

COPY

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
(as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991)

**ENFORCEMENT NOTICE
MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE**

**ISSUED BY: CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL (“the Council”)
on behalf of the SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (“the SDNPA”)**

REFERENCE NUMBER: LD/19

1. **THIS NOTICE** is issued by the Council on behalf of the SDNPA because it appears that there has been a breach of planning control, within paragraph (a) of Section 171A(1) of the above Act, at the land described below. The Council considers that it is expedient to issue this notice, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and to other material planning considerations. The Annex at the end of the notice and the enclosures to which it refers contain important additional information.

2. **THE LAND TO WHICH THE NOTICE RELATES**

Land at The Watermill Halfway Bridge Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BP (“the Land”), shown edged red on the attached plan (“the Plan”).

3. **THE BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL ALLEGED**

Without planning permission, the material change of use of the Land to use for the stationing of a mobile home and touring caravan for the purposes of human habitation.

4. **REASONS FOR ISSUING THIS NOTICE**

It appears to the Council that the above breach of planning control has occurred within the last ten years.

The Land is situated in the South Downs National Park. The SDNPA has the following statutory purposes and socio-economic responsibilities, as specified in the Environment Act 1995.

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

Working in partnership with other Local Authorities and other organisations, it is also the duty of the SDNPA to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

The Land lies in a rural location within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) where there is a statutory duty to conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty and where policies in the Development Plan seek to strictly control development unless there is a proven need. The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024, paragraph 11 reintroduces the presumption in favour of sustainable development. However, this is not an unconditional presumption, and it makes it clear that any proposals for development within the countryside must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Land lies in open countryside where its undeveloped character is an integral part of the rural setting of Halfway Bridge. In this context, the use of the Land to use for the stationing of a mobile home and touring caravan for the purposes of human habitation and the hard surface appear in public views as a visually damaging encroachment of built development in the countryside is contrary to Policy SD6. As such, the development has a harmful effect on the character and appearance of the area and conflicts with the requirements of Local Plan Policy SD1 and paragraph 26 of the Planning policy for traveller sites [PPTS] which in combination seek to ensure sustainable development and restrict development in open countryside. In addition, the occupation of the Land introduces residential activity, domestic paraphernalia, motor vehicles and levels of artificial light in conflict with Local Plan Policies SD4 (landscape), SD5 (design), SD7 (relative tranquillity) and SD8 (Dark night skies) which together seek to preserve landscape character, and conserve and enhance relative tranquillity. The development also conflicts with Paragraph 189 of the NPPF that states great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape scenic beauty in National Parks and Paragraph 27 of the PPTS that promotes positive enhancement of the environment.

Policies SD49 and SD50 seek to reduce flood risk and promote sustainable drainage systems. Policies SD19 and SD22 seek to promote sustainable modes of transport, appropriate parking provision and the safety and amenity of all road users. There is no evidence to demonstrate that compliance against these policies has been assessed before the development occurred. In addition, the development has resulted in the importation of materials, the excavation of the ground, laying of pipes and the use of artificial light to the detriment of the trees on the land and the biodiversity and habitat associated with the land contrary to Policies SD2, SD9, SD11 and SD45 of the LP.

It is acknowledged that there is a need for Gypsy and Traveller sites within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) but need does not override protection of the National Park when no evidence or special circumstance has been advanced to justify the development.

The development in this location is inappropriate and no compelling justification has been provided to justify its retention. The development is therefore considered contrary to Policies SD1, SD2, SD4, SD5, SD6 and SD7, SD8, SD9, SD11, SD19, SD45, SD49 and SD50, of the South Downs Local Plan, as well as paragraphs, 11,12, 60, 170 and 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework and paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Planning policy for traveller sites.

The Council does not consider that planning permission should be granted, because planning conditions could not overcome these objections to the development.

5. WHAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO

Steps required to secure compliance:

- (i) Cease the use of the Land for the stationing of a mobile home and touring caravan for the purposes of human habitation.
- (ii) Remove the mobile home, touring caravan and vehicles from the Land.
- (iii) Break up the hardstanding area (shown in the approximate position on the attached Plan) and remove the resulting debris from the Land together with all drainage and water pipes.
- (iv) Remove the wooden sleepers which surround the hardstanding area from the Land.
- (v) Remove the wooden shed from the Land
- (iv) On completion of steps (i) to (v) above, level the area affected and reseed with grass.

6. TIME FOR COMPLIANCE:

Six months after this notice takes effect.

