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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

steve.reed.mp@parliament.uk

18th June 2025 (by email)

Dear Secretary of State,

Chilterns National Landscape Boundary Review

We write on behalf of CPRE Hertfordshire to express our profound disappointment at the recent cancellation of the Chilterns National Landscape Boundary Review project.

When policies for economic growth are being promoted vigorously it is more important than ever to ensure that the highest quality countryside is being protected. National Landscapes are key elements in the network of designated protected countryside which is so valued, providing unique landscapes, precious habitats and our globally rare chalk streams. They also have an increasing role in ameliorating the effects of climate change and promoting biodiversity.

Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties are under unrelenting pressure for development, resulting in the significant reduction of open countryside. The potential extension of the Chilterns National Landscape was a powerful recognition of the unique nature of this area and its landscape and ecological significance and the Government's commitment to environmental protection.

The proposed extension was very widely supported by local and national organisations and institutions and its abandonment casts doubt on the Government's support for crucially needed protection of the countryside. It is more important than ever to maintain and enhance our most valuable landscapes and support the Government's stated commitments to nature recovery, climate resilience and public access to open spaces.

We urge the Government to reconsider this decision and support Natural England in promoting an enlarged Chilterns National Landscape. We also support fully the significant concerns expressed by the Chilterns Conservation Board, The Chilterns Society, the National Landscape Association and local communities and would be pleased to assist in the restitution of the consultation process.

CPRE is working nationally and locally for a beautiful and living countryside

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO

Chairman: Peter Waine

Registered Charity 1162419

CPRE Patron: His Majesty The King



We look forward to your response and would be pleased to discuss further any aspects of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Abby Coften
Chief Executive
CPRE Hertfordshire

Chris Berry
Planning Manager
CPRE Hertfordshire