

Oska Lake Thomas, of 5 Market Street, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0BA

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597, and 3140928

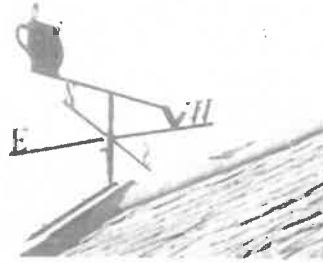
The Hillyfield, Land Lying South of Harbournford: Hillyfield Plantation and Tom's Brake, South Brent, Devon

I 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.

As a resident of the area, the Hillyfield has provided me with invaluable service. It is a source of local high quality, affordable and sustainable firewood and timber products, delivered reliably and with a level of personal service I have not found anywhere else. It is an incredible asset to the local area and communities to have a business properly managing a woodland in such an active way and providing services to local people, while regenerating the local woodland at the same time.

Such a quality of product and service would be impossible to deliver without the sites temporary wood stores and workshop to process and mature wood in the necessarily dry conditions, as well as the basic temporary non impacting structures that support workers on site. These are the basics for the business to function and provide for local people. It is undoubtedly clear that the Hillyfield is used for forestry, and the proper active managing of woodland.

The Hillyfield is playing an important role in finding local people livelihoods and employment, as well as providing those same local people with means to keep their homes and families warm. Few private woodlands in the country offer such a degree of benefit to their local communities. It is astonishing and bizarre that any authority would seek to set back such a business from the means it needs to continue to provide this benefit to local communities, and even go so far as to hinder it in its everyday activities. If the authority were to remove the structures necessary to support the proper functioning of the woods management and business, it would be to the detriment of the woodland environment and the local economy and community



**Planning Inspectorate
(this letter submitted on-line)**

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6 May 2016

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

Dear Sirs

We 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.

We are the father and step-mother of the owner of the Hillyfield (Douglas King-Smith).

We encouraged and supported Douglas in purchasing part, and subsequently full ownership of The Hillyfield. Before this, he had investigated several options of land purchase in Devon to fulfill his lifetime goal of learning about and furthering the sustainable and ecologically sound use of land by example and through education of others.

We have visited the Hillyfield and provided a few days of assistance every year since 2009, staying with friends or later on at our second home in South Hams. Our activities have included helping with timber clearance, snedding and brashing, mending the crew tent, weed clearance in the pond, improving the tracks, maintaining equipment and tools, and helping with administration and paperwork.

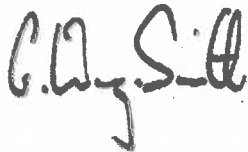
With regard to the recent enforcement notices and Douglas's application for prior notification for the erection of barns for wood and machinery storage, we consider that these and all the temporary structures at the Hillyfield to be necessary and appropriate during the gradual development of the land into a sustainable operation. Specifically:

- a tools store is essential for keeping tools dry and in good condition and safe from theft
- the fuel store and wood shelters are essential for keeping firewood dry and saleable

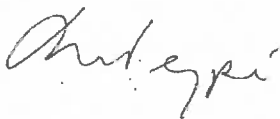
- a workshop is very necessary for maintaining equipment needed for managing the land
- the caravans are excellent temporary housing for volunteer workers.
- the yurt which is occasionally erected is a nice addition in the way of shelter and attractively in keeping with the landscape
- the field kitchen and ecological toilets are essential for volunteer workers and participants in educational events as there are no shops or services near The Hillyfield .

We have felt privileged to be able to support Douglas in regenerating The Hillyfield and hope that the National Park will also support this work which appears to us to meet the long-term vision and policies of National Parks in the UK. We consider that, as we believe is the case with Exmoor, all such woodlands should be adopting an approach to woodland management on the lines that Douglas is striving to achieve.

Yours faithfully



Gavin King-Smith



Dr Susan Jean Evadne Peppé

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, Charles Narewski Scullion, of 71 Oaklands Park, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0BP 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 a resident of Buckfastleigh and have lived in Devon for thirteen years. During this time I have been fortunate to attend some of Hillyfield's public open days. I was impressed and inspired by the work they had carried out and the way they had risen to the challenges of learning to manage complex woodland in a responsible co-operative way. By creating a navigable site, I was able to take in the variation in the landscape and its wildlife. The open days were a wonderful opportunity to meet people in the community and remind ourselves how important it is to engage with Devon's abundant natural beauty.

It is highly valuable that Hillyfield should be allowed to continue their work. They are a genuine forestry business which manages its woodland in ways which benefit a wide range of wildlife, and in doing so create local community resources such as fire-wood and timber in a sustainable way.

By managing woodland in this way, they serve as an educational model for future generations to learn about engagement with nature, beneficial forestry/agricultural practices, and community-led stewardship of land for the benefit of both wildlife and people. I also believe that it is important that Devon should lead the way in supporting such practices in light of depletion of wild areas, hedgerows, ancient woodland etc.

Taking care of the land, maximising the diversity of wildlife on it, requires suitable infrastructure and the opportunity for land-based enterprise that pays for the essential work and maintenance. I think that permission should be granted for the wood-drying barn and machinery store as essential components of running Hillyfield as a sustainable business in a rural environment, with forestry and woodland management at its core. Additionally I support the availability of a workshop for dealing with resources harvested from the land.

I am in support of structures that can accommodate volunteers as residencies for volunteers will allow more effective continuity of planned woodland management over several days. A field kitchen should be provided for this work. I would also support the provision of compost toilets both for the workers/volunteers and for the sustainable management of waste for the benefit of plant-life.

The Hillyfield site, including its structures, are visually sensitive to its surroundings and the private aspect of its landscape means that it is not intrusive on views. The very nature of it being well-managed makes it a very beautiful place to visit as it is abundant in a huge variety of plant and animal species.

Though I have been unable to volunteer due to family responsibilities, it is my intention to lend my support as a volunteer in the future, and my hope that my children will learn responsible and respectful attitudes towards the natural world through engaging with Hillyfield's community activities.

Hillyfield has proven itself open to engaging with the community with its volunteer opportunities and public open days. They are a strong centre of education and inspiration and important for Devon's natural and cultural future.

Yours Sincerely, Charles Narewski Scullion

17th May 2016

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Christopher Timpson, of Nelson Coach House, Staverton, Devon, 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 on the following grounds:

- 1) The Hillyfield is a unique initiative, dedicated to the hugely important role of managing and sustaining biodiversity and the beautiful English woodland landscape which is increasingly neglected and under threat.
- 2) The dedication of Doug King-Smith, his family and all the many passionate volunteers who work tirelessly to enhance and protect the environment and the community is both an inspiration and an example to us all. We need to encourage more initiatives like this and I am dismayed to see the DNP being so short sighted and unwilling to acknowledge the huge net benefit The Hillyfield has to the area.
- 3) In order to ensure future generations appreciate and continue to protect this important landscape it is vital that we support education initiatives. We live in an age where skills are dying out and people are completely removed from the fragile ecological systems that provide the food and materials which end up on the shelves and in our homes. The Hillyfield provides excellent and unique learning opportunities for people of all ages which should be encouraged and proliferated.
- 4) I can confirm that The Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. I am a customer of the excellent timber products available from The Hillyfield and in 2015 sourced all my timber from them – primarily fence posts, rails and gates. As the custodian of a small piece of land myself, it is hugely important to me to be able to source quality locally grown timber, to both maintain the use of traditional materials and minimize the carbon footprint of my activities.
- 5) I am in full support that The Hillyfield should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn, machinery store and other structures which they need to run a small-scale sustainable rural business and allow them to continue their excellent community work.

In summary I can see no rational or logical reason to take steps to prevent current and future activities at The Hillyfield which are so clearly of huge net benefit to the environment and community. Furthermore, given its discreet location, the activities and their essential structures do not appear to be of detriment to any other party.

