

Funding the Future

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As many report this morning, and [as summarised by Politico](#) in its morning email (which I recommend):

Leveling-Up Secretary Michael Gove is set to announce this morning that he is ripping up rules that restrict pollution from new-build homes. That'll settle an apparent months-long standoff between his department and Defra, but open a whole new front in the battle over the environment. The “nutrient neutrality” rules are hated by housebuilders and some Tory MPs, which say they hold housing back. But green groups are already furious.

Of course green groups are furious. These rules are intended, as they stand, to stop housing development from increasing the level of water pollution in our rivers and streams, which is already overwhelming many of them.

As Craig Bennett, CEO of the Wildlife Trusts, put it on Twitter:



Craig Bennett  @CraigBennett3 · 9h

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Simply put, scrapping nutrient neutrality means yet more poo in our rivers.

This will be [@RishiSunak](#) 's legacy.

If we still want to achieve our environmental targets, then there will now have to be far greater cuts in pollution from agriculture than previously envisaged

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To be as polite as possible about this, that cuts through the crap and spells things out exactly as they are.

To put it another way, big money is beating the environment, yet again.

For how long do we have to put up with this? Is it until there is nothing left, ourselves included, to save? Or will we one day realise that human degradation of our planet has to end? We are not there yet.