

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/W/15/3140928

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/W/15/3140928

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

Land lying south of Harbournford
Hillyfield Plantation & Tom's Brake
SOUTH BRENT
Devon
TQ10 9DT
Grid Ref Easting: 271920
Grid Ref Northing: 062289

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS JAN O'HIGHWAY

Address

60 the Carrions
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5XX

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
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Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I am writing in support of Doug King-Smith's application for a wood drying barn and machinery store at Hillyfield.

As a teacher I have known Mr King-Smith as an educator for many years and am impressed with the social and educational work that he and team are engaged in at Hillyfield, balancing the woodland management in a sensitive and sustainable way with the provision of dry wood to the local community. This is a very valuable service to local people, reducing dependence on coal, electricity and oil for energy - and with the increasing rainfall expected due to our changing climate, it is entirely reasonable to need good provision for dry storage facilities for both wood and machinery.

Educationally their work in woodland restoration and understanding of ecology is crucial for our young people's knowledge of the natural world, and this service is financially underpinned by the business of selling dry wood, if Hillyfield cannot be a successful business this will severely impact their ability to provide educational services.

It certainly appears that the National Parks decision making process is inflexible and incapable of taking into consideration changing social and climate realities - unfortunately not inspiring confidence in their overall management of the Parks.

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS JOANNA WATTERS

Address

115 Plymouth Road
Buckfastleigh
Devon
TQ11 0DB

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I have bought wood from Doug King Smith at the Hillyfield, and would like to buy good quality dry wood from him again. I think his planning application for a barn to dry wood in is a genuine one, and I would like to see Dartmoor National Park support this kind of small scale sensitive business. Mr King Smith works hard and has a strong community spirit, and has encouraged volunteers to come and work on his land and feel part of the woodland management. I consider this an asset to our national park.

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS KATE GREEN

Address

Studio Flat B
10 Bank Lane
TOTNES
DEVON
TQ9 5EH

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3140928

Re: The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Kate Green of Studio Flat B, 10 Bank Lane, Totnes, Devon, TQ95EH

support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597. The Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy. I think that the appellant should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which they need to run a small-scale sustainable rural business. How can The Hillyfield keep looking after the land if it cannot run a successful business and does not have the infrastructure it needs? Surely there is an obvious forestry need for the following:

- 1) The temporary wood-stores (needed to dry firewood and planks before sale)
- 2) The tool lorry (needed to keep tools safe and dry)
- 3) The workshop (needed to fix stuff and sharpen saws and work out of the rain)
- 4) The compost loos (needed to... and beneficial for compost for orchard and soft-fruit)
- 5) The caravans and yurt (needed for seasonal forest workers)
- 6) The field kitchen (needed for volunteer days and seasonal forest workers)

This would NOT offer a visual intrusion on the park - it can't be seen from anywhere public and the structures are in keeping with the landscape and are built sensitively to make minimal impact.

It is vital that we take care of our woods - without well managed woods we lose biodiversity, we waste resources, and we lose touch with the land which can nourish us so deeply. 45% of all privately owned woodlands are either in neglect or critically under-managed. This is directly linked to a significant loss of biodiversity as woodland management practices changed over the last 50 years. This appeal isn't just about the Hillyfield... it's about setting a positive example to help other people bring woodlands back into active management, engage the community, and help develop a culture of wood on Dartmoor and throughout the UK.

I urge you to re consider and grant Hillyfield the permission they so vitally require.

Yours faithfully, Kate Green

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS ROWAN WYLIE

Address

12 Higher Green
SOUTH BRENT
TQ10 9PL

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

This is in support of the appeal of Doug King Smith in respect to his application for building barns to store wood. Felled timber must be kept dry otherwise it rots and has no commercial use.

With best wishes for a positive outcome

Rowan Wylie

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS SUE MOORE

Address

63 Cornwallis Road
Oxford
OX4 3NN

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to appeal to you to allow the Hillyfield a wood drying barn and machinery store that they need to manage the woods. They provide an invaluable service to local residents with their wood and help increase sustainability and reduce pollution as it doesn't need to be bought in from abroad. It would be impossible to run this business if the wood were not dry. As a consumer, it would be ludicrous to buy wet firewood. I am deeply concerned that they have been refused permission to build and their forestry structures have been enforced against; it makes no sense to me, particularly when they are actively managing and caring for the woodland. In addition to this, they bring a lot to the local community through volunteering opportunities, providing a link to the land for people, providing them with new skills and increasing their well being, on every level. I urge to you to give their work and commitment to the land the value it deserves by enabling them to continue to work on the land, with the wood drying barn and machinery store that they need.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Moore

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS MARTA EMMITT

Address

Meadow Cottage
Harbournford
South Brent
Devon
TQ10 9DT

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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COMMENT DOCUMENTS

The documents listed below were uploaded with this form:

Relates to Section: REPRESENTATION
Document Description: Your comments on the appeal.
File name: Hillyfield appeal.doc

PLEASE ENSURE THAT A COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED WHEN POSTING THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS TO US

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS GILL KING

Address

13 Penfield Gardens
DAWLISH
EX7 9NQ

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

It is essential that Hillyfield are able to have wood drying barn and machine store impending order to continue to carry out their woodland business. This will also mean that Hillyfield will therefore be able to carry on caring for and managing the land and woods in a sustainable and sensitive way.

I have first hand experience of the excellent work and conservation of the woods that they are doing, I have been on one of their volunteer days. It was very enjoyable to make a difference and feel appreciated for the small amount of work we did. It is amazing the work that has been carried out there.

It is imperative that they have barns were by they can dry their wood.

Also the structures they have are needed and in keeping to the nature of the work they do.

They are keeping important skills alive.

It is also that local people are able to procure locally grown sustainable timber.

I would be very disappointed if their work could not continue, if I were unable to volunteer again and mostly that Dartmoor park were to put a stop to it.

However, what I am envisioning, is that you allow the planning permission, so that Hillyfield are allowed to continue this amazing work.

With many thanks for reading this, and with much hope, Gill, ☐☐

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS SUE PEPPE

Address

Tynron
Thornhill
DG3 4LF

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I am appalled to learn that Dartmoor National Park (DNP) has refused permission to the Hillyfield for the wood-drying barn and machinery store needed for effective woodland management, and has additionally served two enforcement notices to remove the structures on site.

I have worked at the Hillyfield as a volunteer, and understand completely the need for these facilities.

- The selling of firewood is a prime source of income for this enterprise, and firewood needs to be dry, therefore a wood-drying barn is essential.
- The structures currently on the land, such as the toilet facilities, I consider to be beautiful, ecologically sound and inspirational; moreover, they are in accordance with best practice in countries like Finland. Other structures, such as the crew tent and caravans, may fall short of such a judgement but are necessary for accommodating the workers needed, many of whom are volunteers. The enterprise is only viable through their efforts, and it is only possible to attract such voluntary help by providing this type of facility. The structures are unobtrusive and temporary. I fail to see what harm they can cause to the public or to the character of the landscape.
- The machinery store is another essential. Machinery is vulnerable to theft and damp, and needs to be accessible for work on the land at all times.

I have great admiration for the ethics of the Hillyfield enterprise.

- The events held there encourage an interest in wild life and sustainable forestry, offering opportunities to local and young people for experience and fun out of doors in real countryside, while getting actively involved in the care of the land from which timber comes. Largely thanks to the facilities that have been objected to, these events offer minimal disruption to the countryside. Such opportunities are rare and should result in stimulating appreciation of all the DNP has to offer.
- In combining a forestry business with events that provide both fun and education, the Hillyfield contributes to the DNP aims of caring for the natural environment, improving biodiversity, and bringing back into active management neglected woodland.
- The Hillyfield enterprise has conformed to all instructions for dealing with disease in the trees. Felling deadlines have been met, and procedures for preventing the spread of disease outside the land have been scrupulously observed.
- The Hillyfield also encourages timber to be used locally rather than allowing it to go to waste or be exported: this is an important consideration for the interests of sustainability.

The guidelines for enforcement actions stipulate that the DNP should be careful not to damage its reputation, working instead to create trust that their decisions are proportionate to the harm caused to natural or built environment. In brief, my view is therefore that instead of ordering destruction and refusing permission for needed facilities, the DNP would benefit greatly from encouraging this enterprise and supporting its efforts to build better, more suitable, facilities.

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS ISOBEL BARNDEN

Address

The Old Stable Tornewton
Denbury
NEWTON ABBOT
TQ12 6EF

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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- Appellant
- Agent
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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I consider this application to be reasonable and in accordance with the business and land management needs of this small sustainable agroforestry undertaking. The design and location are unobtrusive and contextually appropriate. I am familiar with the Hillyfield and its environmentally sound principles, and I respect the commitment of Mr King-Smith to manage a sustainable yet values-driven business while simultaneously creating an inclusive community and providing training opportunities. He has already greatly improved the land and contributed to the local economy by felling and grading diseased timber and converting it for construction and firewood, then replanting with suitable species for ongoing woodland and wildlife management. The freshly sawn (and certainly not chemically treated) planks need to be stacked and stored flat and under cover if they are to have commercial value, and firewood is ideally seasoned; expensive machinery needs to be stored dry and secure if it is to have a long and efficient life - storage barns are common-sense requirements. I have been a volunteer tree planter and have taken part in community days where skills and enthusiasm for the environment are generously shared. What is there here that Dartmoor National Park could object to? Is not the whole range of commercial, environmental and community activities the Hillyfield is creating precisely what your own Dartmoor National Park Management Strategy 2014 - 2019: "Your Dartmoor" sets out to promote?

