

Email from South Downs National Park Authority 17 October 2024

Dear Adrian,

My sincere apologies for the delay in getting back to you and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I would advise the following to address our comments in relation to Policy NE8:

**Paragraph 7.68 –**

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, as amended by Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, requires all relevant bodies to seek to further the two statutory purposes of the South Downs National Park. The National Park purposes are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- To promote opportunities for the understand and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

**Paragraph 7.69 -**

The NPPF states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and that development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas. A considerable amount of land within the district is ~~immediately adjacent to the boundary in the setting~~ of the SDNP and development there could have the potential to cause adverse impacts if this is not considered early in the planning stage. It is therefore considered to have a plan which is silent on impacts on the national park is not a suitable alternative policy approach.

**Paragraph 7.70 –**

In ~~delivering pursuit of~~ the National Park's purposes, the National Park Authority has a duty to seek to foster the ~~social and economic and social~~ well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

**Paragraph 7.71 –**

The South Downs National Park is an International Dark Sky Reserve. The adopted South Downs ~~National Park Local~~ Plan identifies a dark sky core and buffer and transition zones. Development proposals in ~~close proximity to the setting of~~ the National Park and have significant external lighting are expected to refer to the Dark Skies Technical Advice Note published by the SDNPA and demonstrate how it conserves or enhances the intrinsic qualities of the dark night sky and the setting of the national park.

**Paragraph 7.72 –**

The adopted South Downs ~~National Park Local~~ Plan is supported by assessments of landscape character and tranquillity.

**Policy NE8 – South Downs National Park**

- Development in ~~close proximity the setting of~~ the South Downs National Park will only be permitted where it would be in accordance with the statutory purposes and duty for National Parks as specified in the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949, as amended by ~~the Environment Act 1995 Section 245 of the Levelling Up and~~

**Regeneration Act 2023**, and where they conserve and enhance the intrinsic quality of dark night skies and the setting of the National Park.

- Development proposals in **close proximity to the setting of** the South Downs National Park are expected to take account of the National Park assessments of landscape and tranquillity and demonstrate how a proposal conserves and enhances the special qualities of the Park.

Kind Regards