7. WHEN THIS NOTICE TAKES EFFECT

This notice takes effect on 17th April 2025, unless an appeal is made against it beforehand.

Dated: 6th March 2025

Signed:


Principal Solicitor

on behalf of
Chichester District Council
East Pallant House
East Pallant
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1TY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

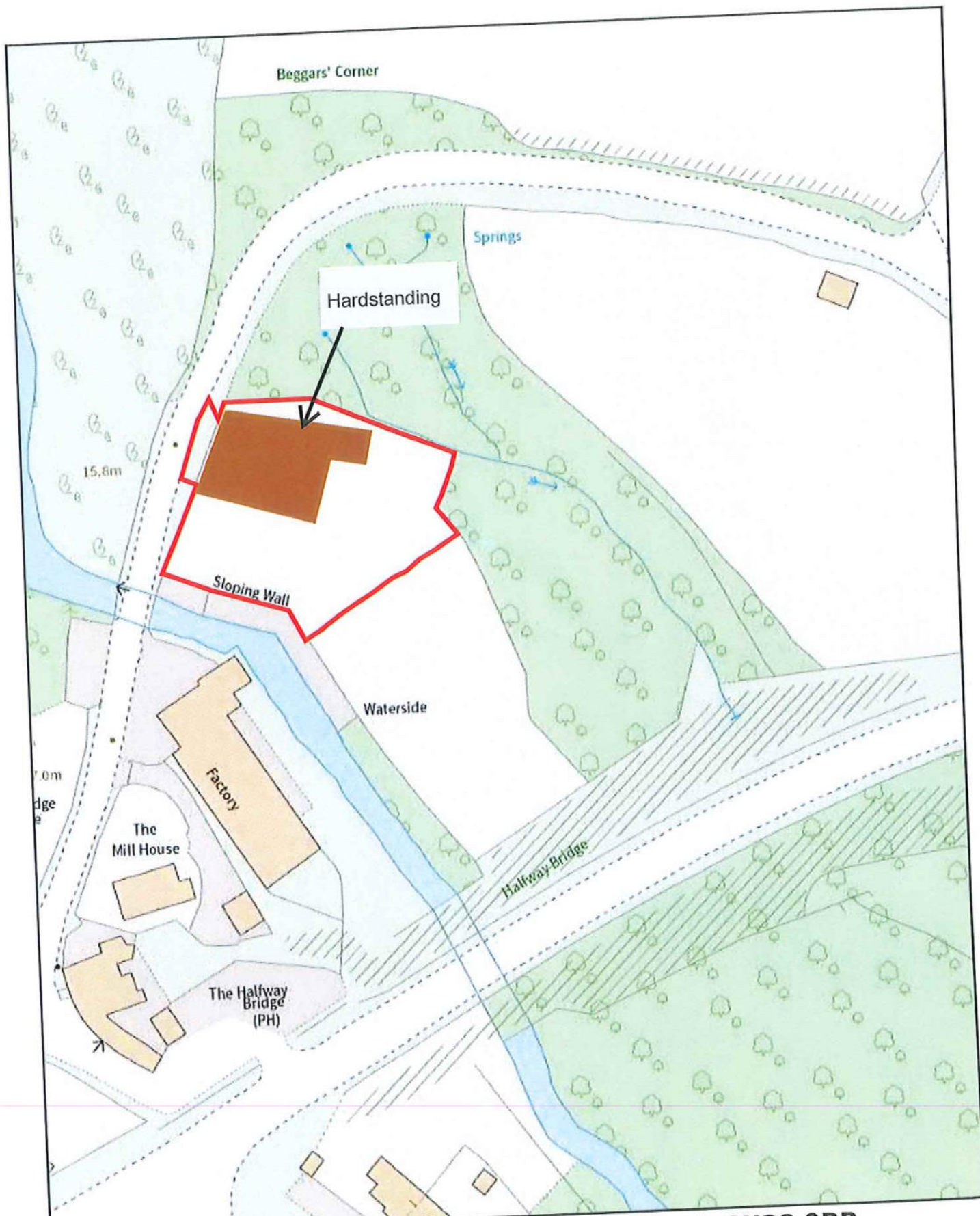
YOUR RIGHT OF APPEAL

There is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State (at The Planning Inspectorate) against the notice. You can appeal against this Notice, but any appeal must be received, or posted in time to be received by the Secretary of State before the date specified in paragraph 7 of the Notice. **Please see the enclosed information sheet from The Planning Inspectorate which tells you how to make an appeal.**

The Planning Inspectorate produce a booklet entitled "Making your Appeal" which sets out your rights and the procedure to be followed. You can obtain this booklet either from Planning Inspectorate or from their Customer Support Unit by phoning 0117 3726372. The grounds on which an appeal may be made are set out in section 174 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. You will find an explanation of the grounds in the "Making your Appeal" booklet.


