

From: "Richard Bate"
Subject: Detling Aerodrome
Date: 14 November 2016 at 22:54:59 GMT
To: "'Louise St John Howe'" <louise@poservices.co.uk>

Dear Louise,

During discussions at the Maidstone Local Plan Examination last week, I was peripherally involved in discussions regarding the prospects or otherwise for development at Detling Aerodrome. This site is wholly within the AONB, and I made clear on behalf of the Kent Downs AONB Unit that my client was opposed to the allocation of this site and that the site would be most unlikely to satisfy the requirements of the NPPF paragraph 116.

At one point, in Session 8, the Inspector asked me a question which I interpreted at the time to suggest that Kent County Council had proposed the Detling Aerodrome site as an alternative to employment development at Waterside Park. I can confirm to the Inspector that this was not the case. The Kent Downs AONB Unit, KCC and Natural England made a joint case to the Waterside Park inquiry, and this included expert evidence on the availability of alternative employment sites at the time. (Since then, Aylesford Printworks has become available, for example.) It may be helpful if I attach the evidence of Colin Cottage, Partner of Glenny LLP, on this

subject. You will see from the review of Alternative Sites in his section 9 that Detling Aerodrome was not considered. Kent Downs AONB Unit and, so far as I am aware, Kent County Council have not promoted the Detling site for major employment development.

I should be grateful if you could draw this to the attention of the Inspector so that any possible misunderstanding is cleared up.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Bate
Partner
Green Balance
Providence Cottage
Upper Green Road
Shipbourne
Kent TN11 9PL
Tel./fax.: 01732 811456
Web: www.greenbalance.co.uk