**Archived:** 18 October 2023 22:09:36
**From:** [redacted]
**Sent:** Thu, 29 Jun 2023 08:45:18
**To:** Salter, Tim
**Subject:** Downland Farm Appeal
**Sensitivity:** Normal

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Dear Tim

Re Downland Farm planning appeal

Appeal reference APP/C1435/W/23/3321978

Application number WD/2022/1637/MEA

I stand by my objection to this planning application lodged with WDC last year

I applaud the robust refusal by Wealden District Council and their detailed reports alongside national environmental specialist consultations from the Wildlife Trust, who own and manage Lake Wood which runs along the boundary and is an SSI.

The Woodland Trust and CPRE plus expert witness from Dr Martyn Stenning, Vivian Blandford, Downlands Action Group and of course the Town Council and neighbouring Parish Councils all of whom have put together a strong case for refusal as the increased traffic and call on local services will be detrimental to our community as a whole.

This unique site, Downlands Farm, has been fought over with WDC for years by the Clarence Preston Trust who wish to sell to developers to prove a will and release financial reward to the benefactors.

The whole site should be granted SSI in perpetuity to ensure this fiasco and enormous cost to the taxpayer is halted thus safeguarding the important ancient woodlands,streams and interconnecting corridors for the biodiversity and wildlife it supports.

It's position within the High Weald Landscape provides a natural sustainable sump for water and air pollution especially as the site runs along the busy Uckfield by pass.

Wealdens overstretched infrastructure is being overwhelmed by a multitude of new homes most of which are not built out therefore projected housing targets are yet to be understood.
A large site to the south of the town at Ridgewood is incomplete with houses still unsold on phase one of the site.

As I write Kent and Sussex has a hosepipe ban with treated water under threat of sustainable provision.
It's still early summer and climate change forecasts the South East is likely to be under supplied for the foreseeable future.
Water is the vital factor to our planet's existence we cannot afford to continually drain our land, build on, divert and destroy ancient woodland and natural watercourses for houses we don't require.

This must the final rejection to halt the destruction of the wildflower grasslands, woods and green spaces so important to the health of both wildlife and the public who cherish our diminishing open countryside.

Thank you for you time .. this comes from the heart

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad