian Glover OBE, Chair of the Independent Review of Protected Landscapes
Professor Sir John Lawton, Chair of Making Space For Nature.
Chris Smith, Lord Smith of Finsbury, Former Labour Secretary of State
Chris Mullin, Former Labour Secretary of State
Guy Shrubsole, campaigner, author of The Lie of the Land and The Lost Rainforests of Britain
Mike Bevens, Managing Director, Sawday's Canopy & Stars

Alex Beasley, Regional Manager – Northern Europe, Patagonia
 Richard Leedham, Chief Executive Officer, Rab
 Daniel Szor, Founder, Cotswold Distillery
 Dan Yates, Executive Director, European Outdoor Conservation Association
 Clare Brook, Chief Executive, Blue Marine Foundation
 Peter Brooke, Chief Executive, British Orienteering
 Kit Stoner, Chief Executive, Bat Conservation Trust
 Julie Williams, Chief Executive, Butterfly Conservation
 Hendrikus van Hensbergen, Chief Executive, Action for Conservation
 Gill Perkins, Chief Executive, Bumblebee Conservation Trust
 Paula Brunt, Trustee, Disabled Ramblers
 Hazel Norman, Chief Executive, British Ecological Society
 Mark Castle OBE, Chief Executive, Field Studies Council
 Charles Clover, Chair, Dedham Vale Society
 James Wallace, Chief Executive, River Action UK
 Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, The Rivers Trust
 Bob Elliot, Chief Executive, Wild Justice
 Craig Macadam, Co-Leader and Director of Conservation, Buglife
 Professor Alastair Driver, Senior Advisor, Global Rewilding Alliance
 Dani Jordan, Director of Campaigns and Communities, Surfers Against Sewage
 Liz Webster, Founder, Save British Farming
 Richard Hebditch, Coordinator, Better Planning Coalition
 Professor Jeremy Biggs, Chief Executive, Freshwater Habitats Trust
 Nida Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive, People's Trust for Endangered Species
 Matt Larsen-Dew, Chief Executive, The Mammal Society
 Jason Reeves, Head of Policy, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
 Nadia Shaikh and Jon Moses, co-director of the Right to Roam campaign
 Lizzie Glithero-West, Chief Executive, The Heritage Alliance
 Mary-Ann Ochota, Broadcaster and author, President CPRE the countryside charity and Patron, the Ridgeway Trail.
 Kate Jennings, Co-chair, IUCN-UK Protected Areas Working Group
 Neil Heseltine, Hill Top Farm and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority board member
 Howard Davies, Independent Environmental Advisor and member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
 Professor Kevin J. Gaston, Professor of Biodiversity and Conservation, University of Exeter
 Professor Michael Winter OBE, University of Exeter
 David Stroud MBE, Former Chair of Ramsar Convention Science Panel
 Dr Joseph J. Bailey, Senior Lecturer in Ecology & Conservation, Anglia Ruskin University
 Charlotte A Roberts, Emeritus Professor, Durham University
 Adrian Phillips, Formerly Director General of the Countryside Commission and Chair of the World Commission of Protected Areas (IUCN), vice-president of Campaign for National Parks.
 Chris Baines, vice-president, The Wildlife Trusts
 Lisa Norton, Senior Scientist, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
 Professor Dame EJ Milner-Gulland, Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity, Department of Biology, Oxford University

Professor Rosie Hails MBE, Nature & Science Director, National Trust and University of Exeter
 Professor Dave Goulson, Professor of Life Sciences, University of Sussex
 Jim Dixon, member of the Independent Review of Protected Landscapes
 Dr Elaine King, Chief Executive, Chilterns National Landscape
 Adam King, CEO, Harvey Maps
 Kerryn Humphreys, Editor, Countryside Jobs Service
 Ance Bentjen, Corporate Officer, Unterwegs
 Jørge Bartling, Managing Director, Gear Aid Europe and Gear Aid UK
 Hannah Worthington, Legal and Managing Director, Astraia Collective
 David Ekelund, Co-founder and Co-CEO, Icebug AB
 Christian Schneidermeier, Director, European Outdoor Group
 Massimo Malavasi, Co-CEO, Aquapac
 Ricky Green, Director, Sealskinz
 Jo Dawson, Chief Executive, HDWool Ltd, H Dawson Wool and Woolkeepers Ltd
 Eddy Codega, Chief Executive, C.A.M.P.
 Sophie Mather, Director, Biov8tion
 Martin Esslinger, Chief Executive, OTLIEB
 Jake Tindall, Head of Marketing, RE ZRO®
 Mathew Wilkinson, Marketing Manager, Pyranha / P&H / Venture Canoes & Kayaks
 Paul Robertson, Marketing Manager, Palm Equipment
 Andrew Wyborn, Director, Hampton Court Paddle Sports
 Chris Brain, Chris Brain Kayak Coaching
 Sam Starkie, Director, Vertical Descents Cornwall
 Sara Jones, Centre Owner/Manager, Rhos y Gwalia Outdoor Education Centre
 Nick Liley, Centre Director, Bendrigg Trust
 Tom Beeston, Chief Officer, The Chiltern Society
 Laura Burrows, Chief Executive, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
 Estelle Bailey MBE, Chief Executive, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
 Brian Eversham, Chief Executive Officer, The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
 Julian Woolford, Chief Executive, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
 Jason Reeves, Head of Policy, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
 Paul Coulson, Chief Executive, Institute of Fisheries Management
 Kathy Wormald, Chief Executive, Froglife
 Nicola Hutchinson, Director of Conservation/Deputy Chief Executive, Plantlife
 David Fleetwood, Director of Land and Policy, John Muir Trust
 Nick Collinson, Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership Chair
 Cllr Andrew Reid, Chair, Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee
 Cllr Chris McFarling, Chair, Wye Valley National Landscape Partnership
 Cllr Richard Jefferies, Chair, East Devon National Landscape Management Partnership
 Matthew Arnold, Trust Operations Manager, East Yorkshire Rivers Trust
 Stuart Fraser, Director, Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre
 Sarah Carr, Chief Executive, Nature Watch Foundation
 Claire Bass, Senior director of campaigns and public affairs, Humane World for Animals UK

