

27 March 2026



4<sup>th</sup> Floor Eastleigh House  
Upper Market Street  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire SO50 9YN

Dear Sir /Madam

**Re: Collaborative Action for the Colne Valley**

I am writing to highlight the strategic importance of the Colne Valley Regional Park and to invite you to join a senior-level discussion on how the nine local planning authorities can work together with Natural England and the Colne Valley Regional Park Trust to protect and enhance this vital landscape.

The Colne Valley is one of London's most significant green and blue corridors, this mosaic of wetland, farmland and woodland on the edge of London, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Surrey should be planned for across administrative boundaries for the benefit of residents of all constituent local authorities.

As a biodiversity hotspot, it supports a rich mosaic of habitats and species. It also provides essential green infrastructure, contributes to climate mitigation and resilience, and offers valued recreational and wellbeing benefits for the communities who rely on it. Its role will only grow in importance as we collectively respond to environmental pressures and the needs of a growing population.

In recent weeks, I have met with local Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum, all of whom expressed strong cross-party support for strengthening the long-term protection and enhancement of the Colne Valley. There is a clear shared ambition to ensure that this landscape continues to thrive, and that public bodies work together in a coordinated and proactive way.

To that end, I would like to invite you, or an appropriate senior representative, to attend a meeting with Natural England to explore how we can collaborate more closely. This will be an opportunity to discuss shared priorities, identify opportunities for joint action, and agree how we can collectively safeguard the Colne Valley for future generations.

I would be grateful if you could contact me with your availability for a meeting during May or June. Once I have received possible dates from all parties, I will confirm arrangements.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the natural environment. I look forward to the opportunity to work together on this important endeavour.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Horton".

Graham Horton  
Deputy Director, Thames Solent team

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