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, Victoria Narewski Scullion, of 71 Oaklands Park, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0BP 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 site is a genuine forestry business that not only cares for the local environment by managing what was otherwise a neglected woodland but also supports surrounding communities by allowing them access and interaction with their unique space and educating them in the processes involved in sustaining such a site. It also offers people the opportunity to buy local wood and support their local economy. I have attended fundraising days with my family there over the past three years and seeing what they are achieving and how they are managing the site is inspirational to us. We fully intend to go on supporting their efforts in attending future events and learning what we can from them.

in order for the sight to continue to be run effectively, present and future structures are necessary. the structures are minimal and in keeping with the landscape and are completely unobtrusive from any outside view.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my views,

Yours Sincerely, Victoria Narewski Scullion

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, Emily Lewis, of 71 Westonfields, Totnes TQ95QX

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 lucky enough to have spent some time at The Hillyfields over the last 4 years, I have helped plant trees, bought firewood and joined in with social events.

The Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business providing the local community with excellent firewood and timber. As well as this, there is a focus on maintaining the native trees and biodiversity of the land. This has valuable benefits for the local, and wider, community as areas of natural, native woodlands are becoming less common. This has a direct impact on a wide variety of other plants and also animals.

In order to run this small scale forestry business, there is a genuine need for a wood drying barn as well as other small builings. I am aware that none of the buildings affect anyone that is not working on the land as it is not overlooked.

I believe the land to also be a valuable place for community events where people can appreciate the beautiful countryside that we still have in Devon, while at the same time leaning about how to live in a more sustainable way and how to protect our native woodlands.

The Hillyfield should be granted permission to keep the structures that they need in order to run the forestry business, manage the precious woodlans and provide a valuable community resource.

Thank you for reading this and considering this issue carefully.

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 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.

To whom it may concern,

In May 2013 (between the 6th and the 20th) I stayed as a volunteer at the Hillyfield, South Brent, Devon.

I was granted the use of the lakeside caravan during my stay. This was most welcome since I was travelling without a tent.

The work I was involved in consisted of clearing the woodland banks from bramble bushes, building a board walk over swampy terrain, fencing off the compost toilets and learning how to fell trees and milling them into timber.

However there was no dry place to stock the timber.

There was also a lack of covered space to store tools and machines, making them vulnerable to weather conditions.

Fortunately there was a field tent where I could cook and two compost toilets for use.

I'm convinced these basic shelters were essential for my visit and an addition of more solid structures to work in would not only greatly improve the potential of this woodland, I'm confident they are vital for the good practice of doing forestry.

Even though my stay was limited to only two weeks, I learned a great deal about forestry and what it means to work on a woodland, something I had never done before.

I was also introduced to basic woodworking which led me to enrol in a traditional woodworking course in Belgium, which I successfully completed in March 2015. (*please find a scan of my obtained certificate attached at the end of this letter.)

Currently I give workshops with greenwood and recycled wood and aspire to make this a fulltime employment.

It is clear to me that my current activities were directly influenced by my experience at the Hillyfield.

Since I visited during springtime, I was fortunate to witness the woodland transform into its natural glory.

During my brief stay, I've met several wonderful people who became friends to this day.

Needless to say, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay at the Hillyfield as it inspired me immensely, both personally and professionally and it strongly reaffirmed my respect and admiration for nature preservation.

I feel privileged to be able to express my support for this project and I am definitely planning to visit the Hillyfield again somewhere in the near future.

Therefore I must reiterate my confusion as to why the permission for these barns face such unnecessary opposition.

I left the Hillyfield on the 20th of May 2013 to continue volunteering on several eco-friendly projects comparable to the Hillyfield.

Koen Van Gotha
Herfststraat 10
9000 Ghent
Belgium

26 April 2016



GOCN erbare
Member of Cocom Group erbare

Gents Opleidingscentrum voor Ambachten

Getuigschrift

Hierbij verklaart cvba so **GOCA** dat:

Van Gotha Koen rfm: 860408-061-78

de opleiding:

Ambachtelijke Houtbewerking

heeft gevolgd bij **GOCA** cvba so en deze met vrucht heeft beëindigd
alsook een geslaagde stage liep in een geregistreerd bedrijf
tussen **22/04/2014/** en **25/03/2015**

Management: Johan Baumans

Goca cvba so

Henri Farmanstraat 33

9000 Gent

09/2591454

VDAB



Vlaanderen.be

Tony Homfray
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, Tony Homfray, 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).

I have volunteered at the Hillyfield numerous times and the landowners' commitment to sustainable principles of land management is unquestionable. The work going on at the Hillyfield is an exemplary model for small scale land management and it would be a great loss for it to be forced to stop. The landowners are continuing and reviving a centuries old approach to land and woodland management – something we desperately need more of, not less.

Kind Regards

Tony Homfray

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbournford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR JOHN WARRE

Address

The Great Barn
Bondleigh
NORTH TAWTON
EX20 2AN

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I am Dr John Warre of The Great Barn, Bondleigh, Devon, EX20 2AN. I first heard about the Forestry work being done at Hillyfield in 2014 when Mr King Smith was appealing for volunteers to help fell Larch trees which were likely to become infected, as some already had been condemned. I visited on a daily basis and took part in the felling and processing of the trees and in the extraction of other already felled timber and its processing into firewood and lengths for milling on site into boards and posts etc. I also helped make seats and benches from the trees. I also helped in fencing and hedge cutting on the edges of the property. I was working on a purely voluntary basis (I do similar voluntary work with the National Trust in Fingle Wood and have helped with tree work elsewhere on Dartmoor National Park helping the Dartmoor Ranger Mr Ian Brooker). It was obvious to me at Hillyfield that due to the extent and nature of the work there was a need for a structure or structures to securely store machinery, plant and timber products. The Band saw in use was kept in the open, which was not ideal and tools and other requirements for timber work were kept in open areas which again was far from ideal or secure. I support the appellant in appealing against the enforcement notice, and in support for granting the prior notification for two festery buildings for the drying of timber and storage of machinery. Mr King Smith has endeavoured to engage voluntary workers in his work to provide a community woodland and return the woodland under his care to one with native trees, plants and wild life. This is a worthwhile effort which is being encouraged and actively promoted in other places in Dartmoor, in particular at Fingle Woods with the National Trust, Woodland Trust, Devon Wildlife trust and the Dartmoor Natonal Park all being involved in the worthy objective. Similar smaller work in being carried out at, for example Butterdon Wood by 'Running Deer' and to some extent by such groups as the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Group at Bellever (I've helped there as well). In all of these cases there is a strong element of community involvement and Mr King Smiths attempts to do likewise are worthy of support. This submission relates to Appeal Refs APP/J9497/C/16/3146596, 3146597 and 3140928

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The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

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Appeal By

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The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR GRAHAME BLACKWELL

Address

1 Water Cottages
Manaton
NEWTON ABBOT
TQ13 9UB

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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

- Appellant
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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I 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. These facilities are essential for effective running and management of Hillyfield, it would be a serious retrograde step to refuse their approval.

Hillyfield is a highly responsible and well-managed woodland regeneration project. Such initiatives are to be encouraged and supported to the full, rather than restricted or suppressed. It seems most disappointingly short-sighted for planning authorities to rule against essential facilities for a visionary project of this nature.

We are constantly being told of the need for well-managed woodland, which provides benefits in a whole host of ways: wildlife habitat, water drainage, oxygenation, healthy recreational facilities, education in forestry and woodland skills, provision of timber from local sources - the list is very extensive. It's not at all clear why an LPA should wish to impede the effective running of such a laudible and worthwhile project.

I respectfully ask that you find in favour of the appellant and allow them to continue this good work with these essential buildings. Hillyfield is a positive asset to the local community and is to be encouraged to the full.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Grahame Blackwell

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The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal By

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Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR FIONA DANN

Address

Yetson Hayes
Ashprington
TOTNES
TQ9 7EG

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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

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What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
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- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I, Fiona Dann of Yeson Hayes, Ashprington, 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 been going to community events and helping out on community woodland management days with Doug King-Smith for the last five years. In that time he has taken a neglected woodland and poured time, love and expertise into it, to return it to a native woodland, and a working, renewable and expertly managed local resource. I have brought firewood from Doug on many occasions, so supporting the local economy and so assisting Doug in his investment in the woods.

