

# Chalk Streams (Protection) Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

TO

Provide for a category of protection for chalk streams for the purpose of providing additional protections from pollution, abstraction and other forms of environmental damage; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## 1 Creation of a category of protection for chalk streams

- (1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, provide for a category of protection for chalk streams in England for the purpose of providing additional protections from pollution, abstraction and other forms of environmental damage. 5
- (2) Regulations under this section—
  - (a) may set priorities for public authorities in relation to the protection and enhancement of chalk stream habitats;
  - (b) may confer responsibilities and powers on public authorities; and
  - (c) may create criminal offences punishable with a fine in respect of failures to comply with the regulations. 10

## 2 Regulations and reporting

- (1) Regulations under section 1—
  - (a) are to be made by statutory instrument;
  - (b) may make different provision for different purposes; 15
  - (c) may make transitional and saving provision;
  - (d) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (2) Before laying draft regulations under section 1 before Parliament the Secretary of State must consult— 20
  - (a) the Environment Agency,
  - (b) Natural England,
  - (c) water companies, and
  - (d) the Chalk Stream Restoration Group.

- (3) The first regulations under section 1 must be laid before Parliament before the end of the period of six months beginning on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) The Secretary of State must report to Parliament annually thereafter on the implementation of this Act, including an assessment of its effectiveness.

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### **3 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Chalk Streams (Protection) Act 2023.

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*Presented by Sarah Green*

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