

7 December 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

Now is the time to leave a lasting legacy for nature

As nations around the world gather at COP15 to agree a future for life on Earth, you have a great opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for nature at home.

The Government has made bold commitments to net zero, to halt and reverse the decline in the abundance of species and to protect 30% of our land and sea by 2030. National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are home to a disproportionately high amount of England's remaining semi-natural and carbon-rich habitats. It is clear that if the Government is to deliver any of its environmental promises by 2030 then these protected landscapes will need to be reformed.

This was recognised in the Government's January 2022 [response](#) to the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes in England. The response also made clear that the current legislation for protected landscapes is too weak and does not reflect that many of our existing landscapes are now badly degraded. Through the response, the Government accepted the case for legal reform to address these problems and acknowledged that supporting protected landscapes to do better for nature would complement their other roles.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is a perfect opportunity to make those reforms. Your colleague Sir Gary Streeter MP has laid amendments¹ necessary to make our protected landscapes thrive for people and wildlife.

These amendments are uncontroversial and benefit from cross-party support.

They provide you with an immediate opportunity to send a strong signal of the Government's intention to match its commitment to 30 by 30 with real action for change. Should the new clauses be accepted by the Government, further new clauses would be required to deliver the same reforms for the Broads Authority, which has parity status to National Park authorities, and to carry forward equivalent changes for AONBs, which were also covered by the Glover Review.

¹ The amendments can be found on the [amendment paper](#) for second day of report stage as:

NC8: National Parks purposes

NC9: Duty of certain bodies and persons to have regard to the purposes for which National Parks are designated

NC10: National Park Management Plans

NC11: National Park Authorities

As Prime Minister, and with two National Parks in your constituency, you will understand the significance of these landscapes to our national identity as well as to the natural world. We hope the Government will take the opportunity afforded by the Levelling Up Bill to make good on its commitment to strengthen our protected landscapes and help secure the future of nature.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rose O'Neill, CEO, Campaign for National Parks

Dr Richard Benwell, CEO, Wildlife & Countryside Link

Becky Speight, CEO, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Hilary McGrady, Director General, National Trust

Craig Bennett, CEO, The Wildlife Trusts

Darren Moorcroft, CEO, The Woodland Trust

Tom Fyans, Interim CEO, CPRE The Countryside Charity

Hugh Knowles and Miriam Turner, Co-Executive Directors, Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

Pat Venditti, Interim Executive Director, Greenpeace UK

Tom Usher, Chief Executive, Dartmoor Preservation Association

Dr Bruce McLeod, Chair, Friends of the Dales

John Ward, Chair, Friends of the New Forest

Tomo Thompson, Chief Executive, Friends of the Peak District (CPRE Peak District & South Yorkshire)

Stuart Clayton, Acting CEO, Friends of the Lake District

David Green, Friends of the South Downs Society

Mohammed Dhalech, Mosaic Outdoors

Haroon Mota, Founder, Muslim Hikers and Active Inclusion Network

Adrian Leaman, Chair, North York Moors Association

Yvonne Witter, Chair, Peak District Mosaic

Charles Watson, Chairman, River Action UK

Dr Tony Whitbread, Chair, South Downs Network

Lisa Wainwright, Chief Executive, Sport and Recreation Alliance

Paul Rice, Chair, The Broads Society

Neil Redfern, Executive Director, Council for British Archaeology

Tompion Platt, Director of Operations & Advocacy, The Ramblers

Darren York, CEO, The Conservation Volunteers

Rebecca Wrigley, CEO, Rewilding Britain

James Blake, CEO, YHA

Sarah Mitchell, Chief Executive, Cycling UK

Ashley Metcalf, CEO, British Canoeing
Paul Davies, Chief Executive, British Mountaineering Council
Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society
Jill Nelson, CEO, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species
Sally Hayns, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
Dr Hazel Norman, CEO, British Ecological Society
Dr Tony Gent, CEO, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
Andy Bool, CEO, The Mammal Society
Julie Williams, CEO, Butterfly Conservation
Gill Perkins, CEO, Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Ian Dunn, CEO, Plantlife
Jamie Christon, CEO, Chester Zoo
Andy Knott MBE, CEO, League Against Cruel Sports
David Bunt, CEO, Institute of Fisheries Management
Chris Butler-Stroud, CEO, Whale & Dolphin Conservation
Rosalind Forbes-Adam, Founder, Woodmeadow Trust
Dr Mark Avery, Co-Director, Wild Justice
Dr Stephen Head, Founder Patron, Wildlife Gardening Forum

Replies can be sent to: ChiefExecutive@cnp.org.uk

CC:

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Trudy Harrison MP, Minister for Natural Environment and Land Use
The Rt Hon Lord Benyon, Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs
The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP Minister for Housing and Planning