Doug needs the buildings for wood drying and storing machinery in order to run the business. They are temporary buildings, have been built using sustainable methods and are unobtrusive, and can only be seen once inside the woods themselves. They have no negative visual impact on the national park.

The many community events Doug runs, both social and teaching woodland related skills need facilities to cook, and compost loos for sanitary reasons. These again are all temporary and again do not impact negatively on the park.

The Hillyfields is a very valuable resource for the community. I have learnt so much from my time there, and have been looking forward to introducing my son to various aspects of woodland life. This will not be possible if these planning notices are enforced. The Hillyfields needs to be commercially viable in order to fund the community aspect of the work. A vital part of national parks is to support the rural economy, so the temporary structures included in these planning notices should be allowed.

17th May 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

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Christopher Timpson, of Nelson Coach House, Staverton, Devon, 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 on the following grounds:

- 1) The Hillyfield is a unique initiative, dedicated to the hugely important role of managing and sustaining biodiversity and the beautiful English woodland landscape which is increasingly neglected and under threat.
- 2) The dedication of Doug King-Smith, his family and all the many passionate volunteers who work tirelessly to enhance and protect the environment and the community is both an inspiration and an example to us all. We need to encourage more initiatives like this and I am dismayed to see the DNP being so short sighted and unwilling to acknowledge the huge net benefit The Hillyfield has to the area.
- 3) In order to ensure future generations appreciate and continue to protect this important landscape it is vital that we support education initiatives. We live in an age where skills are dying out and people are completely removed from the fragile ecological systems that provide the food and materials which end up on the shelves and in our homes. The Hillyfield provides excellent and unique learning opportunities for people of all ages which should be encouraged and proliferated.
- 4) I can confirm that The Hillyfield is a genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and home-grown timber. I am a customer of the excellent timber products available from The Hillyfield and in 2015 sourced all my timber from them – primarily fence posts, rails and gates. As the custodian of a small piece of land myself, it is hugely important to me to be able to source quality locally grown timber, to both maintain the use of traditional materials and minimize the carbon footprint of my activities.
- 5) I am in full support that The Hillyfield should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn, machinery store and other structures which they need to run a small-scale sustainable rural business and allow them to continue their excellent community work.

In summary I can see no rational or logical reason to take steps to prevent current and future activities at The Hillyfield which are so clearly of huge net benefit to the environment and community. Furthermore, given its discreet location, the activities and their essential structures do not appear to be of detriment to any other party.

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The Planning Inspectorate

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DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

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Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR FIONA TILLEY

Address

39 Hunters Moon
Dartington
TOTNES
TQ9 6JT

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to 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 visited Hillyfield and seen for myself the well managed forest and land. This is an amazing project that forests with sustainable principles and educates those who visit, it also provides a useful product to the community. This is a project to be supported. I think that Hillyfield should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which they need to run a small-scale sustainable rural business. The people involved in this project have developed it with great sensitivity to local residents and to the National Park. Please recognise the contribution this project is making and support its further development by granting permission for the wood drying barns.

keepers of time

A STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR ENGLAND'S
ANCIENT & NATIVE WOODLAND



Our ancient woodlands are quintessential features of England's much-loved landscapes — irreplaceable, living historic monuments which inspire us and provide us with a sense of place and history in an increasingly frenetic world.

foreword

England's diverse and beautiful landscapes are justly famous the world over — from the dramatic summits of the Lake District to the gently-rolling countryside of the Garden of England. Our ancient woodlands are quintessential features of these much-loved landscapes — irreplaceable, living historic monuments which inspire us and provide us with a sense of place and history in an increasingly frenetic world.

Ancient woodlands are a tangible expression of the principles of sustainability, used by people for many generations to produce essential, yet sustainable everyday materials. At the same time, these woods have provided homes for much of England's wildlife. Although this sustainable use continues today in many of our woodlands, others have declined in value, and some have been lost forever. Addressing loss and decline by tackling the threats to our ancient and native woodlands is essential if these cherished places are to continue enriching our lives.

The Government's vision is that "Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society". This is an ambitious vision but one which we believe is realistically achievable by 2020. Forestry Commission England will work in close alignment with Natural England Partners to ensure effective and coherent delivery of the policy, including a simplified system of support for landowners and positive partnerships with a range of other organisations. It is also

vital that we work closely with the many private owners of these woodlands, and we are particularly keen to engage with those who currently may not be aware of the value and vulnerability of the resource they own.

This policy statement explains several new approaches that we will be taking. Firstly, we will be addressing threats and decline as the first priority. Secondly, implementing management 'with a light touch' so that we work with nature as far as possible. Thirdly, taking a 'whole landscape' perspective; or put another way, quite literally taking a bird's eye view of woodland.

As well as containing key policy principles, this statement sets out a series of strategic objectives which will act as a framework for action over the coming years. We will also develop a series of initiatives and programmes of activity to deliver the vision. Finally, we include a comprehensive range of outcomes which we will use as quantitative measures by which we can monitor progress and judge success.

This Policy Statement rightly celebrates the importance of our native and ancient woodlands and sets out a sound basis on which to achieve the vision. We can all look forward to seeing the vision becoming reality over the coming years.

Jim Knight, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
(Commons) (Rural Affairs,
Landscape and Biodiversity)



Veteran tree





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contents

the value of ancient woodland and trees

England's ancient woodlands and trees represent a living cultural heritage, a natural equivalent to our great churches and castles. They are also our richest wildlife habitat and are highly valued by people as places of tranquility and inspiration.

This statement updates the government's policy towards woodlands and trees by re-emphasising their value, evaluating threats and opportunities and setting out a range of actions to improve their protection and quality.

Perhaps more than any other land use in the English countryside, well managed ancient and native woodlands are exemplars of sustainability. They are places shaped by people, having been actively worked for centuries to provide a diverse range of products and fuel for people's daily lives. Simultaneously, they have provided homes for a significant proportion of England's wildlife and are increasingly used for recreation, sport and education. This potential for compatible multiple use continues to the present day.

Social inclusion
Health and exercise
Education
Cultural associations
Recreation



Jobs
Renewable energy
Rural development
Sustainable production

SOCIAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTAL

Biodiversity
Flood alleviation
Air and water quality
Historic landscapes



Ancient woodlands and trees are particularly important because they:

- Are exceptionally rich in wildlife, including many rare species and habitats
- Provide a quality renewable resource in the form of hardwood timber and other woodland products
- Contain surviving descendants and features from the original natural forests
- Act as reservoirs from which wildlife can spread into new woodlands
- Are an integral part of England's historic landscapes
- Contain a wealth of historic features unaltered by cultivation or disturbance
- Contribute to people's sense of place and imagination

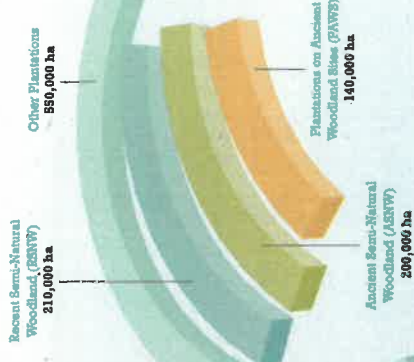
nature and extent

In the few centuries following the last ice age, most of England developed into woodland — the so called **wildwood**. The fragments of this once extensive woodland which still survive are our **ancient woodlands**, but they now cover only around 3% of England's land area. In the 20th century, many have been lost to agriculture and development or damaged through conversion to plantations of exotic conifer species. Such **plantations on ancient woodland sites** (PAWS) may look very unlike 'native' woodland but in fact many valuable wildlife and cultural features often survive or lie dormant within them.

(The additional 100,000 ha includes sites that are being planted but have not yet been planted.)