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SOUTH BRENT
Devon
TQ10 9DT
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SENDER DETAILS

Name: MS JUDITH BISHOP

Address: 2 Springfield Terrace
Springfield Road
SOUTH BRENT
TQ10 9AP

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I support the appeal for the above enquiry relating to Hillyfield and Tom's Brake. I live in South Brent, about 1.5 miles from the woods. I have been a volunteer in the woods helping with tree planting and woodland management and I have purchased wood products such as fencing, posts and seating. There is a real need for the woods to be able to earn an income and the 2 structures are essential for this to happen to provide space for tool storage and wood drying. If the woods are not financially viable then future management and investment will be limited. The owner has taken a very responsible attitude to the phytophthora outbreak and has had to fell many larch but has taken the opportunity to replace them with indigenous native species making the woodlands a delightful nature reserve. I feel it is really important to be supporting local initiatives. It is so much better that I use locally grown timber than transporting and even importing timber at financial and environmental costs. I struggle to understand on what grounds the National Park can justify the refusal of the barns as they will have no detrimental impact on the locality and they will be totally in keeping with good, small scale forestry management, which I would expect the Park to be promoting, not hindering.

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS HELEN DENNING

Address

6 Mount Pleasant
Moretonhampstead
NEWTON ABBOT
Devon
TQ13 8NY

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I am shocked to discover that you have turned down this application for a timber drying barn and a machinery shed. Dartmoor is not a museum to be kept frozen in time, it is a beautiful place and it is also where some of us live, and where people make their living. Harvesting the wood here is an important natural and environmentally sound business that should be being supported by the DNP. I agree we do not want to jeopardise the beauty of the Dartmoor area that we all love, but this business works with sustainability principles like using their timber locally rather than letting it rot, or selling it for export. It is also absolutely crucial, whether it is to be used for building or firewood, that wood is kept dry!

The fact that you plan to enforce against all of their forestry structures does not inspire confidence in me of Dartmoor National Park's methods of 'care' for the area. Hillyfield aim to manage their area in a positive way with woodland regeneration and ecology in mind. This can allow the woodland to provide to the wider community. I really value the sensitive approach taken by The Hillyfield in managing their woodland dealing with the disease in the trees. I live locally and have been there to community events which are extremely nourishing for those involved in many ways.

The Hillyfield want to continue with their woodland work and run a small profitable woodland business so they can continue caring for and managing the land. I totally support their application for a timber drying barn and a machinery store. Wood needs to be dry, as I stressed before. How can you possibly state that a barn for drying planks and firewood is not necessary for their forestry business? I wonder if you actually know anything about forestry business - I am sorry if that sounds rude but to refuse something as sensitive and sustainable as this seems like insanity or lack of wisdom and knowledge.

Talking of trees, and this is not to do with The Hillyfield, Dartmoor needs to have a huge amount of trees planted on it to help it to act as a sponge to decrease the risks of flooding during our increasingly erratic weather. I wonder if DNP would turn this idea down too...

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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MS SONIA PARSONS

Address

steward community woodland
Moretonhampstead
newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 8SD

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

It concerns me that given the sustainable nature of this business venture the national park authority is not in support of it. We are facing huge environmental crisis at present and local, sustainable land use projects need to be supported by their local authorities not hindered by out dated policies and beurocratic non-sense! Please give these people a chance to make a difference in this beautiful world that needs taking care of!

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SENDER DETAILS

Name: MS MELINDA BUNCE

Address: 47 Punchards Down
TOTNES
TQ9 5FD

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a customer of Doug King-Smith and purchase my firewood from the Hillyfield. He offers an excellent service and my firewood is delivered to my house dry and well seasoned. Anyone who heats their home with wood knows that it must be seasoned for six to twelve months before it is suitable to use. I am very happy to be able to buy my supplies from a reliable local sustainable source. Many people are having wood burners fitted in their homes as part of a choice to use more sustainable fuel, and the demand for seasoned logs is growing. This product cannot be provided without suitable dry storage to season the logs.

The 2004 Planning Act states that "the promotion of sustainable development is the main objective of the planning system. In simple terms it is development that helps protect the environmental qualities and the natural resources of an area, maintains social and community vitality and sustains economic opportunities so that these qualities, benefits and opportunities will be available to others in the future".

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West states that "development will only be provided for where it would conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage or promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of Dartmoor National Park or where it would foster the social or economic well-being of the communities within the National Park and is compatible with the pursuit of National Park purposes".

Doug King-Smith, along with his volunteers, have been working hard for the last 4 years to remove all the diseased larch from the plantation area of the Hillyfield, and to replant native species in its place, greatly enhancing the natural beauty and wildlife not supported by larch plantations. In order to carry out this work, the work must be supported by a viable business which requires the essential buildings under question.

I have been lucky enough to visit the Hillyfield on one of their open days and greatly admire the hard work which has gone into it, the educational opportunities in sustainable land use, and appreciate the opportunity to experience the sheer beauty of the place.

I am more than surprised that the National Park Authority seems to be set on sabotaging this small, local, sustainable business. I believe that small sustainable businesses which have a positive impact on the environment should be an increasing part of our rural economies and should be encouraged. I am surprised that the National Park are not actively encouraging such activity, as it seems this is part of its remit, and that instead of their negative stance, they should be setting out to assist those involved in doing work which "helps protect the environmental qualities and the natural resources of an area, maintains social and community vitality and sustains economic opportunities so that these qualities, benefits and opportunities will be available to others in the future".

COMMENT DOCUMENTS

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Relates to Section: REPRESENTATION
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File name: Hillyfield Appeal.doc

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Fland, Paul

From: javi villamayor <jarete32@hotmail.com>
Sent: 18 May 2016 11:22
To: Team E1
Subject: Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Francisco Javier Villamayor Cano, of Valencia (Spain), address: Ciclista Ernesto Codina 4,52

Support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

My brother in law Adolfo has been working as a wwoofer with Doug at The Hillyfield and he always talked me about the wonderful and really strong dynamic asset to the landscape and indeed to the biodiversity of the site. Unfortunately, my dearest cousin died on February and because of that all the family have recently visited the beautiful place of The Hillyfield that he had talked so much about. We support The Hillyfield because it has been a wonderful opportunity to work and support such a good project for my brother in law and for other people and because it's a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy.

Yours respectfully,

Francisco Javier Villamayor Cano

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Eland, Paul

From: Noemí <nomarna@hotmail.com>
Sent: 18 May 2016 11:19
To: Team E1
Subject: Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbourneford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Noemi Martinez Navarro, of Valencia (Spain), address: Ramón Llull, 1, 22, Support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

My cousin Adolfo has been working as a wwoofer with Doug at The Hillyfield and he always talked me about the wonderful and really strong dynamic asset to the landscape and indeed to the biodiversity of the site. Unfortunately, my dearest cousin died on February and because of that all the family have recently visited the beautiful place of The Hillyfield that he had talked so much about. We support The Hillyfield because it has been a wonderful opportunity to work and support such a good project for my cousin and for other people and because it's a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy.

Yours respectfully,
Noemi Martinez Navarro

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Eland, Paul

From: Yolanda Cristina <yocmn@hotmail.com>
Sent: 18 May 2016 11:17
To: Team E1
Subject: Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Yolanda C. Martinez Navarro, of Valencia (Spain), address: Ramón Llull, 1, 22, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

My cousin Adolfo has been working as a wwoofer with Doug at The Hillyfield and he always talked me about the wonderful and really strong dynamic asset to the landscape and indeed to the biodiversity of the site. Unfortunately, my dearest cousin died on February and because of that all the family have recently visited the beautiful place of The Hillyfield that he had talked so much about. We support The Hillyfield because it has been a wonderful opportunity to work and support such a good project for my cousin and for other people and because it's a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy.

Yours respectfully,
Yolanda C. Martínez Navarro

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Dartmoor National Park Authority
Parke
Bovey Tracey
Newton Abbot
TQ13 9JQ

Our ref: DC/2016/118047/01-L01
Your ref: J9497/C/16/3146596 &
3146597
Date: 12 May 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEAL FOR THE CHANGE OF USE OF THE LAND FROM AGRICULTURAL USE TO A MIXED USE FOR AGRICULTURE, RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND RUNNING COURSES AND ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT. LAND AT HILLYFIELD FARM, HARBOURNEFORD, SOUTH BRENT, DEVON TQ10 9DT

Thank you for notifying us in relation to the above enforcement notice appeal. We have set out our position below.

Environment Agency Position

Part of the proposal falls into a flood risk vulnerability category that is inappropriate to the flood zone in which part of the site is located.

Reason

This site lies on the edge of Dartmoor to the east of South Brent. The Harbourne River flows through the middle of the site. The river drains a steep flashy catchment which responds rapidly to rainfall. Our flood maps show that the centre of the site is located within Flood Zone 3 with the majority of the flood risk area defined as functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b). The caravans, in the approximate position marked 'E' on the plan, are located within the flood risk area. The extent of the flood risk area is shown on the attached plan.

Our Flood Zone maps do not include the effects of climate change and the associated increase in river flows. Proposals within flood risk areas must take into account the effects of climate change over their lifetime which is 100 years for residential development. The latest guidance on river flows in the South West is that current predicted flood flows will increase between 40% to 85%.

