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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/C1435/W/23/3321978

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/C1435/W/23/3321978
Appeal By	GLEESON LAND AND JOHN ALISON LAND AND RESEARCH LTD
Site Address	Land at Downlands Farm Uckfield TN22 3PU Grid Ref Easting: 546619 Grid Ref Northing: 122026

SENDER DETAILS

Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- ☐ Appellant
- ☐ Agent
- ☑ Interested Party / Person
- ☐ Land Owner
- ☐ Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- ☐ Final Comments
- ☐ Proof of Evidence
- ☐ Statement
- ☐ Statement of Common Ground
- ☑ Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- ☐ Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to plead with you to object to the planning application at Downlands Farm in Uckfield.

This is an absolutely beautiful site, home to ancient woodland, protected animal species and close to the amazing and historical Lakewood. Indeed such is the uniqueness of this site, an area made up of rare wet woodland, Mesolthic rock outcrops and ancient ghyll woodland, I truly believe it is worthy of being a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and being protected forever.

I understand the need for more housing but I strongly believe that destroying this unique site is nothing short of a crime. The proposed new access is directly through an area of ancient woodland, an irreplaceable and complex ecosystem home to many endangered species of animals. There are so few areas of ancient woodland left and once we have destroyed the little areas we have, they are gone forever. The impact of developing this site will have an impact far beyond the immediate area; the nearby Lakewood which is home to the critically endangered European Eels would be changed forever.

Part of the proposed development is to put a car park on Snatts Road. Snatts Road is a rural, country road with many blind spots and no pedestrian pathways; it would not cope with any further increase in traffic. There are many residents on Snatts Road and having a car park on such a road is unfathomable. It would be unsafe and it would be only a matter of time before a serious accident occurred.

As a family we regularly walk, as do many local families, on the current Downlands Farm. The area provides a sanctuary for dog walkers, families and nature lovers alike. Such areas are few and far between and provide immeasurable gains for the community’s mental and physical health.

Beyond the destruction of the unique area of Downlands Farm, the proposed development has far reaching impacts on the local area. Uckfield is (or was!) a small town; it’s infrastructure is not built for the ever increasing number of homes being built in this area. The road network would not cope with the huge increase in traffic in the area and it is already a battle to get a doctor's appointment when needed.

This application has already been rejected by Wealden District Coucil with very good reasons. I urge you to consider all the evidence against developing this area so we can continue to protect it!

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]