Under section 174 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) you may appeal on one or more of the following grounds (not all of these grounds may be relevant to you)

- (a) that, in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by the matters stated in the notice, planning permission ought to be granted or, as the case may be, the condition or limitation concerned ought to be discharged;



Land At The Watermill Halfway Bridge Petworth  **3 9BP**

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 Scale: 1:1000

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- (b) that those matters have not occurred;
- (c) that those matters (if they occurred) do not constitute a breach of planning control;
- (d) that, at the date when the notice was issued, no enforcement action could be taken in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters;
- (e) that copies of the enforcement notice were not served as required by section 172;
- (f) that the steps required by the notice to be taken, or the activities required by the notice to cease, exceed what is necessary to remedy any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters or, as the case may be, to remedy any injury to amenity which has been caused by any such breach;
- (g) that any period specified in the notice in accordance with section 173(9) falls short of what should reasonably be allowed.

If you decide to appeal, when you submit it, you should state in writing the ground(s) on which you are appealing against the enforcement notice and you should state briefly the facts on which you intend to rely in support of each of those grounds. If you do not do this when you make your appeal the Secretary of State will send you a notice requiring you to do so within 14 days.

FEE PAYABLE FOR THE DEEMED APPLICATION

If you appeal under Ground (a) of Section 174(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, this is the equivalent of applying for planning permission for the development alleged in the notice. You should pay the fee by debit/credit card to the Customer Services Team at Chichester District Council on 01243 534734), which in the case of an enforcement appeal is **double** the amount for a normal planning application fee. Please see the attached Chichester District Council's Development Control Fees Schedule for a guideline on the **single** "deemed application" fee (also available on webpage https://ecab.planningportal.co.uk/uploads/english_application_fees.pdf)
Once the Ground (a) appeal has been submitted, please contact the Planning Enforcement Team either by email planningenforcement@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 01243 534734 to confirm the amount of fee payable.

The fee payable to the Local Planning Authority is £0.00. Payments can be made by Debit Card by calling the Customer Services Team on 01243 534734.

No fee is payable where the person who has appealed against the relevant enforcement notice had—

- (a) before the date when the notice was issued, made an application to the local planning authority for planning permission for the development to which the relevant enforcement notice relates (and had paid to the authority the fee payable in respect of that application); or
- (b) before the date specified in the notice as the date on which the notice is to take effect,

made an appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal of the local planning authority to grant such permission,

and at the date when the relevant enforcement notice was issued that application or, in the case of an appeal, at the date specified in the relevant enforcement as the date on which the notice is to take effect, that appeal had not been determined.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT APPEAL

If you do not appeal against the Enforcement Notice, the Notice will take effect on the date specified in paragraph 7 indicated above and you must then ensure that the required steps for complying with it, and for which you may be held responsible are taken within the period/s specified in paragraph 6 of the Notice. Failure to comply with an enforcement notice that has taken effect is a criminal offence and can result in legal proceedings and or remedial action by the Council.

PERSONS SERVED WITH A COPY OF THIS ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

In accordance with the legislation, this Enforcement Notice has been served on the following individuals / organisations:

The Owners

1.

2.

The Enforcement Notice has been sent for information to the following individuals / organisations:

Other named Parties

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 ENFORCEMENT Sections 171A, 171B, 172-177

s. 171A. Expressions used in connection with enforcement

(1) For the purposes of this Act—

(a) carrying out development without the required planning permission; or

(b) failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted, constitutes a breach of planning control.

(2) For the purposes of this Act—

(a) the issue of an enforcement notice; or

(b) the service of a breach of condition notice, constitutes taking enforcement action.

(3) In this Part “planning permission” includes permission under Part III of the 1947 Act, of the 1962 Act or of the 1971 Act. 1971 Act.

s.171B. Time limits

(1) Where there has been a breach of planning control consisting in the carrying out without planning permission of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of four years beginning with the date on which the operations were substantially completed.

(2) Where there has been a breach of planning control consisting in the change of use of any building to use as a single dwelling house, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of four years beginning with the date of the breach.

(3) In the case of any other breach of planning control, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of ten years beginning with the date of the breach.