Figure 1. Some examples of important ecological components found in ancient woodlands

Total area of woodland in England 1.1 m. ha



Those ancient woodlands not converted to conifer plantations and still containing mostly native tree species are said to be semi-natural in character. These **ancient semi-natural woodlands** are generally our most valuable sites and may contain fine examples of **ancient or veteran trees** (very old trees of cultural and/or biological interest) and rare or threatened species. The **old growth** associated with ancient trees is a hugely important habitat in its own right, particularly where this has been continuous over many centuries, as it supports a wide range of species rarely found elsewhere. Many of our best old growth habitats are found in historic parklands and wood pastures which are also important cultural and landscape features.

Many species of wildlife found in ancient woodland are very poor at colonising recent woodland and only survive due to the long continuity of woodland cover and undisturbed soil profiles. This means ancient woodland is irreplaceable, reinforcing the need to protect and encourage the recovery of the surviving remnant features.

Recent native woodland is woodland that has been established on agricultural or other land in the last few centuries. Although lacking many of the special features associated with ancient woodland, recent woodland often has high wildlife and recreation value and delivers many other benefits that contribute to our quality of life.

Areas of ancient woodland
Approximately 50% of England's total woodland resource is either ancient or dominated by broadleaved trees, our richest habitat for wildlife
40% of ancient woodland was converted to plantations during the 20th century
Most of the conifer crops planted on ancient woodland sites are now reaching economic maturity



policy and strategic objectives

As an expression of our commitment to ancient and native woodland we have adopted the following '2020 Vision':

"Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society."

Delivering this vision by 2020 will require wide ranging action. The policies and strategic objectives the Government will pursue are stated overleaf.



policy

The existing area of ancient woodland should be maintained and there should be a net increase in the area of native woodland

Ancient and native woodland and trees should make an increasing contribution to our quality of life

Ancient and native woodland should be exemplars of sustainable development, and provide opportunities for enterprise and employment

The ecological condition of ancient and native woodland should be improved and maintained

Rare, threatened or Priority species associated with ancient and native woodland should be conserved and enhanced

The cultural heritage associated with ancient woodland and veteran trees should be protected and conserved

The landscape context of woodland should be improved

strategic objectives

- Take steps to avoid losses of ancient woodland and veteran trees
- Sustain the total extant ancient woodland (ensuring that gains exceed any losses)

- Increase opportunities for the public to visit and walk in ancient and native woodland
- Improve the quality of recreational experience in those woods which are open to public access
- Improve understanding and enjoyment of trees and woodland, especially their heritage and wildlife value
- Enhance the contribution of native woodland and ancient trees to urban environments and rural landscape

- Increase the recognition and use of arboricultural services which native woodland can provide (e.g. flood alleviation and pollution mitigation)
- Promote the production of renewable energy, hardwood timber and other products from existing woodland
- Foster enterprises and employment associated with ancient and native woodland

- Increase our knowledge of both woodland condition and trends, particularly climate change
- Address all major threats and widespread threats for decline
- Take action to manage native and problem species
- Increase awareness amongst owners of the value of native woodlands and any threats present
- Engage work on the ground to narrow condition, particularly of designated sites, and to restore plantations on ancient woodland sites
- Monitor changes in response to management
- Monitor changes in plant abundance and diversity and register the underlying causes

- Increase our understanding of the needs of Priority species (including rare, threatened or listed species)
- Provide guidance on good practice management for Priority species
- Support work on the ground to increase populations and/or ranges of Priority species

- Improve our knowledge and awareness of woodland heritage
- Promote good working practices to ensure valuable features are identified and conserved
- Ensure that any woodland creation is in keeping with the distinctive local landscape and its history
- Provide opportunities for public appreciation of woodland history

- Create new native woodland to extend life or complement existing woodland and other habitats
- Create semi-natural habitats in locations where they will benefit species which use both woodland and non-woodland habitats
- Buffer or buffer the impacts of intensive land uses and development which adjoin ancient or native woodland
- Work towards creating landscapes that are ecologically functional
- Ensure the management and creation of ancient and/or native woodland conserves and enhances the natural beauty and character of landscapes

threats

Although our ancient and native woods are immensely rich habitats, and many are highly valued by their owners and users, there are many others that are declining, threatened, or simply not realising their potential due to lack of basic management.

Threats to our ancient and native woodlands can be immediate and absolute (e.g. loss to infrastructure or development) or slower and more subtle (e.g. shading from conifer plantations or invasive species such as *Rhododendron*). There are also more widespread environmental changes, such as diffuse pollution and climate change, which may threaten woodland in the long term (see *Figure 2*). Tackling threats will require a strategic approach which means addressing the most severe and widespread threats first.

Figure 2. Threats to ancient woodlands



Major threats to ancient and native woodland

1. Climate change & fragmentation

Many native woodlands are very small and have become increasingly isolated from other semi-natural habitats. The intensification of agriculture over recent decades has exacerbated the effects of isolation. Many woodland species are poor dispersers and will be severely threatened as their 'climate space' moves and changes.

2. Excessive browsing and grazing by deer & livestock

Unsustainably high populations of wild deer prevent natural regeneration and impoverish woodland ground flora. Similarly, intensive grazing by livestock, especially sheep in the uplands, can result in loss of key features and threaten the long-term viability of woods. Conversely, sustainable levels of browsing and grazing by deer are important in maintaining woodland biodiversity.

3. Inadequate or inappropriate management

Traditional practices such as coppicing ceased in most woods many decades ago and recent decreases in timber prices could lead to more woodlands falling into neglect. This will lead to a further depletion of wildlife communities, particularly those which depend on the open woodland conditions created by active management. Conversely, insensitive management operations can cause serious damage to woodland wildlife, soils and surviving heritage features.

4. Invasive and problem species

In both ancient and native woodlands, invasive and problem species can have profoundly detrimental effects on both biodiversity and cultural heritage features. Planted conifers and *Rhododendron* are the most widespread and densely-shading plants which can all but eradicate ground flora. Grey squirrels and deer can also be very damaging to both trees and other wildlife.

5. Diffuse pollution

There has been a significant rise in nutrient levels in soils and groundwater in recent decades from agricultural fertilisers and wider atmospheric pollution. This is adversely impacting on woodland flora, favouring common 'weedy' species over the more distinctive woodland plants

6. Loss

There are still occasions where native and ancient woodland is threatened by development, and many woods suffer attrition through incursions at their boundaries. Even if the woodland itself is protected, it can suffer serious disturbance where houses or roads are built right up to its margins, both directly from the impact of development, or indirectly through changes to drainage. Dumping, cutting back of trees and shrubs along the woodland edge and unmanaged recreational and access pressures are also threats in many areas.



opportunities and priorities

The **opportunities** for improving ancient and native woodlands for both people and wildlife are manifold. Much of the 140,000 ha of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) is currently in urgent need of management if we are to prevent any further loss of the surviving wildlife and historic features. Many of these plantations could, through careful and gradual improvement, be restored to rich, ancient semi-natural woodlands. Most woods do not need intensive management, and often it is only a 'light touch' that is required to remove or reduce a cause of decline or gradually improve their ecological quality. To **safeguard their value** for future generations we need to **prevent further loss**, **improve condition** and **restore** severely degraded sites.

Ancient and native woodlands have produced renewable products such as fuel and timber for generations and have enormous potential to continue to do so. When managed in a sustainable way, quality hardwood timber production can be perfectly compatible with wildlife conservation and recreational activities.

The **opportunities for the public** to enjoy these woodlands is sometimes limited. There is therefore scope for working in partnership with owners to increase the area of our woodland which is accessible for quiet recreation, particularly in those areas where there is limited access to woodland.

The key priority of this policy is the protection and enhancement of the existing ancient and native woodland resource. This can be achieved by focusing activity both

within and without woodlands. For example by taking opportunities for creating strategically located **new native woodlands** or reducing the general intensity of surrounding land use. New woodlands are particularly valuable where they buffer, extend or even link England's highly fragmented wooded landscapes. By seeing woodlands as an integral part of the wider landscape, we will create opportunities to develop **networks** of woodland and other semi-natural habitats into **ecologically functional landscapes**. Taking this system approach will increase the resilience of wildlife to external threats, particularly climate change and diffuse pollution. The habitat networks which could be created will not only benefit wildlife, but could also make landscapes more accessible to people and provide 'green transport routes' – particularly where they interface with urban areas.