Environment Agency
Manley House Kestrel Way, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, EX2 7LQ.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework classifies development types according to their vulnerability to flood risk and gives guidance on which developments are appropriate in each Flood Zone. In this case the application site lies within Flood Zone 3 defined by the Technical Guide to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as having a high probability of flooding.

Caravans intended for permanent residential use are classified as highly vulnerable in accordance with table 2 of the Technical Guide to the NPPF. Tables 1 and 3 of the Technical Guide to the NPPF make clear that this type of development is not compatible with this flood zone.

Caravans for short term usage are classified as more vulnerable subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan. Paragraph 103, footnote 20 of the NPPF requires the submission of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) when development is proposed in such locations. An FRA is vital if the local planning authority is to make informed planning decisions. In the absence of an FRA, the flood risks resulting from the development are unknown. In accordance with advice contained within the NPPF the proposal will also need to satisfy the Sequential Test and both parts of the Exception Test. It is the LPA's responsibility to consider the Sequential test and conclude whether there are any other sites for the proposal or whether there are any overriding reasons for the development of this site. With regard to the Exception Test the LPA should consider the first part in respect of whether the development offers any wider sustainability benefits that outweigh flood risk. We advise on the second part of the test which requires the submission of a satisfactory FRA.

Yours faithfully

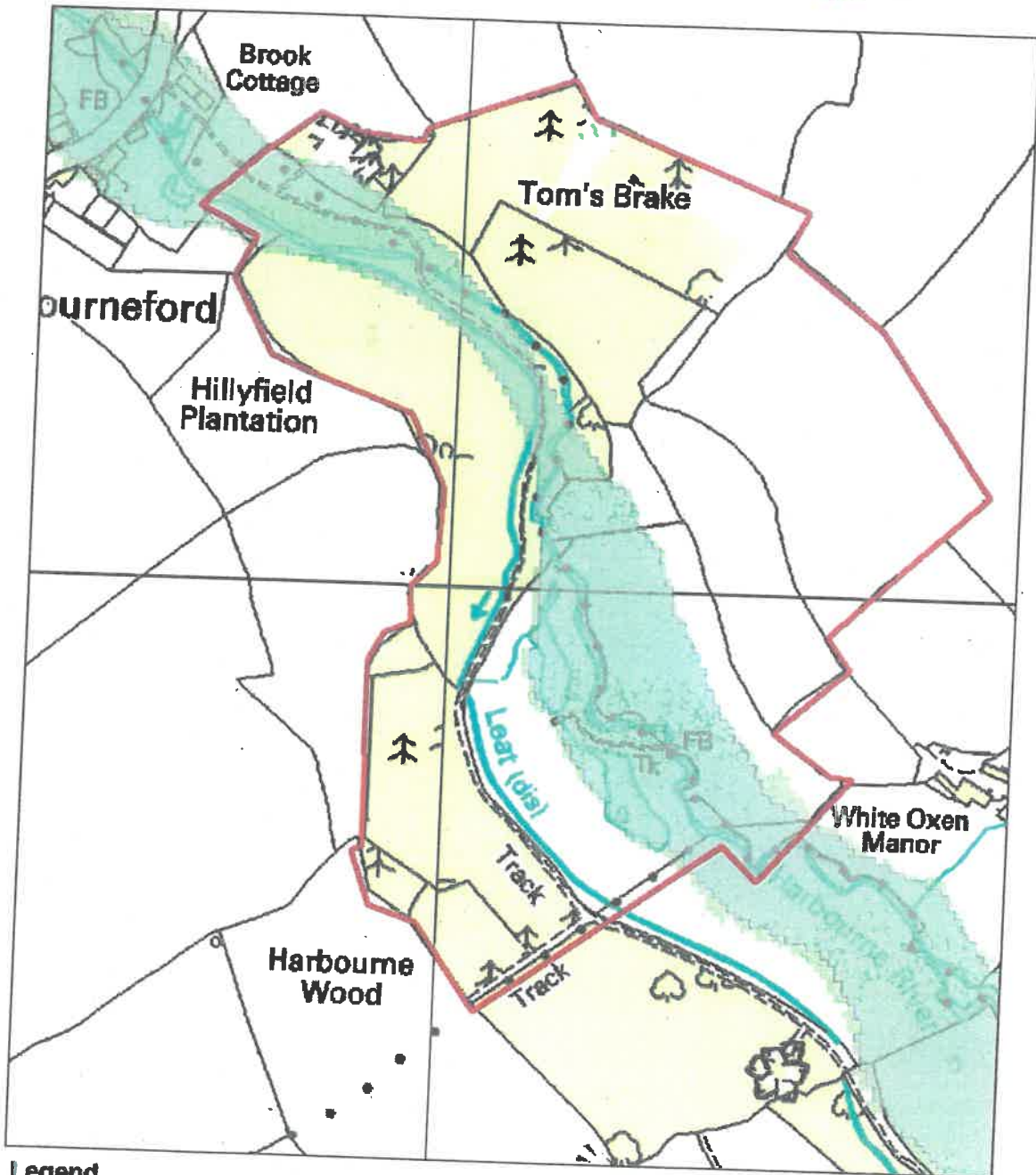
Mr Steve Maddison
Sustainable Places Planning Specialist

Direct dial 01392 354047



Direct fax 01392 444238

Direct e-mail steve.maddison@environment-agency.gov.uk

**Hillyfield Farm
Harbourneford
Flood Map**



Legend

-  flood_zone_3_010k
-  flood_zone_2_010k



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Eland, Paul

From: Ana Muñoz Navarro <anamn65@hotmail.com>
Sent: 18 May 2016 11:55
To: Team E1
Subject: Fwd: Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Ana Muñoz

Inicio del mensaje reenviado:

De: Noemí <nomarna@hotmail.com>
Fecha: 18 de mayo de 2016, 12:34:43 CEST
Para: "anamn65@hotmail.com" <anamn65@hotmail.com>
Asunto: Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake,
South Brent, Devon

I, Ana Isabel Muñoz Navarro, of Valencia (Spain), address: Cerdán de Tallada, 2, 7b

Support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

My cousin Adolfo has been working as a wwoofer with Doug at The Hillyfield and he always talked me about the wonderful and really strong dynamic asset to the landscape and indeed to the biodiversity of the site. Unfortunately, my dearest cousin died on February and because of that all the family have recently visited the beautiful place of The Hillyfield that he had talked so much about. We support The Hillyfield because it has been a wonderful opportunity to work and support such a good project for my cousin and for other people and because it's a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy.

Yours respectfully,

Ana Isabel Muñoz Navarro

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Fland, Paul

From: Nicola Glassbrook <nickiglassbrook@hotmail.com>
Sent: 16 May 2016 12:21
To: Team E1
Subject: RE: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597 and 3140928

**Nicola Glassbrook
51 Park Road. Exeter. EX1 2HT**

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon'

support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notice, and against refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery'

Doug King-Smith has created a sustainable business, which has revitalized and invigorated a previously unmanaged piece of woodland. In particular he has felled diseased larch which he is replacing with traditional broadleaf trees, which I believe is in keeping with the Dartmoor National Park's policy.

The Hillyfield provides the local community with firewood and timber. This satisfies a growing desire to be able to buy food and materials that are locally sourced and directly benefit the local economy, as opposed to relying on imported goods that have negative consequences for the environment due to transportation. I passionately believe that communities need to become more self sufficient; producing food and other resources locally and that we should support business that support this ethos, such as The Hillyfield.

The Hillyfield enables the local community to connect with nature through workshops and volunteering opportunities.

There is a growing body of evidence about the benefits to a person's emotional health and wellbeing from 'being in nature'. Likewise there is also evidence of the impact which volunteering has in promoting good mental health.

Dartmoor National Park is aware of the health benefits of connecting with nature and being more active. They are currently involved in a piece of work in partnership with Exmoor National Park and Public Health to encourage local communities to use the moors for recreational purposes, with the aim of improving health outcomes. Hillyfield offers these opportunities; it enables local people to connect with the moor, to be more physically active, to

contribute to the upkeep of the woods in a sustainable way and learn traditional woodland skills such as willow weaving.

In order to enable people to connect with nature in such a positive and meaningful way, certain facilities need to be available, hence the temporary structures on the Hillyfield site. None of these structures are intrusive, they are all wooden and therefore in keeping with the location.

In order for Dartmoor to thrive, people need to be able to work the land and be facilitated to do so. Arguably planning needs to meet the policy objectives of Dartmoor National Park in encouraging local communities to access the moor. In order for people to do this, there needs to be facilities; toilets, somewhere to shelter and get refreshments. Hillyfield meets the policy objectives of DNP so should be enabled and not discouraged by planning.

The woodland business should also be helped to develop by allowing the building of 2 barns to enable wood to be stored and seasoned and equipment to be stored.

I urge you to reconsider your decisions to refuse planning for the barns and insist on the removal of the temporary structures on the site and instead work with Doug King – Smith to further develop the Hillyfield in to a community resource and sustainable business.

Yours Sincerely

Nicola Glassbrook

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Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Richard Freeland, of Landmatters Co-operative, Allaleigh, tq97dl am writing in my capacity as secretary of the above mentioned organization to offer its full and unconditional support to the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

The Hillyfield forestry project is a genuine forestry business run by hard working, committed and visionary people. Not only does it strive to use sustainable land management practices to create a viable business, it also has a strong and passionate ethos of community involvement and the sharing and dissemination of knowledge of rural skills.

