Dear Sir

Please find a letter attached for the attention of The Planning Inspectorate.

Yours faithfully

Peter Stent

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The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir

RE: COM 749

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed fencing on Trotton Common.

With all the additional housing that Midhurst is being subjected to, Trotton Common is an oasis of natural open ground, enjoyed by so many without the restrictions we endure in modern life. I have enjoyed this area, being so close to my home, for over 80 years and I can honestly say it is one of very few unspoilt, unfenced and truly natural areas in the region.

From a business point of view, I farm within a couple of miles of Trotton Common and I have suffered, along with many other local farms, that due to the insensitivity of the Sussex Wildlife Trust introducing cattle from all their various areas has infected not only cattle, but wildlife to an area that was previously clear of TB. As a result we now have to test our animals every six months for TB instead of the four year requirement. As you may be aware, a neighbouring dairy farmer has had in excess of 20 milking cows destroyed at a devastating financial loss. Farming is difficult enough without the introduction of these people bringing cattle into the area without due regard. Fencing this area will only exacerbate their desire to bring more animals to this area.

As a countryman all my life, I seriously question the benefits of the introduction of cattle when clearing by hand would be far more beneficial to the environment. I know from experience, if cattle graze such an area, it is left far more traumatized and poached, which in turn destroys the natural fauna which already exists.

Were you aware of the opposition the Sussex Wildlife Trust engendered two years ago when they first thought of this idea? They must not be allowed to ride roughshod over local opposition. We live here, they don’t.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Peter Stent