Mountain biking: the fun factor



Black hairstreak: a scarce butterfly of open woodlands with blackthorn thickets

Wider policy context

The England Forestry Strategy sets out how Government will prioritise and deliver forestry policies in England. This statement ensures ancient and native woodland will continue to contribute fully to the four strategic priorities in the strategy – rural development, economic regeneration, recreation access and tourism, environment and conservation. However, it is clear Government has a wider range of policy objectives which ancient and native woodland can help deliver, some of which are listed below:

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy sets out how Government is pursuing the principles of sustainability. Woodlands can be an ideal expression of these, producing renewable materials and fuels, with minimal environmental impacts, whilst enhancing the quality of life of local communities. The Government has identified 15 Headline Indicators for this strategy, one of which is changes in the populations of wild birds. A sizeable proportion of these are woodland birds, and enhancing the native woodland habitat and its landscape context should contribute to the reversal of the long term downward trend in bird numbers.

The three priorities for rural policy in Government's Rural Strategy 2004 are: economic and social regeneration; social justice for all and; enhancing the value of our countryside. Well managed and accessible ancient and native woodlands will contribute towards all three of these priorities.

Ten years after the seminal 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Government re-affirmed its commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity by signing the Global Biodiversity Challenge in Johannesburg. A target was subsequently agreed for Europe, at Göttingen, to reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2010. To achieve this goal we need to address all major causes of loss of woodland biodiversity and target new native woodland to help counter the loss of biodiversity in the wider countryside.

This reinforces the aims and actions of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and in particular the Habitat Action Plans for native woodland.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000) places a responsibility on Government to take reasonably practicable steps to further the conservation of priority habitats and species. These include the 6 Habitat Action Plan types for native woodland which occur in England and at least 67 associated Species Action Plans. 'Conservation' is explicitly defined in the Act as including both restoration and enhancement of the habitat or population.

The England Biodiversity Strategy was published in 2002 and is a means by which the Government will fulfil obligations under the CRoW Act. One of the five main sectors is Woodland and Forestry, and there is a challenging Work Programme for the 5-year life of the strategy. The Government has also published a set of indicators for the restoring native woodland is one of the headline indicators. The condition of the 115,000 ha of woodland SSSIs is another headline indicator, and Government has a Public Service Agreement target to achieve 95% of SSSIs in either 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition by 2010.

This policy statement will also help support a range of social and quality of life commitments as outlined in 'Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future'. Here, new native woodland may feature within wider 'green infrastructure' frameworks focussed on improving the environments where people live. In addition it will support the greenbelt where, for example, local authorities are encouraged to improve their accessibility, biodiversity and amenity value.

The Government has recognised the importance of ancient woodland since the introduction of the Broadleaves Policy of 1985. However, we believe that we must now significantly raise the profile, and importance of ancient woodland by placing it right at the heart of our policies on woodlands and forestry. Our ancient and semi-natural woodlands are the jewels in the crown of English forestry, and protecting and enhancing them will be a high priority.

new approaches

We are also aware that since the 1980s our understanding of woodlands has increased, new issues have arisen and many of the pressures on the resource have changed. The successful implementation of this policy will depend on developing new approaches to the use, promotion and management of the ancient and native woodland resource. In broad principle terms, we need to:

- ◆ Take action at the landscape scale (see right)
- ◆ Ensure the resource continues to provide a range of economic benefits to owners and valuable environmental services to society at large, whilst also safeguarding wildlife and cultural heritage values
- ◆ Develop more effective partnership working with a larger proportion of owners and stakeholders with the aim of bringing the resource into favourable condition
- ◆ Prioritise action so that we address the most serious and widespread threats first
- ◆ Focus attention on improving and restoring ancient woodland sites which are in poor ecological condition or have been converted to plantations
- ◆ Ensure that we apply appropriate levels of management to safeguard value — which may often just be a light touch
- ◆ Work better with nature and redress imbalances in woodland ecosystems — for example, addressing the problem of unsustainably high populations of wild deer

Management at a landscape scale



1. Woodlands have traditionally been managed in isolation from other habitats in the landscape.

Much of our wildlife sees and uses the landscape as a whole and there is growing recognition in the face of climate change that we need to re-connect the semi-natural components of our landscapes into ecologically functional units. Woodlands and trees will be among the most important features of such habitat networks.



2. Woodland creation should focus on increasing the area of semi-natural habitats available to wildlife and reducing the negative edge effects of intensive adjacent land use. Woodland margins typically have the greatest species diversity and are also invaluable for many non-woodland species, particularly where they border other semi-natural habitats.



3. There is a need to re-establish graded, more natural transitions and buffers between woodland perimeters and surrounding land uses, comprising shrubs, scrub, hedgerows and marginal trees with deep crowns.



4. Many of the key threats to woodland wildlife such as climate change, diffuse pollution, poor water quality, deer and invasive plants operate at a landscape scale. This means we have to tackle them at this scale.



5. Woodlands should be part of accessible landscapes. People who visit or walk in woods often restrict their visit to one discrete site. If woods are to fulfil their potential as sustainable transport routes, and provide opportunities for healthy exercise, we need to develop access between woodlands and other semi-natural habitats throughout whole landscapes.

Bluebell: a famous ancient woodland spectacle

Coppice management:
producing products
and enhancing wildlife

This policy is designed to deliver tangible change in the way woodlands and wooded landscapes are used and perceived. Some of the outcomes we aim to achieve by 2020 are listed right. Many of these are established measures, and have, for example, been included as indicators for the England Biodiversity Strategy. Although most are based on existing datasets, there are a few where new data sources will need to be established. We will use these measures to monitor progress and assess the success of the policy. We will also look to set quantitative targets for most of these key outcomes in order to drive delivery of the policy.

measuring success

Policy area Outcome

Protection of the resource

- ◆ Existing area of ancient woodland maintained
- ◆ Net increase in area of other native woodland
- ◆ No significant or unnecessary losses of known veteran trees

Quality of life

- ◆ Increase in the number of people visiting woodlands for leisure purposes
- ◆ Increase in the proportion of the population with access to woodland near to where they live

Enterprise and employment

- ◆ Increase in the number of enterprises and/or jobs directly or indirectly associated with ancient or native woodland

Ecological condition

- ◆ All widespread and serious threats to ancient and native woodland being reduced
- ◆ The majority of ancient semi-natural woodland either in favourable condition or being improved
- ◆ The majority of planted ancient woodland sites either being improved or under gradual restoration to native woodland
- ◆ 95% of woodland SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition (by 2010)

Woodland species

- ◆ Reversal of the long-term decline in the numbers of woodland birds
- ◆ Enhanced habitat quality and plant diversity in broadleaved woodlands
- ◆ Improvement in the status of woodland Priority species (i.e. the 67 species with action plans in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan)

Cultural heritage

- ◆ Local communities increasingly aware of the heritage and environmental value of ancient and native woodland
- ◆ An increase in the area of broadleaved woodland in landscape character areas where this is recognised as a positive change

Landscape context

- ◆ The visual and ecological landscape context of the majority of ancient woodland improved

translating policy into action

This policy is a framework under which specific initiatives, projects and delivery measures will be developed.

An Action Plan will accompany this document which will build on the many positive initiatives already underway.

The Forestry Commission will act as the lead body, but it will also involve action from many other sectors of Government, statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations. Most importantly, it will require positive partnerships between the Forestry Commission and private and other woodland owners.

The Government owns and manages a significant proportion of the ancient and native woodland resource. Most of this is managed by Forest Enterprise, who will be aiming to deliver this policy energetically and innovatively through a range of actions on the estate.