In order for the Hillyfield to remain a viable local business it is vital that it gets the infrastructure it needs to support its activities. It is a tragedy that so much of England's woodland are in a state of neglect through lack of management and a travesty when such genuine and community based projects such as this cannot rely on the aid of their local authorities to support their survival.

Speaking as an owner/manager of a small Devon woodland, I have attended training courses run at the Hillyfield aimed at promoting sustainable forestry skills such as logging with heavy horses and creating added value to forestry produce by using green woodworking to produce bespoke rustic furniture. Such trainings and skill shares not only benefit the Hillyfield but also support other small scale local land managers to run viable businesses.

In short, The Hillyfield is an exemplary project which offers local employment, local produce, training in sustainable rural skills and a much needed sense of community for all those associated with it. England's woodlands need more projects like this, not less.

Most sincerely,

Richard Freeland,

Landmatters Co-operative.

Angela Deckett
40 Westonfields
Totnes, TQ9 5QU

16 May 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Appeal Reference numbers APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928 regarding The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon.

I, Angela Deckett, of 40 Westonfields, Totnes, TQ9 5QU, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

I believe that the Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy. I think that the Hillyfield should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which they need for their business. The Hillyfield needs this infrastructure to be able to run a successful business to be able to keep looking after the land in a sustainable way. This includes:

- 1) The temporary wood-stores (needed to dry firewood and planks before sale)
- 2) The tool lorry (needed to keep tools safe and dry)
- 3) The workshop (needed to fix equipment and sharpen saws and work out of the rain)
- 4) The compost toilets (needed for those working on the land, and beneficial for compost for orchard and soft-fruit)
- 5) The caravans and yurt (needed for seasonal forest workers)
- 6) The field kitchen (needed for volunteer days and seasonal forest workers).

My husband has been a volunteer at the Hillyfield in the past, and feels that the sustainable management of the land is essential in creating a model for how land should be managed. The landowners clearly have a passion for the land and want to work sensitively with the surrounding landscape, which I feel should be supported and encouraged by Dartmoor National Park Association.

Kind Regards

Angela Deckett



0/2, 17 Crosbie Street
Glasgow
G20 0BQ

8 May 2016

To whom it may concern

Re: *Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928
The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbourneford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake,
South Brent, Devon*

I, Dr Carolyn Mills of 0/2, 17 Crosbie St, Glasgow, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

I am familiar with the Hillyfield, having stayed there for five weeks in January/ February 2015 and for a further two weeks in July 2015. I was volunteering in the woodland as a seasonal forest worker. I have a background in environmental consultancy, but more recently have been aiming to learn more about sustainable woodland management through practical experience, with a view to eventually buying a woodland to manage sustainably (both ecologically and financially) myself. Based on my experiences volunteering in various woodlands throughout the country, and reading about the topic, I believe that the UK's woodlands and their local communities would benefit greatly from an increase in small-scale management schemes that involve local people, enhance ecological value and generate supplies of timber and other products for local markets. Doug's management of the Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business that incorporates all of these aspects, so I was very keen to volunteer there to help with work in the woods and to gain practical experience in managing a woodland in this way.

It was obvious to me that the way in which Doug is managing the woodland is beneficial to the local ecology and landscape (e.g. by hand-felling, using horses for extraction, replanting with native broad-leaves and planting up additional areas) and that he is developing and enhancing a valuable resource for the future. He is also developing a market for locally produced timber and firewood, which is beneficial for the local rural economy, as well as in terms of sustainability. However, in order to achieve the management goals and fully develop the forestry business, the woodland must be financially viable. It is clear that, realistically, unless there is sufficient infrastructure in place it is impossible for the Hillyfield to be financially viable. The key to making this type of woodland business viable is to add value to wood products on site. Being able to store and effectively air dry firewood and planked timber in a barn within the woodland provides a simple but significant way of adding value. The current storage arrangements do not promote quick drying and also result in the wood needing to be handled several times, creating additional work. In addition, being able to store machinery and equipment under cover will prolong their lifespan, reducing running costs.

Volunteers and seasonal forest workers are used to help with the management of the Hillyfield woodland, while community involvement is also important. This benefits the local people by providing opportunities to spend time in the woods, providing educational opportunities, also helping to promote sustainable rural livelihoods and a sustainable local economy. It also provides a great opportunity for volunteers such as myself to learn about sustainable woodland management and to spend time staying and working within a natural environment (increasingly difficult in modern society). In order to

enable these benefits and allow people to continue to manage the woodland, a few basic, temporary, non-intrusive structures are needed within the woodland. These include facilities such as a compost toilet, caravans and kitchen tent that make it possible for people to stay on site, as well as storage facilities for tools and timber.

Overall, it seems clear that, while there would be little or no negative impact from a small number of low-impact structures within the woodland, there are a great number of environmental and social benefits that would result, both immediately and over the long term.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Carolyn Mills

I am writing a letter of support for the Hillyfield woodland. Me and my family (3 children, 2 boys, 1 girl) have been involved at Hillyfield for a number of years. I can only speak of my personal experience of why I value the time we spent there. It is a unique project where all three children enjoyed spending time, despite their different ages, interests and genders. There are not many places where parents can take their children to learn about nature in a hands on way, that don't cost a lot! The children were able to learn about the natural landscape, the skills it takes to maintain it and the value of teamwork. Trees were planted, shrub and brambles cleared, willow planted and in the process, we learnt about plants, tree diseases, safe use of machinery etc. It gave the children a sense of belonging over time, as they saw their efforts grow, change and at times washed away by the stream.... The volunteering gave the children a sense of worth, as their efforts were appreciated and encouraged. Doug and Claire are very skilled at motivating people and creating a sense of belonging and of being part of a community. Doug's influence as a positive role model really was also really important to me. As a family we had little involvement in the local community, and The Hillyfield drew us out of our cocoon a bit. As my children's father suffers from Alcoholism, and our immediate family and relatives live abroad, the children lacked positive role models, and we all particularly loved the shared mealtimes. Hearing people's stories instilled a belief in the teenagers, that their life can be lived, and dreams can be made a reality. I would therefore ask you, that The Hillyfield be allowed to continue with their work of maintaining the woodland with the involvement of the locals. Thank you Claudia Downing

1) Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

2) The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

3) I, Christopher Haley of Pasture Farm, East Allington, Totnes, DEVON TQ9 7QA support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

I support the Hillyfield Appeal.

I work in a local Organic Soup factory and have come to know Doug King-Smith through the fundraising evenings and events over the past number of years that have been put on to raise interest in the project. We have been very glad to support these events through donations of organic soup.

It was through this ongoing contact we arranged for a staff day to be held at The Hillyfield. For the first time in our 16 year history our business invited staff to attend a paid day away from the factory as a bonding, team building, barbeque day.

The Hillyfield was a wonderful place for us to spend that day and this kind of community inspired relationship between business and land allowed us to have a very memorable event. Its absence would in my opinion be detrimental to the community and I would support anything that can be done to enhance their ability to thrive.

In a personal capacity we have also bought rocket logs from Doug, a great local resource.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Haley

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Silas Keeling, of 32 south milton st, Cattedown, Plymouth, PL40QE support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

I have known of Hillyfield for two years and hear stories of its success on a regular basis. The hard work and passion that goes into maintaining an ever dying woodland is admirable. It is clear to me and everyone living or working within the local community that the work at Hillyfield is purely for the benefit of the forestry and economy.

I can see that Hillyfield is in need of a wood drying barn and that without the basic necessities that it is being deprived of it will not be possible for it to uphold its purpose in maintaining the forestry. The work and effort that is poured into Hillyfield is vital for the community and the landscape, yet the basic requirements needed to maintain this are being withdrawn and rejected without valid reason.

Hillyfield is far from an eye sore, it does no harm to the scenery or agriculture and there is no valid reason for this project not to get the support that it deserves.

Re. Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Nicholas James Maxwell of 4 Lower Collins Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5 PS support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

The Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. I have recently installed a wood burner in my home and have twice bought good quality firewood from The Hillyfield, confident that it comes from woods that are well managed and that in doing so I am supporting a business that is good for the local environment, this rural economy and my particular community. I am keen to support a local business that has a strong sense of responsibility towards the land, the environment more generally and community.

I think that The Hillyfield should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which they need to run their small-scale sustainable rural business. Without being allowed to run a successful business The Hillyfield will not be in a position to properly manage and care for the land, a job which they do well and which makes an important contribution to maintaining biodiversity and the re-wooding on Dartmoor.

The wood-drying barn and the machinery store - as well as temporary wood-stores (needed to dry firewood and planks before sale), the workshop (needed to fix stuff and sharpen saws and work out of the rain), the compost loos (needed for obvious reasons and beneficial for compost for orchard and soft-fruit), the caravans and yurt (needed for seasonal forest workers) and the field kitchen (needed for volunteer days and seasonal forest workers) - offer no visual intrusion on Dartmoor National Park, can't be seen from anywhere public, are in keeping with the landscape and are built sensitively to make minimal impact.

9 Droridge
Dartington
TQ9 6JQ

22nd April 2016.

Ref: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596 and 3146597 and 3140928

Site address: The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harboureford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notice, and in support for granting the prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery.

