



Report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

by RN Parry BA DipTP MRTPI

**an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State
for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM REPORT

Inquiry held between 10 November 2003 and 18 March 2005 and between 12 February 2008 and 4 July 2008 at The Chatsworth Hotel, Steyne, Worthing.

Introduction

1. Subsequent to the submission of my report following the re-opened inquiry in respect of the proposed South Downs National Park (PSDNP), my attention has been drawn to certain errors in the submitted material and to other matters where additional clarification would be helpful. This addendum/corrigendum report seeks to address these points.
2. In addition to the following written comments this report also includes 2 new maps. These replace maps that appear in Volume 2 of my recently submitted report.

Errors/additional clarification

Alice Holt Forest

3. In my 2006 report on the PSDNP I recommended the deletion of the northern portion of the so-called Binsted Peninsula – see paragraph 7.88. As this left Alice Holt Forest detached from the main body of the PSDNP I said that it must follow that it should also be excluded – see paragraph 7.80. However, in my latest 2008 report I now recommend that the northern portion of the Binsted Peninsula be included in the PSDNP. While this overcomes the original reason given for excluding Alice Holt Forest, I remain of the view that it should not be part of the PSDNP. This is primarily because I am not satisfied that all of Alice Holt Forest satisfies the natural beauty criterion due to the adverse impact of roads and other built development.

Hollywater

4. My 2006 report concluded that Hollywater should be excluded from the PSDNP for similar reasons – see paragraph 7.123. If Woolmer Forest is left out of the PSDNP, as recommended in paragraph 7.120, it would leave Hollywater detached from the main body of the PSDNP. Although I now recommend that Woolmer Forest be included, I am not convinced that the PSDNP should also include the Hollywater area. It contains some high quality land but overall is not of outstanding quality being fragmented by built development.

Upper Cuckmere Valley

5. In my 2006 report I concluded that the wider Upper Cuckmere Valley should be excluded from the PSDNP – see paragraph 7.426. I said that although this tract of Low Weald countryside contains sites of ecological and historical importance it was too far removed from the core Chalk hills to warrant its inclusion. My latest report attaches far less weight to the presence or otherwise of links to the core Chalk hills. While this might strengthen the case for including the Upper Cuckmere Valley in the PSDNP, on balance I am not persuaded that its inclusion is appropriate. As I see it, much of the higher quality land in this area is effectively detached from the main body of the PSDNP to the south of the A27 by the fragmented landscape in the vicinity of Wooton Manor and other lesser quality land, not least the land north of Wilmington, land that I no longer recommend for inclusion in the PSDNP. Evidence put before the re-opened inquiry also indicates that disruptive highway improvement works to this length of the A27 are more likely than I had originally assumed.

Green Ridge

6. In my 2006 report I said that if the Toads Hole Valley is left out of the PSDNP there should be a consequential change to the boundary at Green Ridge – see paragraph 7.684. My 2008 report recommends that Toads Hole Valley be excluded from the PSDNP but overlooks the need for a consequential change to the boundary at Green Ridge. The first new map included in Annex A of this report addresses the omission.

Owlesbury Parish

7. My 2006 report ruled out a change to the designation order boundary at Owlesbury as the land in dispute displayed Coastal Lowlands rather than downland characteristics. While the 2008 report gives less weight to the presence or otherwise of downland character it does not lead me to change my views regarding the boundary at Owlesbury. In my opinion the additional land that was promoted for inclusion is not of especial quality and accordingly does not satisfy the statutory natural beauty test.

Plumpton Parish

8. In paragraph 7.340 of the 2006 report I set out my support for a boundary change at Plumpton. However, the map intended to display the change was not drawn accurately and it also shows the land as a deletion rather than as an addition. The same errors were also carried forward into Volume 2 of the 2008 report. The second new map included in Annex B of this report addresses the errors and illustrates the boundary change that I recommend at this location. The new map is numbered addition 32. The map identified as deletion 8 in Volume 2 of the 2008 report should be withdrawn as a consequence.

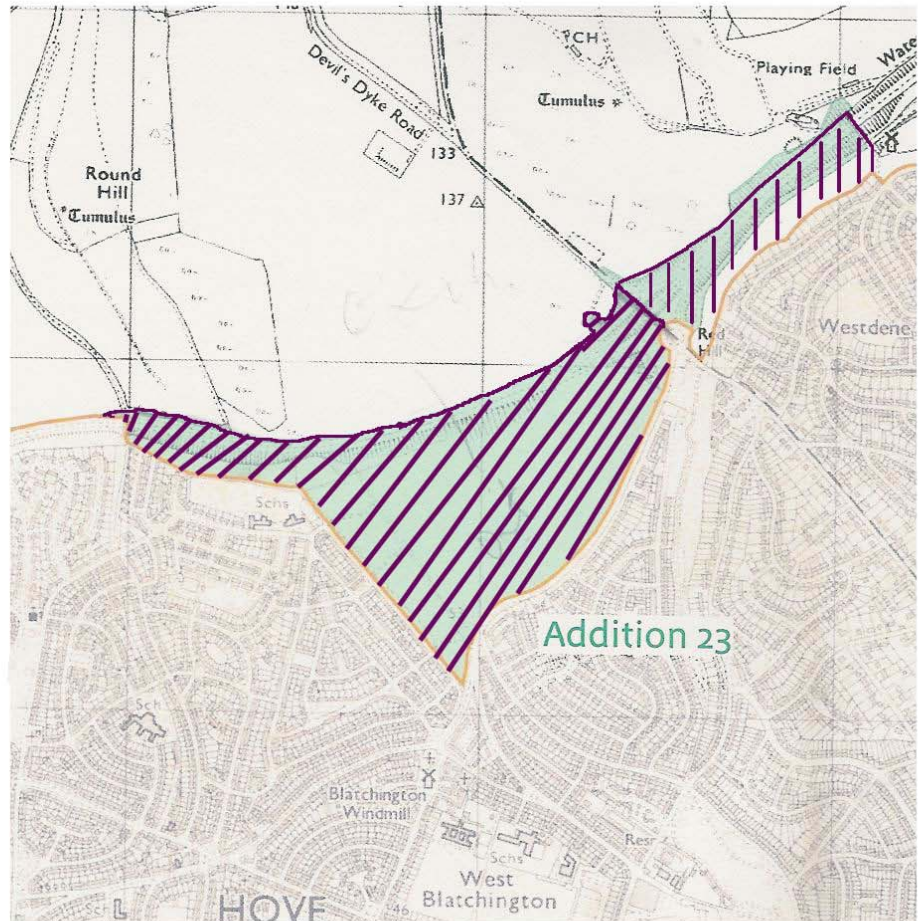
Southwick Hill

9. Paragraph 7.740 of the 2006 report supports an amendment suggested by the South Downs Campaign and accepted by the Countryside Agency. However, in the 2008 report I recommend a boundary change that excludes virtually all of the land at Southwick Hill to the north of the A27 – see paragraph 4.100 and the map on page 26 of Volume 2. This means that the recommendation in 7.740 no longer applies having been overtaken by events.



R N Parry
Inspector

Addition 23



Addition 23 to be excluded other than embankment adjacent A27

Addition 32