Wood ants:
a 'keystone' insect species



Light and shade: gaps in the canopy are valuable features in native woodlands



To find out more please contact

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR NICHOLAS MAXWELL

Address

4 Lower Collins Road
TOTNES
TQ9 5PS

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

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 - May 2016.pdf

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

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Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR CLAIRE RYAN

Address

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HARBERTON
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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

1: Claire Ryan The Linhay Old Hazard Totnes Tq97Ln

www

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

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

4: 'I 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'

I am the appellants wife and I have seen Doug work tirelessly over the past 6 years to make this small woodland project work. I have witnessed first hand the devastating impact of a plant health notice on the Larch trees and the resultant mass of felled timber on the hillside. It is obvious to me that this wood is an asset to a small-scale project like The Hillyfield as well as to the local economy. The thought of leaving this wood to rot on the hillside seems like an insanity and wasteful oversight when a simple open-sided barn could store it and allow it to season and be sold at a profit as firewood. Who would you buy your firewood from- straight off the hillside or from a seasoned barn? It is not easy maths to make a small woodland business work, the extensive man hours of heavy labour, machinery maintenance costs and logistics of moving and storing wood do not result in a quick turn around on investment and so I look to The Authority to support our woods that are being managed, rather than neglected, and being managed in innovative ways. The appellant has a key skill-set range to be able to inspire local volunteers and international volunteers to work these woods. This is in alignment with DNPA's key duties to allow the Park to benefit on a socio-economic level as well as to enhance the biodiversity and involve people in the process. The structures in question on The Land I can vouch for the fact that they have been used and served the forestry need. There have also been some fantastically fun and well-attended annual open days, though only a few a year. The day-in, day-out activities, come rain or shine, have been felling trees, extracting the wood from the hillside, making the wood into firewood and planks and delivering that across South Devon. Simple stuff that works so long as the support of our national authority is behind us. This will also pave the way for all the thousands of trees which we have planted to replace the plantation on ancient woodland site. These are a great mix of broadleaf and coppice and so this isn't just about what has gone before - with felling the larch - but is about supporting a sustainably managed woodland for the future.

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Grid Ref Easting: 271877
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SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS HOLLY TIFFEN

Address

3 Brooklands
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TQ9 5AR

Company/Group/Organisation Name

Transition Town Totnes

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

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- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

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- Interested Party/Person Correspondence

Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

As a former Sustainable Development Officer at Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA), I am well aware that the Government has provided two statutory purposes for National Parks:

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

As well as the corresponding social and economic duty placed upon National Park Authorities to be considered when delivering the two purposes:

To seek to foster the social and economic well-being of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

Hillyfield is a leading light in respect of all aspects of these stated aims; it is an active demonstration of the kinds of business that National Park Authorities should be supporting. Doug King-Smith has proved to be a master of bringing together the environmental needs of the woodland with the needs and desires of local people to better understand the natural world, coupled with the needs to make the woodland economically viable. He has achieved this through a combination of creating a direct income from woodland products and providing opportunities for woodland education and leisure. Doug has become a skilled woodsman who cares passionately about improving the ecology of Hillyfield for environmental enhancement coupled with a real skill in bringing people together to celebrate and appreciate the natural world. It is his dedication and tenacity that has brought so many people of diverse backgrounds to the Hillyfield woodland and has enabled him to clear vast numbers of trees with utter care and dedication to the environment. The devastating effect of *Phytophthora Ramorum* on the larches at Hillyfield led Doug to gather a team of volunteers to clear the diseased trees by hand in order to minimise the disturbance to the land. Time and time again he has demonstrated his utter determination, care and commitment to this land and at all times has prioritised the delicate balance of nature with people. In this way people have developed skills in ecological land management, disease management and woodland management, whether as part of the felling team, or from attending the many educational events that Doug has laid on.

Hillyfield and Doug's leadership is exemplar and DNPA should be proud of this creative custodian of the land. This is Sustainable Development as it is meant to be. It is baffling then, to discover that instead of supporting him, DNPA have instead hindered Doug's ability to make a viable woodland business at every turn, by enforcing against all structures at Hillyfield when there is a clear forestry and/or educational need for them, specifically:

- 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 provide an appropriate means of disposal of human sewage in a woodland setting and in addition demonstrate this ecologically sound method of turning a waste hazard into a beneficial for compost for the orchard and soft-fruit bushes)
- 5) The caravans and yurt (needed for seasonal forest workers)
- 6) The field kitchen (needed for volunteer days and seasonal forest workers)

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 been a customer of Doug's from the beginning and annually order my firewood from him. He has a clear need for a wood drying barn and machinery store. I urge DNPA to get behind this exemplar small-scale, sustainable rural business, and stop creating obstacles. If the Authority does not support projects like Hillyfield they are making a mockery of their own mandate as outlined in their Purposes and Duty of Care.

I ask that DNPA grant permission for a wood-drying barn and machinery store at the Hillyfield and that they work with Doug to overcome any differences in the two parties objectives, in order to create a

healthy, cooperative working relationship that I believe will benefit both parties.

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/J9497/C/16/3146596
Appeal By	MR DOUG KING-SMITH
Site Address	The Hillyfield Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford South Brent Devon Grid Ref Easting: 271877 Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name	MISS JANE KNIGHT
Address	13 Denys Road TOTNES TQ9 5TJ

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I've had the pleasure of visiting and spending time at the beautiful Hillyfield woodland and was so impressed by the care and work being done there, and the integrity with which it has been managed...with its focus on conservation and care for the environment, sustainability, involvement of volunteers and the local community, and support for sustainable livelihoods and a thriving local rural economy.

The timber being grown at the Hillyfield, will be keeping many local families warm over the winter months with sustainably grown firewood. It is really essential that the Hillyfield be granted permission for the wood drying barn and machinery store - both key infrastructure, and very necessary for the Hillyfield to operate a small-scale sustainable local business, which has very tangible and positive benefits for the local community.

As well as being a working woodland, the Hillyfield also offers opportunities for volunteers to come and enjoy helping in the woods - providing a chance to connect with nature, enjoy the wonder and beauty of being in a wood, and the nourishment that this can offer for our physical and mental well being.

There is an obvious need for the current structures in place - which enable the Hillyfield to work as a sustainable local business.

- Temporary wood stores - needed to dry wood before sale,
- tool lorry - to keep tools safe and dry,
- workshop - to fix and maintain tools,
- compost loos - obviously needed
- caravans and yurt - for seasonal forest workers
- the field kitchen - to facilitate volunteer days and for seasonal forest workers

In no way do any of these structures or the proposed wood drying barn and machinery store create a negative visual intrusion on the park. The existing structures are built sensitively and sympathetically - in keeping with the landscape. They are not visible from anywhere public.

Thank you for your care and concern, and hope you are able to see the wide ranging benefits that the Hillyfield is bringing to the local community, to wildlife, local sustainable livelihoods, and a healthy flourishing eco-system.

with kind regards Jane Knight

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR PAUL BIRD

Address

Moorland Cottage
Harbourneford
SOUTH BRENT
TQ10 9DT

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Harbournford, and have lived here for 38 years. For most of that time Harbourne Wood has been unmanaged. Access has not been permitted, and for some of the time aggressive (if somewhat ridiculous) notices attempted to frighten people away. When Mr King-Smith acquired the wood all that changed. It was quite an emotional moment, after so long, on one occasion to be invited in.

I support Mr King-Smith's efforts to manage the wood. He is very sensitive to this natural environment, and has had to put in a tremendous amount of work, especially in the face of the unfortunate discovery of diseased larches. I believe most of the residents of Harbournford feel the same way, although of course the views of those who do not should be carefully assessed too.

I am also a supporter of the DNPA Planning Authority, and do not approve of actions by central government to limit its powers. In this particular case I would not want the wood turned into a theme park, or a caravan or camping site. Its appearance should not be spoiled, and there should be no undue extra noise irritation for the residents of Harbournford. I also recognise that decisions must stand not just for the duration of a well-intentioned owner such as Mr King-Smith, but also in the case of less benevolent owners who may come after. We rely on the DNPA to provide this protection.

