

Sponsorship, Landscape and Recreation Division
1/03 Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6EB

APPENDIX B



Website www.defra.gov.uk

25th October 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

**NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949
SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK (DESIGNATION) ORDER 2002
(as varied by the South Downs National Park Designation (Variation) Order 2004)**

Following our recent consultation on new issues relating to the South Downs National Park (Designation) Order 2002 I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State has decided to re-open the public inquiry.

Arrangements are being made for the inquiry to re-open at 10am on Tuesday 12 February 2008 at The Chatsworth Hotel, Steyne, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 3DU. Mr Robert Neil Parry, BA DipTP MRTPI, will hold the re-opened inquiry.

The Inspector has been asked to consider, in the context of the terms of the original inquiry, the following specific issues:

- i. any implications for the Designation Order (as varied by the Variation Order) arising directly as a result of the revised National Parks legislation – amendments to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 made by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
- ii. any implications for the Designation Order (as varied by the Variation Order) arising directly as a result of the High Court and Court of Appeal Judgments in the challenge by *Meyrick Estate Management Ltd* relating to the New Forest National Park;
- iii. the possible alternative boundary line from north of Petersfield running east across to Pulborough, produced by Natural England at Defra's request, based on a recommendation in the South Downs Inquiry Report Volume 1, Part 2 (para 2.71); and
- iv. those possible additional areas of land recommended for inclusion within the proposed South Downs National Park against which there have been objections.



The Inspector has also been asked to indicate if any other points raised during the further public consultation that was held during the period 2nd July to 24th September 2007 have caused him to change any of his recommendations.

A pre-inquiry meeting has been arranged for 2pm on Tuesday 11 December 2007 in The Great Hall, The Hove Centre, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4AH. The purpose of the meeting is to help prepare for the actual inquiry by discussing procedural and other arrangements. It is not for the purpose of hearing evidence – that is a matter for the inquiry itself. The meeting will help to ensure that the inquiry runs smoothly and efficiently and will help everyone to concentrate on the main issues in dispute, saving time and expense for all concerned. If you cannot attend the pre-inquiry meeting, the agenda and note of the meeting will appear on the Inquiry website at: <http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/southdowns/index.htm>

If you wish to appear at the inquiry and/or attend the pre-inquiry meeting, it would be appreciated if you could complete the enclosed form and return to the Programme Officer, Barbara Bay, by 8th November 2007. Her contact details are:

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Email: Barbara.bay@pins.gis.gov.uk

Whether or not you choose to appear, I can assure you that your written representations, as submitted, will be taken into account by the Inspector in his report to the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Gunningham

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