

**15/1/1**

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR INCLUSION OF THE WESTERN  
WEALD WITHIN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK.

1. I believe that the Inspector's report seriously undervalues the qualities of the land recommended for exclusion. No extensive stretch of countryside (representing in this case over 20% of the designated area) will be flawless, and the report fails to give credit for the great landscape qualities of the large majority of the area, which has long been deemed of comparable quality to that of a National Park, as AONB).

2. There is also the assumption that a National Park should embrace only one type of landscape (in this case chalk). This is not the case in a number of the existing National Park, and the concept does not have credence in legislation.

3. A significant part of the area recommended for exclusion is owned inalienably by the National Trust, whose criteria are exacting, and which provides extensive facilities for access, public understanding and enjoyment, which comprise one of a National Park's purposes. This includes Blackdown, highest point in the whole designated area, which clearly has a striking relationship with the chalk Downs and vice versa..

4. There is one significant element which warrants particular note – that of Petworth Park. This is an almost exact analogue of Chatsworth House and Park in the Peak District. Both are of similar size (c.1000 acres), and Petworth includes the outstanding landscape of Capability Brown's creation. Both Houses and Parks attract a very large number of visitors every year, and Chatsworth is regarded universally as a key element in the heart of the Peak National Park. Any doubt that might previously been held as to the "natural beauty" of Petworth Park has been superseded by the NERC Act. Petworth House and Park should be regarded as a vital element in the South Downs National Park, and I find it inconceivable that it should be omitted on grounds of lack of merit.

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