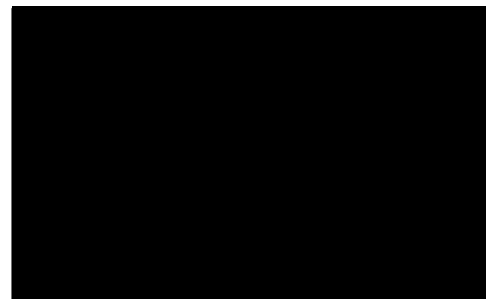


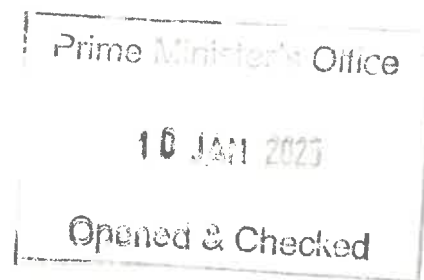
5th January 2025

DFT

Sir Keir Starmer
Prime Minister
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



'Labour ditches chalk stream plan'
The Times, Saturday December 28th.



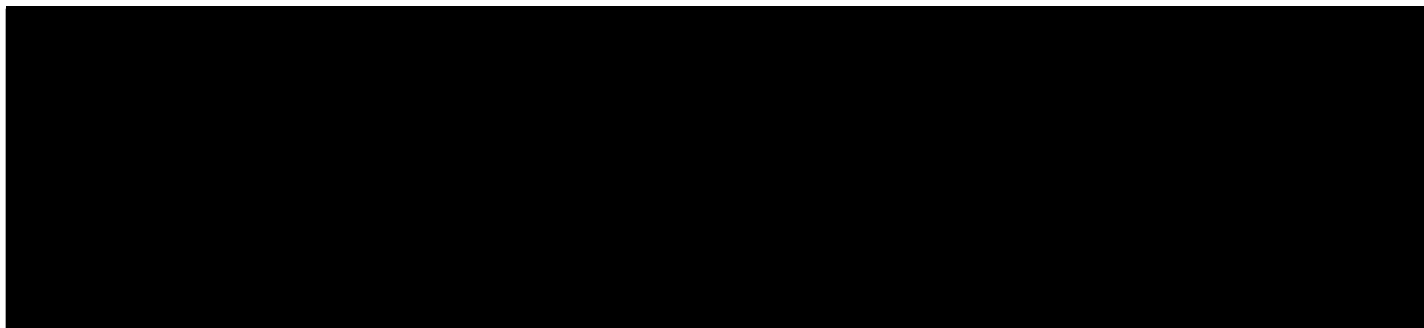
Dear Prime Minister

We voted labour in the General Election. David Attenborough championed the common sense and urgency of this plan to save our chalk streams and we grew up playing and enjoying life beside and within the beautiful river Itchen in Hampshire. We had expected a Labour Government to understand and empathise with this plan.

For the last forty years we have lived some thirty miles from Gatwick Airport. Their expansion plans to use The Emergency Runway will, as revealed in The Planning Enquiry, require more water being extracted thus threatening chalk streams in the proximity of the airport

We hope you as Prime Minister with cross party support will use your authority to stop any expansion at any airport that compromises our chalk streams. Expansion at Gatwick has never been deemed necessary and the surrounding infrastructure has always been lacking as recognised by all local MPs.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
[Name]
[Address]
[Postcode]

Enclosed for the Prime Minister is a copy of the letter from the Hampshire Chalk Stream Society dated 14th January 2025.

Labour ditches chalk

Ministers shelve Tory
vow to restore the rare
habitats hit by pollution
and water companies,
Adam Vaughan writes

Clean it up

CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

A government plan to restore the globally rare chalk streams featured in Sir David Attenborough's *Wild Isles* programme has been quietly shelved by Labour.

Chalk streams, which Attenborough called "one of the rarest habitats on earth", are found only in England, northern France and Denmark. Many are in poor condition because of pollution and too much water being drawn from them.

Conservative ministers announced last year that they would create a "chalk stream recovery pack" to restore the cold, mineral-rich waters to their glory. They later promised that it would be published by summer this year.

The Times understands that the plan was ready by the time the election was called. However, the ecologist tasked with producing the blueprint was told in September that it had been shelved. Officials told Charles Rangeley-Wilson there was no mandate for the plan.

He said: "The action plan is agreed and written. It is utterly baffling to me that this new government would want to shelve all that work."

The country's 224 chalk streams stretch across a large strip of southeast England. At the western end, they include rivers such as the Test and Itchen, which Southern Water has been told to stop tapping during dry spells.

To the east they include the River Glaven, which runs from north Norfolk to the North Sea.

The streams generally overlap with some of the most heavily populated and developed parts of the country. Many have been modified and are subject to the pressure from sewage spills and sheer volume of

