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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 Sir/Madam,
You are, I'm sure, looking specifically to review hard evidence supported with facts and figures provided by all parties in the matter of judging this appeal. Especially any new evidence. Much detailed research and various documents have already been supplied and I urge you to seriously consider this evidence highlighting why development of this particular land is uniquely damaging to an enormous variety of wildlife, irreplaceable heritage landscape, ancient woodlands.....and many local people. Yes, damaging to local people who, like myself have availed themselves of the tranquil and restful benefits of this wonderful piece of land for many years, but who now find the endless months and years of mental attrition in fighting this development an anguish. So many dedicated local souls have devoted scores and scores of man-hours reading and researching never-ending documentation and trying to decipher reams of letters and reports steeped in mystifying legal, political and scientific jargon. None of these people opposing the development are trained or paid to do this, unlike yourself, and indeed the army of workers pushing forward the case on behalf of the developers.

Well, I am not going to repeat all the hard evidence already presented on behalf of those opposing the development - and there is plenty of it. Of course there has to be new housing and development, but in the appropriate places and not just squeezed into one corner of Sussex and the southeast. But I would point out that this whole issue should never have been raised yet again. It was fought and won some 15 years or so ago by the local population, and again at the appeal stage, with the then Secretary of State pronouncing that this particular piece of land should never be developed. So what has changed? Why do the developers, with their deep pockets, wish to throw yet more money at an attempt to reverse the original decision of 15 years ago? The answer is of course, increasing political pressure to create more housing (even if in the most inappropriate of locations) and.....the lure of ever increasing lucrative profits. The safeguarding of biodiversity, ancient woodland and the value of local people's mental and physical well-being is disgustingly pushed down the list of 'priorities' for 'the greater good of the nation'. This is unbelievably short-sighted. Even in the near future it is increasingly obvious to so many that it is ludicrously ill-thought through with the local straining infrastructure. Just taking one example with South-East Water who, in only the last few days, have conceded at local meetings that they are struggling to keep pace with such rapid growth of the housing development in Wealden and the southeast generally. Are we to see annual hosepipe bans or water supplies completely stopped in Sussex each time the sun comes out and there are natural increases in the demand for water?

I know you are looking to review the hard scientific facts in this case.....but that alone is NOT ENOUGH.....

.....This is the story of a 'David & Goliath' - the band of unpaid local people fighting the legally trained and highly funded developers. It's the story of one man dictating in his Last Will & Testament that his land should be sold only for development - regardless of what the local population truly want and actually need more. It's the story of how a government is blinded and fixated upon 'targets' - and unable to see the bigger picture and the legacy it is depriving future generations and the surrounding wildlife we share this land with.

Is it also the story of politicians and civil servants following the wishes of their masters - rather than truly working for the greater good of this world? You need to also consider and answer that for yourself.