But having said that, it seems to me that Mr King-Smith's work on the wood to date has been highly beneficial. I am not sure of all the planning arguments and history, but in general terms it is clear that a tool shed and wood drying store somewhere in the wood are essential. Sensitively designed accommodation for a couple of forestry workers seems to me reasonable. Occasional private social gatherings open to friends and without an entry charge also seem perfectly reasonable.

Therefore I hope planning criteria will be applied wisely and sensitively, and that all efforts have been made to acquire full knowledge of all the circumstances, especially in view of the costs of an appeal. On just one point, it seems odd (to the lay person) that an enforcement notice has been served before the full planning procedure has been exhausted. The structures in question are trivially small, and completely undetectable by anyone outside the wood. Could that not have been delayed?

With best regards,

Paul Bird

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS JENNIFER POPIOLEK

Address

The Flat, Apple Barn
Higher Week Access Road
DARTINGTON
TQ9 6JP

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

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, Jennifer Popiolek, of Apple Barn Week TQ9 6JP

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 spent time volunteering on the the land at The Hillyfield during the regular volunteer days that are arranged on a monthly basis.

It has been so rewarding to spend time on this land and to see the tireless efforts being made to support this land in a way that provides firewood and home grown timber in a responsible and environmentally friendly way, that not only replenishes what is used but is actively working to ensure the future and long term sustainability of the land.

During our time spent digging, planting trees, mulching and providing protective encasement's for each individual and responsibly sourced sapling, the weather was changeable and we worked through rain and even a hailstorm, this made clear the necessity for structures to take rest and shelter in, a place to dry off and prepare a hot meal are an essential component to working on the land.

I do not believe the good and honest work being done on this land could continue without

- 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)

None of these structures appear intrusive or damaging in any way, they can only been seen by the people working closely on the land and are no threat to the environment or out of keeping with their surroundings. Quite the opposite it seems every effort is made to keep the place as natural and sympathetic as possible.

My experience of The Hillyfield is a group of sincere people working hard for the good and future of our land, the days spent there are happy fun filled hard working community days, I can see no reason to deny them such simple basic needs as shelter and the means to prepare food.

Quite the opposite, I feel every effort should be taken to support encourage and reward this kind of venture and permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which is so needed to run a small-scale sustainable rural business should be granted.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Popiolek

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

DR. LARCH MAXEY

Address

Flat 101 High Street
TOTNES
TQ9 5PF

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

As Someone who has carried out post-doctoral research and lectured on sustainability and wellbeing I support the Hillyfield Appeal for many reasons. This is a clear example of a truly sustainable development in keeping with Dartmoor National Park's aims of protecting/enhancing the natural beauty of Dartmoor, promoting opportunities for understanding and fostering the economic and social well-being of local communities. Not only does the Hillyfield operate sustainable development in terms of generating employment and creating valuable resources, it also does so in a way which maximises wellbeing - encouraging participation, involving the community and a wide range of people, being sensitive to local cultural and aesthetic traditions, enhancing biodiversity, etc.

I have used timber from the Hillyfield on numerous occasions and it is my 'go to' supplier as one of the most sustainable sources of timber in existence, not just in Devon, but in the UK, based on my research and experience over the last 20 years. Connecting people with the resources they use and their local environment is proven to improve wellbeing and foster sustainability and more socially, economically and environmentally responsible behaviour, and the Hillyfield does this in an exemplary way. It is a project which should be fully supported by the DNPA and other official bodies with duties to protect and serve the public interest.

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/J9497/C/16/3146596
Appeal By	MR DOUG KING-SMITH
Site Address	The Hillyfield Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford South Brent Devon Grid Ref Easting: 271877 Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name	MISS CHARLOTTE LE MARCHANT
Address	Red Berry Field Clitters CALLINGTON PL17 8HR

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I have been aware of and visiting The Hillyfield for a number of years. I have seen it develop as a business that adds massively to the local community over these years. Not only by offering products such as firewood and cut timber for sale, but also in the opportunity that local young people have to learn and gain vital experience in forestry work. This would clearly not be possible without the temporary dwellings and the camp kitchen. As is also the need for the compost toilets.

It is vital that it is possible to make a profit from these woods for them to be managed as carefully and thoughtfully as Doug and Claire are doing. Therefore all of the buildings related to the forestry work are also clearly necessary, from the lorry to store tools, the workshop and the temporary wood stores, used to dry fire wood and timber.

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The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS MICHELLE MCHALE

Address

1 Tolchers
Dartington
TOTNES
TQ9 6HN

Company/Group/Organisation Name

Attachment Parenting UK

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

Interested Party/Person Correspondence

Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

The Hillyfield is a magical community space with highly sensitive and attentive focus on integrating, respecting and sustaining the woodland in a professional way. It 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 and I have used the products personally and been highly satisfied with the quality of products from a source I know to have integrity.

I whole-heartedly believe they should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store necessary 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?

With this sort of sustainable, land-respectful business which clearly benefits the community in so many ways why deny permission - who could benefit from the loss of livelihood and the dedicated, skilful guardianship of Mr King-Smith? The land needs his care and the community benefits as a result.

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS REBECCA STRONG

Address

68 Punchards Down
TOTNES
TQ9 5FD

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

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, Rebecca Strong, of 68 Punchards Down, Totnes, TQ95FD

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 been regularly buying my winter store of firewood from Hillyfield and have enjoyed knowing that small scale sustainable forestry is supplying my fuel source.

I have been a natural history and environmental filmmaker for over twenty years now. I have filmed and photographed and lived in many amazing places and seen environmentally sustainable projects flourish with the support of the community and planning policy support. I am a great supporter of the work that is being done to sustain and manage the woodland at Hillyfield. Its of huge benefit to the local economy and community. When I can I visit the land with my son and he has grown up learning so many woodland and land management skills as a result.

It is clear to me that the unobtrusive working structures on the land are vital to the safeguarding of the felled wood and tools and also for the people who volunteer to work the land.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Strong

The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS JULIA VANCHERI

Address

16 The Grove
Blackawton
TOTNES
TQ9 7BA

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

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 Julia Vancheri 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 had many personal experiences at Hillyfield from visiting to working. Hillyfield is genuine forestry business serving the local community by actively managing the woods and providing firewood and its own grown timber. This has many benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy.

I believe Hillyfield is a very important part of the local community and should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store to run a small-scale sustainable rural business. The wood that is grown and dried at Hillyfield supports and pays to maintain the land, if it cannot run a successful business and does not have the infrastructure it needs it will collapse and an asset will be lost to the local community and environmental structure.

The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

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Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS OLIVIA JENKINSON

Address

9 Ashwood Park
Loddiswell
KINGSBRIDGE
TQ7 4RF

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I am writing to express my support. I have been involved with the project through horse logging and community events. It is important for all that sustainable development is encouraged in rural areas. This valley was a plantation therefore it was meant to be farmed for forestry. In order for forestry operations to continue low impact infrastructure is necessary, not just for the timber but for the people as well; a rest area which is dry and sheltered, toilet facilities - compost loos are very common now and are the most economical and environmentally friendly method of installing such facilities, a tool shed is necessary to safeguard the equipment from theft which unfortunately becoming more common but also to increase longevity and maintenance of the tools. For the Hillyfield plantation to continue as a viable community project and business, storage is necessary. If this was an arable or pastoral farm there would be no question for the need of buildings. This is a business that involves the local community and employs local people which needs to be supported and encouraged. In the original officer report it was stated that lack of access for getting timber out of the woodland was a major part of the objection, this has now been rectified and the land can now be accessed by a purpose built track close to the A38. Given the secluded position and nature of the site I can see no reason to enforce removal of low impact infrastructure crucial for the continued management of the woodland.

