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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

I would like to strongly object to houses being built on the Downlands Farm site. I have lived on the other side of Lake Wood for the past 26 years and have enjoyed walking through the ancient woodlands with my two children when they were young and now my grandchildren. It would be a tragedy if any part of this woodland is built upon. At risk is a landscape made up of fields formed from old grass meadows, surrounded by irreplaceable ancient ghyll woodland, including rare wet woodland, and Mesolithic rock outcrops. There is habitat for 100+ species of birds, such as skylarks, hawfinch, lesser spotted woodpecker and curlew; many of which you can see when walking in the woods.
I also work in a local primary school and the children often take nature walks around the area to spot wildlife: 14 species of dragonfly and over 150 different moths and butterflies. The site is also home to the endangered hazel dormice, bats, rare invertebrates, reptiles e.g adders, grass snake, lizards and slow-worms, and amphibians, such as frogs, toads and newts. The children are fascinated to see these animals living so close to them.
We aslo study the history of Uckfield and this site's history as part of the Streatfeild Estate, (a carriage drive from Lake Wood to Malling Budletts dates from the 1790's) and it's clear why this land is so unique.
I am concerned about the increase in traffic in the area since we have new housing at Ridgewood Farm. We have no new infrastructure and trying to travel into the centre of town along Bell Farm Road at certain times of the day is near impossible. The roundabout at Tesco/Fire Station is often at a standstill. Why do we need more housing in Uckfield when the Ridgewood estate isn't being occupied? We don't have enough shops/doctors/schools/dentists/roads to accommodate another 424 houses - potentially 848 more people and their cars!
Please think of the future of our town and our countryside. Global warming is happening and you can do something about it. Don't get rid of ancient woodlands that have stood since long before we were born, denying the local wildlife the chance to flourish.
Surely the fact that Wealden DC, Uckfield Town Council, other local parish councils, the Woodland Trust, Sussex Wildlife trust, Downlands Action Group Dr Martyn Stenning and Vivienne Blanford have all objected to this development should tell you something.
Please save our woodland.