(4) The preceding subsections do not prevent—

(a) the service of a breach of condition notice in respect of any breach of planning control if an enforcement notice in respect of the breach is in effect; or

(b) taking further enforcement action in respect of any breach of planning control if, during the period of four years ending with that action being taken, the local planning authority have taken or purported to take enforcement action in respect of that breach.]

s.172. Issue of enforcement notice

(1) The local planning authority may issue a notice (in this Act referred to as an “enforcement notice”) where it appears to them—

(a) that there has been a breach of planning control; and

(b) that it is expedient to issue the notice, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and to any other material considerations.

(2) A copy of an enforcement notice shall be served—

(a) on the owner and on the occupier of the land to which it relates; and

(b) on any other person having an interest in the land, being an interest which, in the opinion of the authority, is materially affected by the notice.

(3) The service of the notice shall take place—

(a) not more than twenty-eight days after its date of issue; and

(b) not less than twenty-eight days before the date specified in it as the date on which it is to take effect.

s.173. Contents and effect of notice

(1) An enforcement notice shall state—

(a) the matters which appear to the local planning authority to constitute the breach of planning control; and

(b) the paragraph of section 171A(1) within which, in the opinion of the authority, the breach falls.

(2) A notice complies with subsection (1)(a) if it enables any person on whom a copy of it is served to know what those matters are.

(3) An enforcement notice shall specify the steps which the authority require to be taken, or the activities which the authority require to cease, in order to achieve, wholly or partly, any of the following purposes.

(4) Those purposes are—

(a) remedying the breach by making any development comply with the terms (including conditions and limitations) of any planning permission which has been granted in respect of the land, by discontinuing any use of the land or by restoring the land to its condition before the breach took place; or

(b) remedying any injury to amenity which has been caused by the breach.

- (5) An enforcement notice may, for example, require—
- (a) the alteration or removal of any buildings or works;
 - (b) the carrying out of any building or other operations;
 - (c) any activity on the land not to be carried on except to the extent specified in the notice; or
 - (d) the contour of a deposit of refuse or waste materials on land to be modified by altering the gradient or gradients of its sides.
- (6) Where an enforcement notice is issued in respect of a breach of planning control consisting of demolition of a building, the notice may require the construction of a building (in this section referred to as a “replacement building”) which, subject to subsection (7), is as similar as possible to the demolished building.
- (7) A replacement building—
- (a) must comply with any requirement imposed by any enactment applicable to the construction of buildings;
 - (b) may differ from the demolished building in any respect which, if the demolished building had been altered in that respect, would not have constituted a breach of planning control;
 - (c) must comply with any regulations made for the purposes of this subsection (including regulations modifying paragraphs (a) and (b)).
- (8) An enforcement notice shall specify the date on which it is to take effect and, subject to sections 175(4) and 289(4A), shall take effect on that date.
- (9) An enforcement notice shall specify the period at the end of which any steps are required to have been taken or any activities are required to have ceased and may specify different periods for different steps or activities; and, where different periods apply to different steps or activities, references in this Part to the period for compliance with an enforcement notice, in relation to any step or activity, are to the period at the end of which the step is required to have been taken or the activity is required to have ceased.
- (10) An enforcement notice shall specify such additional matters as may be prescribed, and regulations may require every copy of an enforcement notice served under section 172 to be accompanied by an explanatory note giving prescribed information as to the right of appeal under section 174.
- (11) Where—
- (a) an enforcement notice in respect of any breach of planning control could have required any buildings or works to be removed or any activity to cease, but does not do so; and
 - (b) all the requirements of the notice have been complied with, then, so far as the notice did not so require, planning permission shall be treated as having been granted by virtue of section 73A in respect of development consisting of the construction of the buildings or works or, as the case may be, the carrying out of the activities.
- (12) Where—
- (a) an enforcement notice requires the construction of a replacement building; and
 - (b) all the requirements of the notice with respect to that construction have been complied with, planning permission shall be treated as having been granted by virtue of section 73A in respect of development consisting of that construction.

s.173A. Variation and withdrawal of enforcement notices

- (1) The local planning authority may—
- (a) withdraw an enforcement notice issued by them; or
 - (b) waive or relax any requirement of such a notice and, in particular, may extend any period specified in accordance with section 173(9).
- (2) The powers conferred by subsection (1) may be exercised whether or not the notice has taken effect.

- (3) The local planning authority shall, immediately after exercising the powers conferred by subsection (1), give notice of the exercise to every person who has been served with a copy of the enforcement notice or would, if the notice were re-issued, be served with a copy of it.
- (4) The withdrawal of an enforcement notice does not affect the power of the local planning authority to issue a further enforcement notice.