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PRESS RELEASE: Charity opposes bid for holiday park on historic Sussex site

Plans for up to 211 holiday lodges on The Normanhurst Estate would:

- ***Place unacceptable strain on an historic landscape***
- ***Damage ancient woodland and threaten local wildlife***
- ***Increase traffic, noise and light pollution***

CPRE Sussex is objecting to plans for a large holiday park on an historic Sussex site within the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty (AONB).

A planning application for up to 211 holiday lodges on The Normanhurst Estate, Catsfield, is currently being considered by Rother District Council.

The plan also includes amenity buildings, including leisure facilities and a restaurant, new roads and up to 350 car parking spaces.

CPRE Sussex director Paul Steedman said: “It is disturbing to see another holiday park application for the High Weald AONB so soon after campaigners and environmental groups, including CPRE Sussex, were able to defeat Center Parcs' entirely unsuitable proposal in the same AONB but that time near Crawley. This is one of England's finest protected landscapes. This latest application would place an unacceptable strain on the historic landscape.”

In its formal response to the planning application, CPRE Sussex raises three main objections.

The first is the impact on the High Weald AONB, including the visual impact and threat to the integrity of its boundary.

The second is the impact on areas of Ancient Woodland within the site, wider biodiversity and the threat to wildlife including newts, birds and bats.

The third is increased traffic and the associated noise, pollution and pressure on local roads.

The charity is also concerned about light pollution within the High Weald's dark skies area.

CPRE chair Dan Osborn said: “The developer's own Environmental Statement admits lakes, woodland and established pasture would be negatively impacted by the proposed holiday park. We urge Rother District Council to protect this historic landscape and refuse the application.”

The full application can be viewed online at

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2023/217/P>

Comments should be submitted by April 11.

-ENDS-

For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact sheena.journalism@gmail.com.

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.