For official use only (date received): 17/05/2016 09:18:46

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS JOANNE RYAN

Address

WHITE CITY CLOSE
LONDON
LONDON
W12 7EA

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

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

I, Joanne Ryan, of 24, White City Close, London, 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 visited the Hillyfields on numerous occasions with friends and family and it is an extremely well run land that brings so much to its surrounding community. This forestry has had nothing but a positive impact on the its surrounding area, the environment and the working towards a sustainable future.

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.

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. This forest should be granted permission for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store which it needs to run a small-scale sustainable rural business.

Thank,

Joanne

For official use only (date received): 01/05/2016 09:50:36

The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS NICOLA EDGCOMBE

Address

5 Old Hazard Cottages
Harberton
TOTNES
TQ9 7LN

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

'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 and my family have visited the Hillyfield several times and wholeheartedly support what is being done there to manage the woodland support and nurture local people and their landscape. I really feel it adds to the national park and helps us to enjoy it more. The buildings in question clearly are of a temporary and minor nature and in my opinion do not impact on the landscape. Surely common sense must prevail here.

We have bought various woods for varying purposes from the hillyfield and surely this is better than purchasing wood generally from abroad supporting the environment and local people.

I think here an overall view needs to be taken rather than penalising the landscape area and the vast array of people who benefit from the hillyfield over minute detail in planning rules, equity should prevail.

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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbournford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MISS TESS WILMOT

Address

Riverside
Cleeve
IVYBRIDGE
PL21 0LP

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
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

The Hilly Field is an excellent example of a practical working woodland when so many are neglected these days. It is vital that they have the infrastructure to enable this work to continue. - The Hilly field serves the local community and is a genuine forestry business managing the woods in a practical and sustainable way. There are lots of benefits for the environment, community, and rural economy.

I think that permission should be granted for the wood-drying barn and the machinery store so they can continue to run small-scale sustainable rural business with well made sustainable buildings for the people working and visiting the site.

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The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/J9497/C/16/3146596
Appeal By	MR DOUG KING-SMITH
Site Address	The Hillyfield Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford South Brent Devon Grid Ref Easting: 271877 Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name	MR ALHOR BYRNE
Address	5 Meadow Brook TOTNES TQ9 5SJ

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
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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

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

I, Alhor Byrne, of 5 Meadow Brook, 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.

I enjoy going to the Hillyfield and helping out at related events. I've got to know lots of people through
it.

I really enjoyed the Hilly field Olympics, it was a brilliant event. The activities were all based on natural
forest related activities or tools. It's much more exciting than toys. It was great to try archery in a
woodland setting, which I've later joined a club to learn more, although there we just shoot in the
school hall or grounds. I hope Hillyfield do it again.

It's a really nice group of people and I like to help out with activities and making meals. I enjoy
chatting with everyone there. I've enjoyed going into the forest, helping collect water, moving wood,
building fires, meeting the hens and playing frisby in the field.

I am really concerned about the environment and I like it how Hillyfield is managing the woodland. It
still feels a really natural environment to come to and not like an industry. It is important that
businesses and people learn to care for the environment. We always recycle things at events, don't
waste things and use fuel and water efficiently.

It was cool that a friend who works making garden decking went to Hillyfield to get wood as the client
wanted native wood. It's great he got it locally and nice I knew the woodland.

I don't understand why Dartmoor National Park would block the forest business from having the
buildings they need to operate as it is obvious a good business, good for environment, friendly to local
people, good for Dartmoor and the area and the kind of business I would like to see more of, not less.
Please support it to keep going.

Yours sincerely,
Alhor Byrne

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The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MR ALEX TEMPEST

Address

120 Lower Cheltenham plac
Bristol
BS6 5LE

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
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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

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, Alex Tempest, of 2 Broom Park Dartington, Totnes, TQ96JR 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.

Whilst I understand the pressures the Dartmoor National Park Authority is under to protect the park's heritage and character, I take great exception to the authority's attack, and seeming total lack of understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management within it's jurisdiction. This enforcement notice demonstrates an almost complete disregard of the needs, benefits, and heritage of ecologically sound woodland management in South Devon, and should be immediately reconsidered.

It is obvious to anyone involved in woodland management that most woodlands are not of a scale in Devon to effectively compete in the global timber market; they are too small, inaccessible, have too steep gradients and are therefore deemed too inefficient and uneconomically viable.

Woodlands of this size are therefore forced to subsidise the cost of labour with short and long-term volunteers, and community woodland management practice. They are also required to be small-scale, cost effective, low impact enterprises that make the most of the resources they are able to get hold of, they are not subsidised in the same way farms are. This is the ONLY way small woodlands in Devon can be viable enterprises. Simultaneously, they create local employment and support local business providing a valuable local resource and contribution to the local economy. They educate for, and promote the culture and heritage of forestry in Devon and most importantly benefit the wildlife, natural habitat and non-human life the DNPA purport to protect.

Take a look at the following objectives of the DNPA:

- to maintain a viable farming community that delivers a range of public benefits;
- to promote development that is good for Dartmoor;
- to maximise access and understanding for all;
- to show leadership in tackling energy use and emissions and managing climate change;
- to deliver sustainability;

The Hillyfield is genuinely and undeniable achieving these objectives you have set out. So yes... in order to continue doing this they absolutely need a timber drying barn, yes, they do need a place to store/maintain their tools, get out of the rain, disseminate good practice and maintain a viable forest enterprise. It's unreasonable to expect them to do it without these things.

Seriously, by shutting down the capacity for The Hillyfield to carry out it's management of trees within DNPA what are you actually trying to achieve for the woodlands in your jurisdiction? The alternative for this would be either damaging, unaffordable large-scale harvesting machinery which would clear-fell, scar and permanently change the character of the landscape... or yet more abandoned woodland that grows dark, unproductive, low in biodiversity... essentially totally wasted. What do you suggest that is better for the piece of land than what is currently happening? It seems TOTALLY unreasonable for the DNPA to render this sustainable forestry enterprise unable to continue. For the sake of our woodlands and your reputation, I hope you reconsider.

Sincerely

Alex Tempest

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DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/J9497/C/16/3146596

Appeal By

MR DOUG KING-SMITH

Site Address

The Hillyfield
Hillyfield Plantation, Land Lying South of Harbourneford
South Brent
Devon
Grid Ref Easting: 271877
Grid Ref Northing: 062264

SENDER DETAILS

Name

MR ALASTAIR KING-SMITH

Address

8 The Vat House
Regents Bridge Gardens
LONDON
SW8 1HD

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)

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I have been visiting and enjoying the communal facilities and events at the Hillyfield over several years. I am a member of the senior civil service based in London and my visits are a wonderful escape from the pressures of life elsewhere. This is one of the most beautiful 44 acres of ancient woodland and meadows that I have experienced. I simply do not understand why obstacles are being put in the way of enabling this land to be maintained and nurtured, when the proposals seem in line with the Park's overall approach and national policies. In particular I would urge consideration of the Government's vision that: "Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society" and the policy objective: "Ancient and native woodland should be exemplars of sustainable development, and provide opportunities for enterprise and employment" (please review the attached document on HMG's Keepers of Time policy, published by DEFRA and the Forestry Commission)

It is of course right that Dartmoor National Park have to consider all the aspects of conservation. But conservation of this land does not mean doing nothing. It means actively managing the tree cutting and planting, and sustaining livelihoods from it. The owners are committed to making it a space accessible to all, a learning environment for volunteers and a nature park for children. If they are not enabled to sustain it, without the active management and facilities being proposed, this land will decline and be shut off. That would be totally against the Government's policies and the interests of the general public. I urge those of you responsible for the Park authorities to see the bigger picture and support these proposals.

You will have seen the arguments being made:

"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 strongly support the case that permission should be granted for the wood-drying barn, the machinery store and other facilities which are needed to run a small-scale sustainable rural business and protect this important natural habitat.

COMMENT DOCUMENTS

The documents listed below were uploaded with this form:

Relates to Section: REPRESENTATION
Document Description: Your comments on the appeal.
File name: UK Government Keepers of Time policy.pdf

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

