South Downs
National Park Authority

Adur and Worthing

Our Ref: SDNP/24/05222/ADJAUT
Contact Officer: Philippa Smyth
Tel. No.: Philippa.smyth@southdowns.gov.uk

2nd January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Neighbouring Authority Consultation

Applicant: Adur and Worthing
Proposal: Adjoining Authority Consultation - Adur and Worthing Councils (AWDM/1309/24) - Re-purposing existing car parking spaces for use as parking spaces for recharging of electric vehicles, including the installation of 2 upstands, feeder pillar, 4 bollards, lighting column and associated landscaping adjustments.
Location: Lyons Farm Retail Park , Lyons Way , Worthing , West Sussex,

Thank you for your correspondence received 17 December 2024, consulting us as a neighbouring authority on the above noted development proposals.

Although the application site is located outside of the National Park, the Council has a statutory duty to consider the Purposes of the National Park when making its determination. The statutory purposes and duty of the National Park are:

> **Purpose 1**: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
> **Purpose 2**: To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
> **Duty**: To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

The National Park's comments on the development are as follows:

The application site is located approximately 130m to the south of the boundary to the South Downs National Park, situated within the Lyons Farm Retail Park to the north east of Worthing.

Section 245 Duty and National Parks
Section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 strengthens the Section 11A (2) duty of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and requires all relevant authorities including neighbouring local planning authorities to further the National Park's statutory purposes. The first purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area. Development within the setting of a national park should be consistent with the section 245 duty, and Paragraph 182 of the NPPF now includes specific reference to the setting of National Parks: "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all

these designated areas should be limited, **while any development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."** It is therefore important to consider direct and indirect effects upon the National Park designated landscape **and its setting** as well as its special qualities.

Landscape, heritage and visual effects
It is acknowledged that the site is situated within the retail park and is therefore close to existing large buildings, lighting and car parking. It is unlikely that the proposed works will be highly visible from the National Park.

Dark Skies
Consideration should however be given to the International Dark Night Skies Reserve and dark night skies, which are a special quality of the National Park, and the Authority would encourage a sensitive approach to both external and internal lighting which conforms the Institute of Lighting Professionals for lighting in environmental zones, and tries to achieve zero upwards light spill in all respects.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

MIKE HUGHES
Interim Director of Planning
South Downs National Park Authority

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