I believe the DNPA should give permission for the buildings which are necessary for the forestry activities undertaken at The Hillyfield.

There are a range of social, economic and environmental benefits of the Hillyfield's activities:

- The Hillyfield is managing and regenerating woodland within the National Park, in a way which is ecologically sensitive
- The Hillyfield provides sustainably managed woodland products including timber for construction and wood fuel to the local community and local construction industry
- The Hillyfield provides training opportunities in valuable traditional and rural skills and in sustainability
- The Hillyfield provides a venue for community events and for social cohesion

I have visited the Hillyfield for their 'Woodland Olympics' event which was a wonderful celebration of traditional rural skills, and educational for all ages. I have also purchased locally sourced, sustainably managed wood fuel from them.

The organisation for which I work, Transition Homes Community Land Trust, which is providing affordable housing in Dartington, is looking to The Hillyfield as a local source of sustainably managed timber for construction.

I am proud that the Hillyfield is within Dartmoor National Park and provides a modern day example of the enterprise and activity which has been occurring on and around the moor for thousands of years. It is an ideal location for people to enjoy the natural environment and learn woodlands skills, as well as to enjoy fun community events. The Hillyfield is located in a secluded area which is of minimal impact to others, as such there is no reason to refuse permission.

If The Hillyfield is required to remove the structures, they will no longer be able to continue their woodland restorations activities and all the benefits to the local community and environment will cease. The structures have been used for several years already with no detrimental impact on the environment or neighbours.

Many managed woodlands are not operated in such a way that encourages community participation or offers educational opportunities. The Hillyfield should be supported by DNPA, as an exemplar of sustainable woodland management.

Regards,

Nicola Lang

Hems Acre
Littlehempston,
Devon TQ9 6NE

13/05/2016

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbourneford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Elizabeth Crawford, of Hems Acre, Littlehempston, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

Dear Mr Eland,

I am writing in support of the appeal against the enforcement notices that have been issued to the Hillyfield woodland project in South Brent, Devon. I purchased firewood from the Hillyfield for the first time in October 2015. It is important to me that my wood is locally and sustainably sourced, and I have been very happy with the service and product offered by Doug and the Hillyfield. It is clear to me that this is a project with an ecological and community focused vision, offering valuable services including sustainable produce, environmental and rural skills education; and a forestry business model that could support and inspire similar ventures in other woodlands. Having studied sustainable woodland management at the Ruskin Mill project in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, I understand how the engagement between humans and the natural world that is fostered by such work is often one of care and deep respect, accompanied by an astonishing knowledge of local flora and fauna and seasonal cycles. Such qualities, in my view, are of vital importance to nature conservation, and in the nurturance of a healthy and sustainable relationship between humans and the environment. Removing human activity from natural places may help to satisfy our nostalgia for pristine wildness, but ultimately this route can only lead to increased separation. Working with the land and its many organic processes can propagate integration, bringing together our human consciousness with the needs of the natural world and enabling a future of informed choices and ecological awareness.

The Hillyfield has been issued an enforcement against all the structures on site, which are vital for the continuance of the project there. The buildings are unobtrusive and do not make any visual imposition on Dartmoor National Park. They are not visible from any public areas, and are low impact structures, designed and built with sensitivity to the surroundings. In themselves, these buildings demonstrate a way to live more gently and in aesthetic conversation with our environment. I oppose this enforcement, the implementation of which would dismantle the infrastructure of a well-loved and valued local project, and rob of a livelihood those individuals who care for and understand this corner of our stunning Dartmoor landscape.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Crawford

Rose Cottage
Harbourneford
South Brent
TQ10 9DT

28th April 2016

Appeal Reference APP/J9497/C/16/3146596 and the other associated issues

Address: The Hillyfield, Land lying south of Harbourneford. Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, Devon.

Dear Inspector

I support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices, and against refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery.

I have been a resident in Harbourneford for about 20 years and I was delighted to find that the woods were going to be managed. I have written in support of Mr King-Smith's forestry business several times over the last few years and cannot understand why there seems to be so much difficulty in supporting something that is clearly improving everything. There is no harm in caring for these woods.

What will happen if Mr King-Smith is not able to keep managing these woods?

The planners at Dartmoor National Park seem not to be supportive of what appears to me as a resident of Harbourneford, totally acceptable. In fact it has improved the landscape and it gives the village an interest as well.

The young people, who grow up here, will know that it is good to help woods to survive, so that we can all live in a nice varied area or woods, grass, and river.

Mr King-Smith's proposals for a small and sustainable forestry business is absolutely ideal. I feel that we are lucky to have him in charge of the woods at Harbourneford.

The woodland offers local people an opportunity to learn about the importance of woods, and the skills will be passed on – if we keep at it. However it appears that this is all under threat. I would like a meeting with the park to put these points forward.

It's no good writing letters all the time – we are happy with Doug here and know that he is managing the woods in a sympathetic way, respecting the needs of the village.

We are very fortunate to have someone interested in woodlands – how many people are there left who are able to engage in work which is so

poorly paid. It's like having a road – you need someone to keep it in good shape.

That the National park refuse to support the necessary barns for this business seems against their policy and their duty. I pay in to the park as a park resident and expect them to behave as a much more forward looking group of people. They should represent the needs of the environment and the residents.

I visit the woods regularly, not as much as I would like, but at least three times a year to visit Doug at work. I feel absolutely thrilled that the woods are being so beautifully managed. When I pass there I think 'thank god he is there, otherwise what would happen to that wood'. You could have all sorts in there.

I have seen no damage to the visual amenity of the national park. In fact I think that the woods look attractive and well looked after. It could be a mess, fires burning all over the place, I just don't think they have thought about it.

Can we please have a positive reaction that is favourable for Doug to continue his work?

Yours faithfully,

Audrey Price.

Rose Cottage
Harbourneford
South Brent
TQ10 9DT

28th April 2016

Appeal Reference APP/J9497/C/16/3146596 and the other associated issues

Address: The Hillyfield, Land lying south of Harbourneford. Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, Devon.

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Can we please have a positive reaction that is favourable for Doug to continue his work?

Yours faithfully,

Audrey Price.



**National
Trust**

Nick.allison@nationaltrust.org.uk
Direct line: +44 (0) 01752 333505

17/05/2016

Reference:

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Nick Allison, of Saltram NT, Plympton, Plymouth. PL7 1UH support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I visited Mr King-Smith's forestry and woodland management operation on 17/05/2016. I manage the National Trust's countryside and garden teams at Saltram and Antony. These are Plymouth estates, one on either side of the city. The Trust's policy is that when we buy timber products, for example for fencing or for building, the environmental impact of production and transport should be minimal. There are not many small-scale forestry producers and it is important that processors such as Mr King-Smith should be supported and encouraged if I am to be able to source local, traditional materials.

I have over twenty years' experience in woodland and countryside related industries, and I recognise a well run woodland operation when I see one. During my site visit today I was struck by

- The high standards of site presentation at Hillyfield,
- The healthy and well cared for livestock,
- The lack of damage to the understorey where felling and extraction operations have been carried out,

National Trust
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President: HRH The Prince of Wales
Regional Chair: Clare Broom
Regional Director: Mark Harold

Registered office:
Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 2NA
Registered charity number 205846



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Neat and tidy work areas, which imply ordered site management and a safe working environment. Both these are signs of conscientious and professional working practises.

It is difficult to succeed in small scale forestry enterprises such as this one. The hard reality of the work involved and of effective habitat management can overwhelm the more idealistic. The Hillyfield team should be proud of what they have achieved so far.

I would like to see the existing infrastructure and the proposed barn receive planning permission for two particular reasons:

1. I want Hillyfield to survive in the long term as a supplier of high quality timber products with a minimal need for treatment with chemical preservative. It is important that The National Trust and others are able to buy these locally.
2. Besides the quality timber products which I need to be able to buy locally, the Hillyfield provides other things that The National Trust would like to see more of, namely:
 - a. volunteering opportunities;
 - b. nature education opportunities;
 - c. sensitive land management leading to increased quality and quantity of natural habitats.

At Hillyfield I enjoyed seeing the practical facilities that a woodland management operation needs, being delivered in a way that is sensitive to the landscape's appearance. All too often a portaloos and a shipping container suffice for toilets and a tea room. Hillyfield's approach to providing kitchen, accommodation and so on looks and feels much better to me, and must contribute to a more inspirational experience for the volunteer workers who come to the site.

Overall I struggle to see why this business is not getting a more positive response from the DNP. I have read a recent DNP business plan, and it appears that the Hillyfield is providing or could provide much that the DNP aspires to. Such aspirations can also be found in The National Trust's policy statements.

1. Employment on the land for local people;

Cont/d

2. An ecologically sustainable business;
3. Volunteering and training opportunities for young people;
4. Limited impact on the landscape;
5. Value added to relatively small quantities of timber that might otherwise be left to waste;
6. Good habitat management.

These are all things we, as an organisation, aim to encourage and realise, both on our own land and our neighbours'.

I support a strict planning policy to prevent lesser organisations from disrupting the balance of the countryside. But in this case I urge the inspectors and planning authority to grant the requested permissions to Mr King-Smith and the Hillyfield, a most deserving case.

