

Pippa Heylings MP
Chris Hinchliffe MP

By email

13 May 2026

Dear Pippa and Chris,

Chalk Streams (UNESCO Natural World Heritage Bill)

North Hertfordshire is located across the watershed of the Thames and Anglian river basin districts and contains the headwaters of streams and rivers that feed both north and south to the Great Ouse and Thames. Our District contains many chalk streams including the Rivers Ivel, Mimram and Oughton. They are a key feature of many of our towns and villages, as well as the countryside between them, acting both as important ecological corridors and places greatly enjoyed by residents for leisure and recreation. As you are aware, as well as being highly valued local assets, our chalk streams are also an internationally rare and distinct habitat.

Our adopted [Council Plan](#) for the period to 2028 identifies Sustainability as one of our four key priorities. This includes a commitment to support efforts to protect our chalk streams.

In this context, we were excited to learn earlier this year of your campaign to strengthen protection for the UK's chalk streams and the introduction of Pippa's private member's Bill to seek UNESCO World Heritage Status.

This matter was debated by elected Councillors at our Full Council meeting of April 2026 where it was resolved to write to yourselves to express this Council's support for the Bill to make all UK chalk streams a serial UNESCO World Heritage Site.

I understand that the Bill as originally tabled has timed out following the end of the Parliamentary session. However, it remains your intention to reintroduce the Bill following the King's Speech through the Private Members' Bill Ballot or re-tabling as a presentation bill during the summer.

We wish you every success with your efforts to secure Parliamentary time to progress your campaign in the new session and would be interested to learn more about how this Council can support your efforts to secure the inclusion of chalk streams on the next iteration of the UK's UNESCO tentative list.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Donna Wright,
Executive Member for Place, North Herts Council