

## **South Downs National Park Local Plan : Examination Nov 2018**

### **Appendix to accompany Twyford Parish Councils additional submissions on Matter 7**

Extracts from :

INSPECTOR'S REPORT: SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK 2005

PART 2: BOUNDARY REPORT

Itchen Valley east of M3 Motorway

Case for objectors

7.36 Unlike the Meon, Arun, Adur and other rivers further to the east, the Itchen is a characteristic Hampshire river running through the Hampshire Downs. It contains a line of small settlements and should be excluded from the National Park.

Agency's response

7.37 The Itchen Valley contains a number of small and attractive historic settlements and the SSSI and SAC designations reflect its nature conservation value. It satisfies the natural beauty test and also offers a range of high quality recreational experiences such as quiet riverside walks and trout fishing. Inspector's Conclusions

7.38 In my conclusions on the section A boundary to the east of Winchester I mention that the non-AONB landscapes to the north of the A31 should be included in the National Park. To my mind this area forms part of a lightly settled and high quality chalk landscape that is characterised by rolling hills and secluded dry valleys. The same description applies to the tract of chalkland that extends as far east as New Alresford (and beyond).

7.39 So far as the Itchen Valley itself is concerned, I recognise that the River Itchen does not cut through the South Downs in the way that the Meon and some other rivers do. However, the underlying geology is chalk and this very attractive valley landscape has strong visual associations with the chalk hills to the south. There are a number of settlements within the valley, but they are all small scale, very attractive and often of historic importance.

7.40 Moreover the valley has a strong sense of seclusion and tranquillity and I am in no doubt that it offers a range of markedly superior recreational experiences, including some of the best trout fishing to be found in this country. On balance, therefore, I am persuaded that both statutory criteria are satisfied and that the valley warrants inclusion in the National Park on its merits. Few objectors argue otherwise.

Inspector's Recommendation

7.41 No change to the designation order boundary.

---

## Compton and Shawford: Case for objector

7.1014 Compton and Shawford Parish Council argues that the Compton, Shawford, Twyford and Colden Common areas are urban in character and should be excluded from the PSDNP. This point is put forward as part of a general submission that their inclusion (and the Wealden areas around Petersfield and elsewhere) will dilute the “brand” image of a South Downs National Park. Agency’s response

7.1015 The settlements of Compton, Shawford and Colden common were excluded from the PSDNP throughout the designation process. Twyford is included as it has an attractive historic core and is surrounded by high quality landscapes. It stands at the interface between the Itchen Valley and the chalk

downland as it has an attractive historic core and is surrounded by high quality landscapes. It stands at the interface between the Itchen Valley and the chalk Downs. The former contains a network of water meadows and has a strong sense of seclusion and tranquillity despite the presence of the nearby M3 motorway. The Itchen itself is one of the country’s best examples of a chalk river and is designated as an SSSI and SAC.

7.1016 A comprehensive rights of way network allows easy public access to this area and in turn to the wider downland. A range of water related recreational opportunities are available in the Itchen Valley. Inspector’s Conclusions

7.1017 I note that there is very little objection to the inclusion in the PSDNP of the extensive tract of non-AONB land in the Twyford area. Indeed the Agency mentions that the proposed boundary in this area received strong support during the designation process. Earlier in the report - sections A and B - I set out my views on the merit of including in the PSDNP other lengths of the Itchen Valley to the north of Twyford. In short I concluded that these lengths warranted inclusion notwithstanding the intrusive impact of the very busy M3 motorway. In my judgement the same general conclusion applies to the length of the Itchen Valley close to Twyford. Apart from its high intrinsic landscape qualities, the valley has strong historical and visual links to the downland areas to the east. Bearing the above in mind I have concluded that although the case for including Twyford and other land in the vicinity seems to me to be far less clear-cut than the Agency claims, on balance I accept that this general area satisfies the natural beauty criterion. If that is accepted there can be little doubt that the Itchen Valley offers a range of markedly superior recreational opportunities and that the public are also able to enjoy the special qualities of the nearby downland landscapes without difficulty. In short I have concluded that the statutory criteria are met.