

Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
United Kingdom

9 September 2025

**Subject: Congratulations**

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

CIEEM warmly welcomes you to this important role, which carries significant responsibility for the stewardship of our natural world. The value of nature – in its own right, for people's health and wellbeing, and as the foundation of our economy – cannot be overstated. The leadership of Defra is central to ensuring that this value is recognised and realised in policy and practice across all of Government.

As an example of this, CIEEM believes that there is now a clear opportunity to take a fresh, holistic look at the Habitats Regulations. With the right approach, these vital safeguards can both help speed up responsible development and enable genuine progress in nature recovery. CIEEM has already begun work in this area, exploring practical, innovative ways to achieve both goals, and we would be delighted to discuss our thinking with you.

We are open to, and indeed welcome, new and innovative approaches that can support the delivery of sustainable development while strengthening outcomes for nature. We would greatly value the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how this work could be taken forward in partnership with Defra under your leadership.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the leading professional body representing over 9,000 ecologists and environmental managers across the UK and Ireland. Our members work at the forefront of nature conservation, ecological research, and environmental management, bringing practical expertise and evidence-based insight to policy and practice. This unique perspective allows us to bridge the gap between

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development and nature recovery, helping to shape solutions that deliver benefits for people, the economy, and the natural world.

We look forward to your response and to working with you in your new role.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Reeves CEnv MCIEEM  
Head of Policy