

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

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

7<sup>th</sup> 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  
 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  
 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  
 Dr Elaine King, Chief Executive, Chilterns National Landscape

Adam King, CEO, Harvey Maps  
 Kerry 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 Form  
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, Exeter 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