

Chris Weston
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Thames Water
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By email only

Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council

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Dear Mr Weston,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to sewage discharges into chalk streams and Thames Water.

Chalk streams are amongst the rarest freshwater habitats on earth and are primarily found within southern and eastern England, including several notable watercourses within the Vale of White Horse. Their unique characteristics have helped to create extraordinary ecosystems that are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Unfortunately, however, sewage discharges and over-abstraction are threatening them and therefore are putting these exceptional places and the species that they support at risk.

Given the pressing need to protect chalk streams from the threat of pollution, the council was hugely disappointed to learn that under your current plans the sewage treatment works at Wantage will not meet HM Government's targets for storm overflows until at least 2040.

We are, therefore, requesting that Thames Water brings forward the upgrading of sewage treatment works, including those at Wantage, that discharge into chalk streams as a matter of urgency. In addition, we would like to see the timescales for these upgrades published and regularly updated on Thames Water's website.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council