

17 January 2023

Fjola Stevens
Divisional Manager, Development Management
Chichester District Council

Sent via email only

Dear Fjola,

Chilgrove Farm – Nitrate off-setting

I am writing to you to confirm that the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) will no longer be entering into any separate Section 106 legal agreements to secure nitrates off-setting at Chilgrove Farm in a piecemeal way (this would include any proposals for Land North of Highgrove Farm, Main Road, Bosham, Planning Reference BO/21/00571/FUL). This position has been shared with the landowners agent on 10th November 2022 and again on 22nd December 2022.

The SDNPA are supportive of the land management / restoration plan proposed at Chilgrove Farm (to enable nitrates off-setting). We are a protected landscape that is focused on the pursuit of nature recovery at scale delivered in a bigger, better and more joined up strategic way. Our aim is to re-nature 33% of the National Park by 2030. We recognise that the planning system provides one mechanism to deliver against this target. To achieve proper nature recovery in a protected landscape, the mitigation land must be aligned to a wider restoration vision and reflect the Lawton principles of; bigger, better and more joined up. Therefore, we are actively seeking larger parcels of land to come forward for nature based solutions as piecemeal sites do not deliver nature recovery.

As you are aware, we are working with the landowner at Chilgrove Farm to secure, what has been referred to as a 'strategic' Section 106 agreement to enable nature recovery. In addition, that agreement would secure nitrates credits for developments planned in the Chichester District area including for the development proposed at Land North of Highgrove Farm, Main Road, Bosham.

Again, as you know, the Authority has worked to expedite this strategic agreement and a copy of the draft was sent to the landowner (and his agents) back in November. We are waiting their detailed comments.

To confirm, the Authority is ready to enter into the strategic agreement as soon as possible but we are in the hands of the landowner and his advisers.

Yours sincerely



Nick Heasman
Countryside Policy Manager (Central Area)
South Downs National Park Authority

South Downs Centre, North Street,
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

T: 01730 814810
E: info@southdowns.gov.uk
www.southdowns.gov.uk

Chief Executive: Trevor Beattie

