

Potential points to make when expressing opposition to the Centre Parcs' proposal to develop Oldhouse Warren

- Tell Center Parcs and our local councillors and MPs, that Oldhouse Warren ancient woodland is the wrong place for a huge holiday park.
- Tell them that it is **an important site for birds**. Although Oldhouse Warren is not open to the public, it is known from authorised survey work that it is a breeding and foraging site for numerous bird species; some of these are so scarce that they are monitored by the national Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP), are Red-listed species of High Conservation Concern, or are Schedule 1 Species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. These include Goshawk, Marsh Tit and Firecrest, with further surveys likely to reveal other red-listed birds.
- It is home to scarce breeding birds that roam over large distances. **Oldhouse Warren is part of a wider, largely undisturbed, area of woodland and open fields**. Such extensive areas are extremely scarce in the South of England, which makes it all the more important that this site and the wider area around it remains protected from major development.
- The proposed site at Oldhouse Warren is entirely **ancient woodland, an irreplaceable habitat** that has been around for centuries with a unique ecosystem of soil organisms, fungi, invertebrates, birds and mammals that have evolved together over centuries.
- Oldhouse Warren is part of the wider medieval hunting forest of Worth Forest sitting within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Its development would **destroy part of a protected AONB landscape**.
- Development would be **contrary to national planning policy** which states that no development should occur in either Ancient Woodland or in an AONB except in exceptional circumstances. Clearly building a holiday village the size of 350 football pitches which could be located elsewhere is not an "exceptional circumstance".
- Development here goes **directly against the Prime Minister's commitment to protect 30% of the UK's land for nature by 2030**. This promise is based on the assumption that 26% of land in England is already "protected" by AONBs, National Parks and other designations. Destroying Oldhouse Warren, which sits entirely within the AONB, is incompatible with this 30% commitment.
- Development would cause a huge amount of **greenhouse gas emissions**, releasing the carbon stored in ancient, undisturbed soils and felling trees that currently absorb carbon dioxide. Such destruction would be irreconcilable with our legally binding commitments to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions and to plant huge numbers of new trees to absorb carbon and boost biodiversity.
- Urge Center Parks to find a more sustainable location in which to build their holiday village that would not result in the loss of irreplaceable habitats.
- Urge local MP's and Mid Sussex District Council to oppose this development.