Yours Sincerely,

Nick Allison

Nick Allison ~ Garden and Outdoors Manager ~ Saltram and Antony

*t National Trust | Saltram, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 1UH |
01752 333500 | www.nationaltrust.org.uk |*

Cont/d

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Concerning: The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Mrs Lou Brown, of 6 Bridge Rd, Follaton, Totnes, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

9th May, 2016

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to support the Hillyfield Appeal. Over the last couple of years I have visited the site several times, and been impressed and inspired by the forestry work going on there.

The immense work felling diseased trees, the planting of hedges, the tree-planting, the production of timber – let alone the sensitive but encouraging and educative way that the Hillyfield have supported the involvement of local people to join in and volunteer, gaining important rural skills – all these aspects have made me feel that the Hillyfield offers so much to the local community, as well as a sustainable, environmentally sensitive approach to managing the land.

I cannot understand that Dartmoor National Park are enforcing against the very necessary buildings and infrastructure that enable The Hillyfield to work the land in a sustainable and beneficial way for the local community and rural economy.

Surely actively managing the woods there and providing local people with firewood and home-grown timber is exactly the kind of activity the Park authority should be looking to encourage?

I believe that The Hillyfield should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which they need to run their small-scale rural business.

I can see no way that anything The Hillyfield have done with the land makes a negative visual impact on the Dartmoor National Park. All the low-impact, necessary buildings cannot be seen from anywhere public, and all the structures I have seen were wholly in keeping with the surrounding landscape.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Brown - 6 Bridge Road, Follaton, Totnes, TQ9 5FG



*Deer Wood
Loddiswell
Devon
TQ74EE*

Dear Sir or Madam:

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE HILLYFIELD

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon.

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Tool Storage and Wood Drying Facility:

As a local businessman operating in the area and having purchased timber milled on site from Doug King Smith, the necessity for these facilities is very clear to me. Their machinery needs safe housing out of the elements, the timber needs proper dry storage to ensure the best quality and the workers also need a proper place to work in and shelter when there is poor weather. The quality of the product that I purchased from Doug was very high and I will not hesitate to purchase from The Hillyfield again. But as a professional in this trade I know that if the machinery doesn't have adequate safe storage it will become rusty and dysfunctional. This costly machinery will then not only become hazardous to use but will also compromise the quality of the cut. I would like the timber that I purchase from The Hillyfield to be of the best grade with no water staining or weather discolouration, this can only be achieved when properly stored in a purpose built facility.

Other Structures & Woodland Activities:

Up until a generation ago Britain's woodlands used to buzz with activity. The coppice-man making hurdles for the farmer, the woodsman cutting logs for the fireplace and timber for the mill ultimately for the builder, the charcoal maker, the bodger making split and bent wood furniture, the hunter and the gamekeeper. They all worked side by side with nature generating an income from an ecosystem that they knew and understood. But by the Second World War and the advent of mass production mechanised industries these old ways of life went into steep decline and deciduous woodland went into neglect. Many skills that had been passed on down the generations all but disappeared. Diverse and ancient deciduous woods were replanted with lines of monoculture pine forest.

This was the situation at The Hillyfield- a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) but now under the management of Doug King Smith this particular woodland is being very effectively turned back into a healthy and diverse environment that is once again starting to generate produce. Not only this, but also many of the old woodland skills are being revived and shared too. This key work being done by Doug and the team at The Hillyfield is part of a very timely re-emerging woodland culture whereby some of our precious wooded sites are once again being utilised.

The re-emerging woodland culture then is society's cry of need. A movement in the hearts and minds of people who want to reconnect with the land and earn a living on it but also give back to it in a balanced way. So that not only do the humans benefit from the place in many ways but so also do its flora and fauna and the greater environment as part of a vital tapestry of dynamic and beneficial land users, and also beyond this to the community at large- benefitting people of all ages from many walks of life.

This is indeed vital work and should be enabled and encouraged.

Regards Marc Biddle- Golden Oak

Thea Platt
18 Higher Westonfields
Totnes
TQ95RA

May 17th, 2016

Appeal Reference Number:

APP/J9497/161 3146596 3146597 3140928

Re The Hillyfield

Land Lying South of Harbourneford

Hilly-Field Plantation and Toms Break

South Brent

Devon

I support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928 and against refusal of prior notification for 2 forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597

I am a customer of Hilly-field (purchasing fire-wood and eggs) and visit Hilly-field events with my 3 year old son to give him the experience of being in nature and observing a working woodland.

The Hillyfield is a wonderful example of a thriving rural enterprise that keeps our countryside alive and allows people to make a living from the land, in this case in a totally environmentally sustainable way. The hard working family behind the Hilly-Field have built up a successful sustainable business that supports the local environment and community in a variety of ways, including training young people in woodland/forestry skills that are being largely lost throughout the country.

The structures that are in place on this land are essential infrastructure for the business and must not be allowed to be pulled down, to do so will destroy the business and make the land unworkable. In addition to this, I believe planning permission must be granted to them for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which is an essential addition to their business and will enable it to continue to evolve and grow.

The structures on the land are low impact, beautifully crafted, made from natural materials and well-screened and therefore have no negative impact.

Dartmoor National Park are a Local Authority who aim to support thriving rural economies, what better way of fulfilling this aim than ensuring this business is protected, supported and encouraged?

Thea Platt

Customer of and friend of the Hilly-Field and Totnes resident.

I live in Dean Prior and run my business, Rivers Joinery from there. I have, over the past eight years, been involved with the Hillyfield in several different capacities. Firstly as a volunteer, contributing to the regeneration of this piece of beautiful woodland. Secondly as a customer.

It is my company's policy to buy timber from local and sustainable sources when possible. We have bought rough sawn planks and beams of larch from Hillyfield, on several occasions, to fabricate items for our customers such as the firewood store below.

This woodshed perfectly illustrates the sustainability and legitimacy of Hillyfield as a genuine forestry business. Hillyfield has sold Rivers Joinery rough sawn timber, we have processed the timber and made a beautiful product (from timber felled by government order). That product now stores firewood for a customer in Ashburton (firewood from Hillyfield or other local suppliers managing Dartmoor woodlands). The wood waste from production has even returned to Dean Prior to be used as chicken bedding, composted and thence back into Dean Prior soil!

I find it hard to imagine a more sustainable, local economy boosting, community-aiding, environmentally-friendly feedback system, than that described.

Hillyfield is exactly the kind of initiative that DNP, local planning, national government and indeed all local people who care about our heritage and the future of our children, should be supporting. In my honest opinion.

Clearly, any genuine land-based business needs structures to aid in the running of said business. IMHO all structures that Hillyfield has

already constructed and those for which permission has been applied for should be given approval without further delay.



Representation in Support of Planning Appeal.

16/05/16

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I, Karen Benson, of 5 Meadow Brook, Totnes, TQ95SJ, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

I've attended Hillyfield volunteer days, events and gatherings over the past several years. It has been a formative element of my sons upbringing and my own connection with nature and community.

Nothing can give a child a real understanding of the importance of the environment better than being on the land, witnessing people working together, seeing water collected from nature, seeing, touching, smelling felled wood, meeting the horse which supports removing felled trees from the wood. No school lesson on sustainability can embed the understanding that comes from this direct experience. Children's understanding of the connection between nature and product is so undermined in this century and yet it is crucial to rise to the challenges of the future. The experience of being part of a community that emerges from working together as volunteers for a day or two, just dipping into a bigger project gives one a sense of connection to the forest, the real knowing where ones wood comes from and the value of resources.

As well as being a small scale sustainable forestry business, Hillyfield is especially successful at engaging community. It has brought young people into contact with Dartmoor and working on the land, and allows many people access to this landscape in a more intimate and engaged way than a walk on the moors.

It hugely contributes to enhancing public awareness of the special landscape of Dartmoor and I know Doug has spoken passionately about bringing small scale sustainable projects on Dartmoor together.

Volunteering on a weekend to create a stone circle was an immense experience of community power and connection to the land. Seeing the team effort that emerged to transport giant granite stones by human muscle alone, the debate on the trial and error of methods, gave respect to these massive stones and linked us back to our heritage this landscape.

My son has grown up solely with his mother and for him to have the experience of being immersed in community working together has given him the opportunity to be a part of a wider family of men and women and experience supporting men in tasks he might not otherwise experience. He has developed many positive relationships with men through being a part of the Hillyfield wider community, which I believe support him in his development as a young man.

For me the benefits of Hillyfield project are manifold and demonstrates exemplary mutual benefit with the environment, the community and the business of sustainable forestry.

The business is the cornerstone enabling all of this to happen. In order to thrive it needs the buildings to store wood, prepare wood, keep tools, work shelter and basic facility for people working on the land to manage.

Having visited many times I have been impressed how Hillyfield has managed with such minimal structures and simple field kitchen. I feel we are lucky that people are prepared to live so simply to do sustainable work on the land. All the seasonal workers I've met there have been lovely and have had one thing in common, it's obvious that their heart is in sustainability and looking after the environment rather than what they can get out of it. Surely, this above all is an attitude we need to support and cultivate. In their own way, these workers are great role models for young people.

I do hope that Hillyfield continues to develop and with support can thrive to the benefit of the local businesses and community, and the woodlands in Dartmoor National Park.

Small scale sustainable forestry can play a role in sustainable rural development and helping governments to meet the growing challenges of climate change and related targets.

