



Richard Foord MP

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Ed Miliband
Secretary for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
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18 February 2026

Dear Ed

THREAT TO HABITATS REGULATIONS

I am supporting a campaign by [Devon Wildlife Trust](#), that urges residents to write to you over the possibility the Habitats Regulations may be at risk, following the Nuclear Regulatory Review.

I am particularly opposed to the to the Prime Minister's suggestion that these recommendations are applied to sectors beyond the nuclear industry, and I am requesting that this does not happen. To weaken these laws –the only laws that protect nature –is a dereliction of duty, both to the natural world, your citizens, and your government's previously stated commitment to important nature targets.

It is a far cry from the [promises your party made in the run-up to the 2024 general election](#), when pledges were made to halt the decline of British species and protect at least 30% of the land and sea by 2030.

In recent years, [State of Nature Reports](#) have repeatedly described the UK as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, so it is inconceivable that every effort is not being made to repair steep declines in our native species.

In my own constituency, the Habitats Regulations (under the designation of Special Areas of Conservation) protect a number of beautiful locations, support rare species, marine life or plants. These places include:

- Beer Quarry Caves and the surrounding area
- The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths (specifically Aylesbeare Common and Venn Ottery Common)

Website - www.richardfoord.org.uk **Facebook** - Richard Foord MP

Whilst Richard Foord MP will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. He may pass on all or some of the information to external agencies if this is necessary to help with your case. Richard Foord MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

- Lyme Bay
- The River Axe catchment

The [Environmental Audit Committee concluded last year](#) that contrary to your government's dismissive rhetoric in recent months, nature is not a blocker to housing growth. To weaken laws or policy based on that view, could risk missing both nature and housing targets, the committee emphasised.

You will be aware that Glenys Stacey, chair of the Office for Environmental Protection, interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme last month, presented a damning picture of your government's performance.

Your government is [failing seven out of 10 of your legal nature targets](#), with the remaining three only partly on track. The Planning and Infrastructure Act will almost certainly deepen the plight of nature.

Without nature recovery, net zero will simply not be achieved. Healthy natural spaces are vital to storing carbon and to helping communities adapt to climate change impacts like flooding. Every step taken away from this is a step away from net zero.

Finally, I am hopeful (and I would be grateful if you would reassure me) after receiving a response from Mary Creagh to my question in December, that the duty that helps National Park and National Landscape authorities to protect landscapes for wildlife and people (recommendation 19 in the Nuclear Review), remains safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Foord'.

Richard Foord MP
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