



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Lord Benyon
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
George.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

Our ref: MC2022/17279/BB

1 September 2022

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 26 August to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituent, _____ about the Habitats Regulations. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Nature is in free fall and this Government has set a legally binding target to halt its decline by 2030. Therefore, in March this year, the Government published the Nature Recovery Green Paper setting out our proposals to reform our system of protections to better support this ambitious work, including the Habitats Regulations. The Green Paper is available [online](#).

As we set out in the Green Paper, we have been clear that any reforms must maintain and where possible enhance existing environmental protections. Our proposals seek to create a system which better reflects the latest science and impending impacts of climate change, which better reflects our domestic species and habitats, and which will help us to achieve our significant goals to recover nature.

The Nature Recovery Green Paper consultation closed on 11 May and we are now in the process of analysing responses. The Government will publish a formal response in due course.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON LORD BENYON