Obstructing the development of this project is contradictory to the development of sustainability in the Dartmoor area, both in terms of sustainable businesses and promoting public awareness and engagement in sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Benson

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

My Name - Adam Maher

Address - 8 Jellicoe Villas, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5LH

To whom this may concern

My name is Adam Richard Maher, I have worked for over 11 years within the environmental conservation industry within the UK. I have mainly worked for the National Trust, but have also worked for the Wildlife Trust. I have worked from the bottom up, beginning as a residential long term volunteer working for the National Trust on heathlands and woodlands in Surrey to eventually becoming head of Parks and Gardens working for the National Trust in Warwickshire managing a busy 260 acre estate of wood pasture and lowland flood meadow. At this site I was responsible for delivering the targets of the Higher Level Stewardship plan, managing livestock within the freedom foods standards and managing a large team of staff and volunteers whilst always adhering to current UK legislation relating to the work I carry out and the requirements that I should provide as an employer.

Along the way I've had the privilege to work at Hatfield Forest in Essex; a National Nature Reserve of European significance with some of the UK's finest ancient Forest. As a forester here I was responsible for a busy annual work plan of felling, mensuration of timber, ecological surveys, selling firewood and milled timber, deer culling, coppicing, pollarding etc.

The reason for the two paragraphs above, are to outline my background within forestry and the management of ancient woodland and to also highlight the responsibilities I have held within these positions.

I finished working with the National Trust in January 2016 and moved to Devon where shortly after I responded to an advert for volunteers to help manage Hilly Field. With my background in forestry, the felling of infected Larch and replanting was something I have a lot of experience with; I also have a passion for the proactive management of woodlands using local communities, something Hilly Field is all about.

The forestry work being carried out on Hilly Field is hugely beneficial for wildlife and the local ecology of the area. The restoration of ancient woodland by felling larch and replanting with native broad leaves, cannot be disputed in having a positive long term effect on a wide range of fauna and flora, especially BAP species something the National Parks should be championing, which I'm sure they are.

Hilly Field is a viable, indisputable forestry business connecting and serving the local communities that surround it, not just from the diverse groups of local volunteers but also the countless local people that purchase the produce from Hilly Field in the form of fire wood and planks for example.

I believe that Doug King Smith should be granted permission for the wood drying barn and machinery store which both vital in creating a sustainable viable forestry business. Without them the

likely hood is Hilly field would no longer be managed in such a proactive way and thus having a negative affect felt throughout the local communities and also on the flora and fauna found on the site.

The current structures that are found on Hilly field, the field kitchen, compost toilets, workshop, tool lorry, caravans and yurt, and temporary wood store, are at the most basic possible level to provide an environment to run a small forestry business; if any of these are taken away the likelihood is that Hilly Field could no longer run as a viable forestry business.

As I mentioned above, I've had the privilege to work on some of the most beautiful and fragile conservation sites across England and I count the Hilly field within these. The work that Doug King Smith is carrying out connecting local communities with nature, providing sustainable ethical wood sources for local people and enhancing the biodiversity of remnant ancient woodland should be championed by Dartmoor National Parks Authority who I believe should be supporting Doug King Smith to continue to his positive work at HillyField.

Kind Regards

Adam Maher

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

Dear National Park Planning Inspectors,

I am writing to you with regards to the forestry enterprise known as The Hillyfield, land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon; and the enforcement acts served against them by the Dartmoor National Park Planning Authority.

I am writing in the capacity of a resident of Dartmoor National Park, who chose to move specifically to the National Park for the unique quality of natural beauty and the kind of human society that it offers; and as an entrepreneur who is passionate about bringing ongoing business to local communities and, therefore, to Dartmoor, in a way that would enhance those inherent qualities.

When I discovered Dartmoor a few years ago I was spellbound by its beauty. I couldn't take my eyes off the rugged, wild character of the landscape, its golden light, its singing rivers, and the domestic yet free animals roaming there, at one with their environment. I felt that this was exactly the way things should be. I was further intrigued by a sense of connection with thousands of years of human communities that have walked, lived, worked, loved and fought on this land, their presence still alive and palpably vibrant in the elements all around. But what finally completed my engagement with Dartmoor, making it stand out from the numerous other beautiful places I had visited in the past, was meeting the people of the moor. They struck me as both hard-working and simply happy, naturally combining those qualities in a way that is rarely found in modern society. This unique way of life seemed to emerge from that very connection to their land and its ancestral feel of living communities. I was surprised and deeply moved to experience their devotion and care to, and pride for the land of the moor, and at the same time an unrestrained joy to share it, to invite everyone to experience its magic in an open hearted welcome. Another unusual combination, unique to Dartmoor, and which to me clearly represents the strength of its attraction.

When I finally moved here 3 years ago, I was naturally proud to become a resident of Dartmoor as a National Park. When people asked me what the place was like I would say: "Well, it's a National Park." with finality, and that was meant to be self-explanatory. To me, it meant a place where the land is honoured and protected and where people, by appointing an official authority to ensure that level of care, are truly fulfilling their role of husbands of the land we live on. And to everyone I spoke to, this seemed to be the tacit understanding too. I believed that in that respect Dartmoor was a leading example to the nation, that everywhere should be a National Park.

For 3 years now, I have had the privilege to explore Dartmoor in more depth, meet its people, enjoy its immensely rich cultural life and discover the amazing plethora of ventures or other ways of expression that bring the moor to life in that unique, dartmoorian way: honouring the land together with the people. Gosh there is nowhere else I'd rather be and live, nowhere else I'd want to bring my contribution to as a person, as a carer of the land and as an entrepreneur. For nowhere else is joy so intrinsically part of earthed practicality, inspiring one to feel at peace with our place as human beings again, something that is very sought after in a world of such doubt and disconnection. No wonder Dartmoor attracts so many visitors every year who come from far and wide not only for a taste of extraordinary soul-replenishing beauty: but also because each person then goes home with a sense of reconciliation with themselves, a rekindled inspiration to be in the world. A gift from the people of Dartmoor, beyond the mere beauty of the landscape.

Everyday-life here makes me think: "Dartmoor is so lucky". So lucky to have such people living on it, who dedicate so much time and energy just loving it, looking after it, bringing work to it, making Dartmoor magic happen. None of this could happen, and Dartmoor wouldn't exist, without them.

For me this sense of what Dartmoor is has been embodied every time I drive back from a trip further afield, by the plaque on a rock marking the boundary of the National Park. The discreet, beautifully engraved sign, signalling a zone of special care, bringing a sense of reassuring unity and protection in that respect. "Welcome to Dartmoor National Park" – and I know I'm home. "Please drive with Moor Care" – this uniqueness, a smile, the human love of the land and the invitation to join in the conscious care for its life. Yes, I'm home. On this land, and with these people. And I'm excited to invite everyone I speak to to come and visit it too, impatient to share it and make it an unforgettable experience for everyone – as it was once done for me.

I got to know The Hillyfield woodland almost as soon as I arrived and have taken a keen interest in their venture: volunteering and taking part in educational events. As a social entrepreneur, I was particularly impressed with

Douglas King-Smith's unequalled talent in marrying a solid running business with environmental and social education, whilst also in effect achieving a level of forest husbandry – Dartmoor forest husbandry – that mainstream forestry businesses can only dream of and probably don't even care to match.

As a trained farmer in sustainable and organic farming, I know that managing woodland sustainably for its perpetual conservation with no impact on its natural life is in practice a solid challenge that is seldom met in today's forestry practices, where the over-use of heavy machinery destroys the fragile habitats that ensure its growth. Yet The Hillyfield have made that very challenge their core, unquestionable target and have put in place what it takes to achieve it, letting no obstacle deviate them from that goal. This in itself is a full-time management practice. The added challenge of clearing the diseased larch whilst preserving the woodland makes it a titanic enterprise, and they have put all their might and heart to that, too. Generating business within that would seem a tall order... but not only does The Hillyfield operate as a business, they also ensure that they support local economy and provide the local community with sustainable, ethical wood from Dartmoor, meeting a demand that is becoming pressing in the light of today's serious environmental challenges.

And as if that wasn't enough, The Hillyfield also actively support the future of the Moor by offering a direct connection to and providing education about sustainable forestry and wild landscape preservation practices to the generations who will next be looking after it. Their events, all centred on wood as a resource for communities, are some of the best I have attended in terms of creativity, effective education and practicality: as everyone leaves buzzing with a sense of fun and achievement, more connection to woodland produce, more knowledge and skills and more wood too – and The Hillyfield with more clients.

It is so pleasantly surprising that an enterprise can touch so many people and fulfil so many levels of benefit to a landscape whilst remaining totally invisible in the surroundings and occupying such little space on its own land. Walking through The Hillyfield woodland, one cannot fail to be touched by the sheer magical beauty of the place, with wildlife present all around and human constructions seemingly absent from the landscape. The discreet and minimal facilities, all put up in natural material that have no ecological impact and with the conscious care that they leave no trace the day that they are taken down, are so at one with the natural visual flow of the woodland that they are almost invisible.

It seems that no ecological value is left unaddressed and no standard of environmental and social compliance too high for The Hillyfield.

Having worked with Douglas King-Smith and the Hillyfield team and associates, I can confidently vouch that one couldn't find people who work with such genuine intention and tireless labour for the enhancement and conservation of the patch of Dartmoor they are the carers of, who moreover understand its ecosystem so thoroughly and give their everything to ensure its health and prosperity.

I would, with no hesitation, quote The Hillyfield Woodland as a leading example of successful business attitude for the future I want to see and help materialise on Dartmoor.

