



SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Registered charity 256936

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7th July 2026

By e-mail only to
planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Planning Application AWDM/0737/26 - Land South East Corner of Amberley Drive, Marine Drive, Worthing.

I am writing on behalf of the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) ⁽¹⁾ to **object** to the above planning application.

Goring Gap is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS), designated as such in recognition of its importance as an undeveloped green gap in the otherwise built-up coastline of Littlehampton, Goring and Worthing. This makes it attractive as a landfall site for migrating birds, and which also offers them a green corridor onwards towards the South Downs. Aside from sea birds, a total of 98 species of land-based birds have been recorded at Goring Gap in the past 10 years (2016-2025). This very high species count at the site reflects its considerable ornithological significance.

In recognition of this, Goring Gap has also been designated an Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) in the recently-published West Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The LNRS lays particular emphasis on moving away from habitat fragmentation, instead promoting a "bigger, better, more joined up" approach. This application appears to run counter to these aspirations.

The Worthing Local Plan (2023) gives due weight to Local Wildlife Sites, and, together with the fact that the area is recognised as a Local Green Gap, rightly contains policies which restrict development there – Policies SS4 (Countyside and Undeveloped Coast) and DM19 (Green Infrastructure).

We note the applicant's Additional Planning Statement regarding compliance with Policy SS4, which appears to recognise all the above, but fails to offer compelling reasons why the facilities envisaged are of such importance as to command exemption from these designations and policies.

We trust that these comments will receive your consideration, and very much hope that this application will be refused.

Yours sincerely
Anthony Holden

**On behalf of the Sussex Ornithological Society
Conservation Team**

⁽¹⁾ The SOS is the county bird society. Our aims are to record and study wild birds in the county, to assist in the conservation of birds and to engage, inspire and educate people to enjoy, appreciate and understand birds and their habitats. We have a large database of bird records, which are shared with the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) and with other interested bodies. Our membership is approximately 1,900. For more information see our website at sos.org.uk