Anna Hughes, Director, Flight Free UK
Hugh Warmington, Chair, Quantock Hills National Landscape Partnership
Tony Gent, Chief Executive, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation
Connie Duxbury, Chief Executive, Croydon Community Energy
Robin Stamp, Chair, Friends of the Quantocks
Chris Todd, Founder, Transport Action Network
Bridget McKenzie, Climate Museum UK
Cat Ainsworth, CEO, Protect Our Winters
Sue Sayer MBE, Seal Research Trust
Dom Ferris, Chief Executive, Trash Free Trails
Carrie Cort, Founder, Sussex Green Living
Patrick Norris, Footsteps in Northumberland
Steph Bleach, Outreach and Partnership Lead, Zero Carbon Guildford
Nigel Palmer, Chief Executive, Badger Trust
Nick Bruce-White, Chief Executive, Devon Wildlife Trust
Eleanor Monk, Project Leader, Green Arts Oxfordshire Network
Dr Sarah Eglington, group coordinator, Norwich Friends of the Earth
Hazel Draper, Co-founder, Wild Card
Karine Decorne, National Coordinator, Culture Declares Emergency
Eliot Line, Chief Executive, Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Rosie Pearson, Chairman, Community Planning Alliance
Matt Walpole, Chief Executive, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Adam Murray, Director of Action for Nature, Somerset Wildlife Trust
Becca Clark, Director, Green Squirrel
Claire Moodie, Chief Executive, Earth Action North Devon
Jon Parkes-Withers, Public Affairs and Advocacy Lead, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
The Viscount Addison, Campaign for National Parks Vice-President
Janet Cochrane, Director, Ride Yorkshire
Graham Burns, Head of Centre, Lledr Outdoor Education Centre
Tim Taylor, Director, Patterdale Hall Residential Adventure Learning Centre
Jonathan Sullivan, Chair, Sussex Area Ramblers
Jo McDonald, Chair, Croyde Area Residents Association
Tom Burditt, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Mersey
Jo Smith, Chief Executive, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Debbie Tann, Chief Executive, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Jim Glover, Friends of the Wildbrooks
Steve Crowther, Chairman, Devon CPRE
Jamie Cayzer-Colvin - Chair, North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust
Christopher Musgrave - Chair, Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming Partnership
Jemma Batten - Founder, Black Sheep Countryside Management
Tony Pratt, Chair, Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
Tina Bath, Chair, Mendip Society
David Turner, Chairman, Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership
Gillian Taylor, Secretary, Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods
Suzy Russell, Network Coordinator, Community Supported Agriculture

Michael Shaw, Secretary, Association for Rural Marley
Cllr Bob Nelson, Chair, Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Partnership
Alan Cooke, Secretary, Friends of Craven Wood
Dr Eirene Williams, Chair, North Devon Coast National Landscape Partnership
Paul Steedman, Director, CPRE Sussex
David Gaussen, Birmingham Friends of the Earth
Brian Bleese, Chief Executive, Dorset Wildlife Trust
Giles Watts, Chair, Dorset Climate Action Network
Jill Sutcliffe, Co-founder, Manhood and Wildlife Group
Paula Gardner, Chair, Stanmer Preservation Society
Liesje Birchenough, Chair, Coastwise North Devon
Phil Belden, Vice Chair, South Downs Network
Steve Randles, Head of Delivery, Brathay Trust
Tom Laws, Campaign Manager, Save Our Rivers
Cllr John Barrow, Chair, Dunkeswell Parish Council in Black Down Hills National Landscape
Laura Ward, Chair, EcoDewi
John Ward MBE, former Chair of the New Forest Association
Keith Howe, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Rural Policy Research, Exter University (former Exmoor Society Vice Chair and board member of the New Forest Association)
Revd Dr Darrell Hannah, Chair, Operation Noah
David McDonald, Chair, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation
Linda Austin, Secretary, The Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens
Robert Cheesman, Secretary, CPRE Lewes District Branch
Ian Crawford, Chair, SERA South West
Richard Yates, Chief Executive, Essex Wildlife Trust
Tina Luxton, Chair, Georgeham Parish Community Land Trust
Margaret Feetham, Secretary, Sustainable Swaledale
Paul Johnson, Chair, Wildflower Conservation Society
Sophie Robinson, Land Use Plus Project Manager, Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
Linden Groves, Director, The Gardens Trust
Cllr Pete Bradbury, Chair, High Weald National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee
Pete Ward, Owner, The Real Adventure Company, Pembrokeshire
Richard Buxton, Partner, Richard Buxton Solicitors
David Williamson, Director, Derwent Water Marina
Jan Van Mossevelde, Global President, Smartwool and icebreaker
Peter Lefort, Chair, Cornwall National Landscape Partnership
Amy McDonnell, Co-Director, Zero Hour
Pamela Keeble, Trustee, The Amberley Society
Rachel Cockett, Chair, Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust
Jessica Townsend, co-founder, MP Watch
Magnus Gallie, Senior Planner, Friends of the Earth
Francis Sealey, Chair, Enfield Climate Action Forum
Sue Alderman, Chair, Hare Preservation Trust
Susan Milington, Coordinator, Newbury Friends of the Earth
Mariano Alonso, Vice President & General Manager, The North Face (EMEA)