In this light it seems obvious that The Hillyfield is one of the champion projects of Dartmoor National Park, in effect of its own accord committed to developing what people seek in a National Park's protected area. It would make total sense to see them quoted in the "Learning About" section of the DNP website, as part of the Park's commitment to education about Dartmoor. One can easily imagine that with a bit of support and visibility, The Hillyfield Woodland enterprise could quickly become a key attraction to the flow of visitors of Dartmoor too: embodying with pride values that would become an example to follow by other National Parks and land-protection authorities across the country.

Considering this, the fact that the National Park Authority doesn't show active support to the enterprise is a surprise in itself, but the refusal of planning permission for buildings of bare necessity to the running of forestry activities, and now the notices of enforcement that are being served against The Hillyfield are utterly confounding. When reading the notices I felt deep shock and one question formulated clearly at each line, voiced again and again by every person who hears about the enforcement: Why?

On the DNPA website it is stated that "The purposes of the Dartmoor National Park Authority are to **conserve** and **enhance** the **natural beauty, wildlife** and **cultural heritage** of the National Park; and to **promote** opportunities for the **understanding** and **enjoyment** of the area's special qualities **by the public.**" – this is under the "Looking After" heading. According to these principles, none of the arguments served in the enforcements against The Hillyfield make sense, and if there were any misunderstanding a visit to the woodland and attendance to their work and events would easily dissipate them.

To me, The Hillyfield embody exactly what makes Dartmoor the beautiful, attractive place it is, achieving that substantial task whilst humbly and totally blending in the landscape in a way that very few other moorland

enterprises do. On top of that, they bring money, sustainable business practices and a model of exemplary humanity to our very own, cherished National Park.

My puzzlement is all the greater as I see approved planning projects being erected all over the National Park that seem completely at odds with the purposes stated above: for example housing estates blatantly defacing the visual aspect of the moor and built with high environmental impact and unsustainable materials, destroying natural habitats, such as the one in Chagford. Various private extensions to houses or new outbuildings that are a complete visual mismatch to the traditional character of the landscape. And soon a supermarket in Bovey Tracey, for some reason not considered an eyesore or threat to the wildlife of the appointed land.

Interestingly, under the heading "Living In" the Park there is very little to be found and no indication on the National Park's commitment to the residents of Dartmoor and to local economy.

Meanwhile, I have now witnessed in person the impact of one administration's misguided decision on the lives of people whose livelihood and legitimate business depend on their premises, and the basic human right to work of honest labourers being put to question by a powerful institution. A deeply disturbing experience, and something I never thought I would see in my lifetime – certainly not on Dartmoor.

This experience has shaken my trust in the National Park and modified my perception of what the Park is and what it seems to stand for in reality. If the core values of the National Park as stated on their website are misguided or flouted and if, on the other hand, the people who work daily and actively to really support the conservation and enhancement of Dartmoor are systematically being incapacitated by the Park Authority they should be supported by, it makes me feel doubtful – and deeply sad – not only about Democracy in the country I live in but also about the future of Dartmoor as an ecosystem and landscape.

The enforcement against The Hillyfield perhaps raises the issue that the time has come to seriously re-define the core values of the National Park, and the means to achieve them.

My dream is that an institution that has got so much potential and leverage would proudly stand not only for superficial beauty: but also for environmental, social and local economical sustainability. A National Park Authority whose residents would once again be proud to stand for in return, with mutual honouring and support being the key to the conservation of our amazing and beloved moor – on environmental *and* human levels. A partnership, and a remembering of the Park's core reason for existence that seems to have got lost somewhere along the line... but could be restored.

As I am waiting for the verdict about The Hillyfield woodland enterprise, my feeling when I drive past the boundary stone of the Park has now turned to unease and bitter worry. Who is "Welcome to The National Park"?

"Drive with Moor Care"... I am asking of you, dear officers: Please do.

With deep respect and kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Marie Franco

I, Marie Franco, of Streamside, Waterfield, Moretonhampstead TQ13 8PR, support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notices in cases 3146596 and 3140928, and against the refusal of prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery in case 3146597.

Personal Letter - Luke Butler

Your name and home address

Luke Butler - 27D Hammelton Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3PZ

Appeal Reference number APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

The Hillyfield address: 'The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbourneford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon'

'I support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notice, and in support for granting the prior notification for two forestry buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery'

I stayed at the Hillyfield for two periods as a residential seasonal forestry worker and monthly volunteer. The first period was between 1 December and 23 December 2014 and the second period was during the month of May 2015.

During the first period I stayed in the shack in the quarry and in the second I stayed in the yurt in the woodland grove near the mess tent.

During my stays at the Hillyfield I was able to learn a great deal about woodland management and forestry by being given the opportunity to perform a number of tasks; as well as the uniqueness of Dartmoor and the surrounding area. This included basic use of a diverse range of hand tools such as the machete to clear bracken, shovel to turn compost and a wood stripper to clear bark from fallen trunks. In addition to this I was shown how to use machine tools such as a circular saw and electric drill to make wooden stakes and such. Additionally I practiced with traditional hand tools like a froe and using carpentry tools such as chisels, axes, and a shaving horse to learn basic carpentry skills which could be put to use creating useful structures for the land as well as saleable product for the Hillyfield's clients.

As well as learning how to use hand tools and machine tools. Some of the work at the Hillyfield revolved around larger machines such as the wood processor and saw mill. Using the saw mill I learnt how to confidently produce wooden planks, cut to a variety of sizes, to be sold for flooring and building projects but also for the Hillyfield's own structures for storage and protection of both tools and wood. Along with the saw mill, the wood processor was an important part of the work. With this equipment, which was operated by connecting to the site's tractor, I, together with colleagues, I was able to cut rounds and lengths of wood into sizeable portions of firewood which could be sold to clients as a core and regular part

of the business at the Hillyfield. This also helped clear the woodland and make use of the diseased larch that was felled. Producing rocket logs was also an important and exciting part of this task.

During the winter season of my work at the Hillyfield almost all of the work revolved around extracting felled trees from the hillside and marking for saw mill processing. This was a rigorous process and I learnt a great deal about communication between team members, maintaining a safe workplace and working hard to achieve results. It was a potentially risky task but with good communication and team work ethic we made good progress in December 2014.

Alongside routine tasks of the woodland, such as collecting firewood, processing wood, trimming and clearing the site, a routine part of my stays at the Hillyfield revolved around animal husbandry. Each morning and evening we would care for the chickens, making sure they were fed, watered and shut away each night in their houses. During my second stay this also extended to feeding the orphan lambs that were kept on site and ensuring they had pellets and necessary protection from the elements.

There were also more seasonal elements to my stays. In the spring we would weed dock leaves and learn how to scythe. During this period we also maintained the site by realigning the paths with wooden barricades and wood chippings & installing new water tubing. During the volunteer weekends we would put in work for the future by planting trees such as oak and hazel and sharing knowledge about the woodland and the uniqueness of the location.

Overall I would say during my stays at the Hillyfield, I was really able to appreciate the importance of managing the woodland and how important the work done was in terms of preventing disease to trees, making use of the considerable raw materials at the location, and using the forest to produce economic benefit whilst simultaneously preserve it for the future.

The structures on site were integral to the work we performed. At the most basic level they gave us a place to sleep, cook and be protected from the elements whilst at the same time allowing us to stay in the forest, sharing this special place with other animals and the trees around us. This made the caravans and yurts extra special. Additionally the toilets were a welcome change from the norm as they were compost toilets, using saw dust and made from wood prepared on site, so we always felt connected to the forest even in our private moments! Outside of basic amenities, the workshop and various tools sheds were integral to the work, giving us a meeting place and storage area but also allowing us to undertake important work even when the severe weather conditions made it difficult to work outside. In particular the workshop was the hub of activity. Here tools would be sharpened and oiled, plans would be made concerning the day's schedule. It was a focal point of the activities at the Hillyfield and, along with the other structures, it was a key part of our work whilst always feeling in keeping with the natural surroundings around us.

As well as offering a great deal of education through the practical work on site the Hillyfield also offered the opportunity for cultural exchange which was really valuable. Some volunteers came from abroad to work at the Hillyfield, and as a result of the international

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character and differing ages, I learnt to communicate and respond to different personality types and people from different backgrounds. This was an important feature of my stays and made for a great opportunity to build interpersonal skills and develop lasting friendships.

In conclusion I feel my stays at the Hillyfield were great experiences all round. I learnt a huge amount of practical skills, which I believe to be ideal preparation for anyone considering a career in the woodland or at the very least offering young and old people a chance to re-connect with ancient practices and get outdoors by undertaking meaningful and very satisfying work. The abilities and mindsets I developed have even aided me in situations not directly connected to forestry, in particular fortitude and strong work ethic. I really appreciated the importance of every task I undertook at the Hillyfield, knowing I was contributing to a special procedure and helping keep a space such as the Hillyfield, which is sadly becoming less common every day, alive both as a workplace and a community but also a woodland for trees, animals and birds. It was a very rewarding experience that I would recommend to anyone both for pragmatic education but also to discover something about yourself and learn to be more independent and resilient in a truly special place. I would happily return in the future to help again!

I left the woods for the last time at the end of May 2015 to resume other paid work and visit family, finishing my agreed work period at the Hillyfield.

PS Doug's a great guy!

