

Sponsorship, Landscape and Recreation Division

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Mr Peter Robottom
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 4/01 Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
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Bristol
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Date 23rd October 2007

Dear Mr Robottom

**NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949
SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK (DESIGNATION) ORDER 2002
(as varied by the South Downs National Park Designation (Variation) Order 2004)
Sussex Downs AONB Revocation Order and East Hants AONB Revocation Order**

I am writing on behalf of Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Marine, Landscape and Rural Affairs to ask you to re-open the South Downs Inquiry.

The Inspector is asked to consider, in the context of the terms of the original inquiry, the following specific issues:

- i. any implications for the Designation Order (as varied by the Variation Order) arising directly as a result of the revised National Parks legislation – amendments to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 made by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
- ii. any implications for the Designation Order (as varied by the Variation Order) arising directly as a result of the High Court and Court of Appeal Judgments in the challenge by *Meyrick Estate Management Ltd* relating to the New Forest National Park;
- iii. the possible alternative boundary line from north of Petersfield running east across to Pulborough, produced by Natural England at Defra's request, based on a recommendation in the South Downs Inquiry Report Volume 1, Part 2 (para 2.71); and
- iv. those possible additional areas of land recommended for inclusion within the proposed South Downs National Park against which there have been objections.

The Inspector is also asked to indicate if any other points raised during the further public consultation that was held during the period 2nd July to 24th September 2007 have caused him to change any of his recommendations.

I would be grateful if you would make the necessary arrangements for the inquiry to re-opened as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gunningham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Gunningham

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