



CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

#CASHTOTRASH

THE PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

Right now the Government is making a new law that it says will speed up building projects and help nature at the same time...But it won't.

It's going to weaken environmental protections.

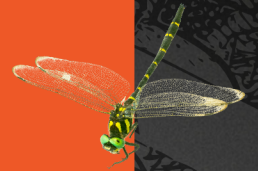
Developers will be able to pay cash to trash the wild places we love and the wildlife we share them with.

We can't let that happen.

We need you to tell the Government to scrap part 3 of
The Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
Speak up, speak loudly and speak now!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT'S AT STAKE?



The Government is making a new law which they say will speed up building projects by allowing developers to pay a one-time fee into a “nature fund” to fix any damage they cause to wildlife and nature. They say the fund will help to deliver nature restoration on a large scale.

However, the new law will actually weaken important laws that protect nature.

Currently, there are strong protections that:

- Prevent damage before it happens.
- Encourage avoiding harm first, rather than just paying money.
- Make sure those who cause damage pay fairly.

The new law would allow these protections to be replaced with a simple fee, and remove the responsibility for developers to avoid destroying protected species and habitats.

The law doesn't require developers to cover the full costs of fixing the environmental damage they cause, so there might not be enough funds to properly restore nature.

The law risks cutting communities off from nature and creating spaces devoid of wildlife, as the “nature fund” could be spent in another part of the country from where nature is actually destroyed.

Experts and environmental groups want the government to slow down and rethink the law, to make sure it doesn't harm nature and that protections stay strong.

There are better ways to improve the system without weakening nature protections, and some brilliant examples already exist across the country.

What do you lose if this Bill goes through? The places you take your kids at the weekend, where you escape the office or go to de-stress – these special places could be gone.

Beyond that, the more we lose these wilder spaces, the harder it becomes for nature and wildlife to survive and thrive.

Protecting nature is crucial for our health, economy, and future. We need to invest in nature upfront and make sure it benefits both people and wildlife.

We need your help to speak out for nature, before it's too late.

Please join with us in saying no to #CashToTrash and calling on Government to scrap part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Spread the word

- Share on social media and use the words #CashToTrash
- Tell everyone why it matters. We need you to let your friends, colleagues and family know what's happening and why they need get involved too.
- We would love you to say what you think in a short film – just video yourself on your phone saying what the problem is and why you care and post that on your social media channels. It's really powerful to hear different voices.
- Share stories and images about the places and wildlife that you love and that could be threatened by this Bill.
- Follow local environmental organisations on X, BlueSky, Instagram, Linkedin and Facebook and share their posts on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
- Social media activity is highest between 7am to 9am, and 7pm to 9pm when people are checking their feeds. Consider posting at this time, or post Live if you are attending an event!

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HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Local news and radio

- Local news outlets love receiving stories related to their area, particularly if photographs and quotes are also given. Write about a local green space that you love, send photos of it, and speak of the impact the community would suffer if it was lost. Write about how you think your local green spaces need protecting and should not be put at risk. You can use this link to help you reach out to your local paper:
cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/actions/send-letter-editor
- Get in touch with your local radio station. If you are going to be interviewed, think in advance about one or two key points you want to get across and make sure you focus on them. If the interview is pre-recorded you might speak for 5 minutes but they are likely to only use about 30 seconds of it, so stay focused.
- Spread the word! – if your story appears in local media, share it on social media with the #CashToTrash

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HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Contact your Member of Parliament

- Contact your MP and ask them to stand up for nature in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. If you don't know who your MP is you can find out here: members.parliament.uk/members/Commons
- Attend an MP's surgery. The most direct way to contact your MP is to attend an MP surgery. You might need to make an appointment through the MP's office in order to attend. At surgeries you can speak one to one with your MP and share your concerns about changes to the planning laws that threaten wildlife. You can find more guidance about meeting your MP here: cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/actions/contact-your-mp
- Write to your MP. You can write to your MP at their constituency office, Parliament or by email. Their contact details should be on their websites or you can find it here: members.parliament.uk/members/Commons
- Make sure you let them know you are a constituent by providing your full name and postcode.

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HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Get together & get crafty

Get together

- Why don't we come together in person at some of the special places that could be at risk and make some noise about nature? If you are interested in joining together for a day of action in your area please let us know and we'll try to help coordinate.
- We could invite the local MP and the local media along.

Get creative and crafty

- Get together with friends, colleagues or others from your local community and take part in some fun craftivism (crafting meets activism). This can involve making anything that helps promote the key messages of your campaign, but for the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that threatens the homes of wildlife, you could consider making bird boxes, bug hotels or hedgehog houses. You could consider painting messages on them about the value of wildlife and deliver them to your local MP.
- When crafting with others you can discuss other actions you can take to highlight your message and share hopes and fears. Craftivism is good for highlighting your campaigns but also for our mental wellbeing by bringing people together.
- If you prefer to craft alone, consider taking photos of your creations and sharing them on social media with our key messages to encourage others to take action as well. Remember to use the hashtag #CashToTrash

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ACT NOW

The time to take action is now. The Bill is currently going through the House of Lords before it returns to the House of Commons in the Autumn.

Let's keep up the pressure! Act now to send a clear message to the Government – no to #CashToTrash!



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