

Dear Mr Weaver,

I'm writing with regards to APP/18/00943 and any application associated with change of usage / building etc in Tournembury Woods. I would ask you to consider the following points when looking at the application. Please could you reply to say you have received these comments and the photos are with the email and they will get associated with the application.

Plan/photo in the Ecological report



Above is an aerial photo from the ecological report submitted by the applicant in the ecological report. It's difficult to see a marquee in this picture.



The picture above is what appears to be exactly the same picture, directly cut and pasted from Google Earth. In the ecological report the marquee seems to be much less conspicuous compared

with the picture taken directly from the Google Earth. A cynic might suggest that the photo used in the ecological report has been manipulated to lessen the impact of the marquee. Both pictures also clearly show how the marquee can be seen from the sea from My Lords Pond even when the trees are in leaf.

SIZE OF THE MARQUEE

From recent submissions associated with Tournerbury Woods the applicant included a picture of a past marquee. As can be seen this is a very small affair and clearly not a viable from a business perspective.



A recent picture, taken from Google Earth, of the marquee today shows its size. Clearly the size of the operations is hugely different and the impact on the environment is also going to be hugely different. Note the clear section at west end of the existing marquee. Its difficult to see how this doesn't create significant light pollution.



Environmental impact.

One of the reports/letters submitted with the application states,

There are no records available of the environmental situation that existed prior to the development taking place. It would be both inappropriate and inaccurate of us or any other body, to apply assumptions for the purpose of attempting to compare the environmental situation which may have existed prior to the development, with that now existing. It would be equally inappropriate for those opposed to the continued use of the site to suggest it has been harmful to environmental interests in the absence of any evidence.

While it's true an "on the ground" assessment can be made, historic aerial views taken from Google Earth indicates that some very significant changes have been made to the site to accommodate the wedding business. It is completely inconceivable that these changes have not impacted the wildlife and flora, as it appears significant number of trees have been removed and the whole landscape of the site has altered. Bearing in mind this is an SSSI, these changes seems to contravene SSSI rules.

A Google Earth Timeline of the site.











Constant Usage

The photos from the Google Earth timeline (above) clearly show that the site has not been in constant use as a wedding venue, as there are no marques present in any of the earlier pictures and no space for the existing marque as it was previously woodland.

Certificate of lawfulness application

The various photos of the wedding site, the size of the marquee, lack of marquee shows the operation has changed very significantly and although the business may have been going for a while, it has clearly changed beyond recognition. The question then becomes what type of business was running. A very small affair or something larger.

Usage

The ecological report states

5. The use of the site as a wedding venue will result in an increase in the number of people visiting the site. However, a wedding is not held on every day of the year. The site also has been in constant human active use for the last c. 100 years.

The planning application asks for up to 200 event events per annum with up to 150 people. Simple maths shows could equate to 30,000 people per annum. This is not a small increase in usage. It's a massive increase in usage. Again it is completely inconceivable that this will not impact the environment.

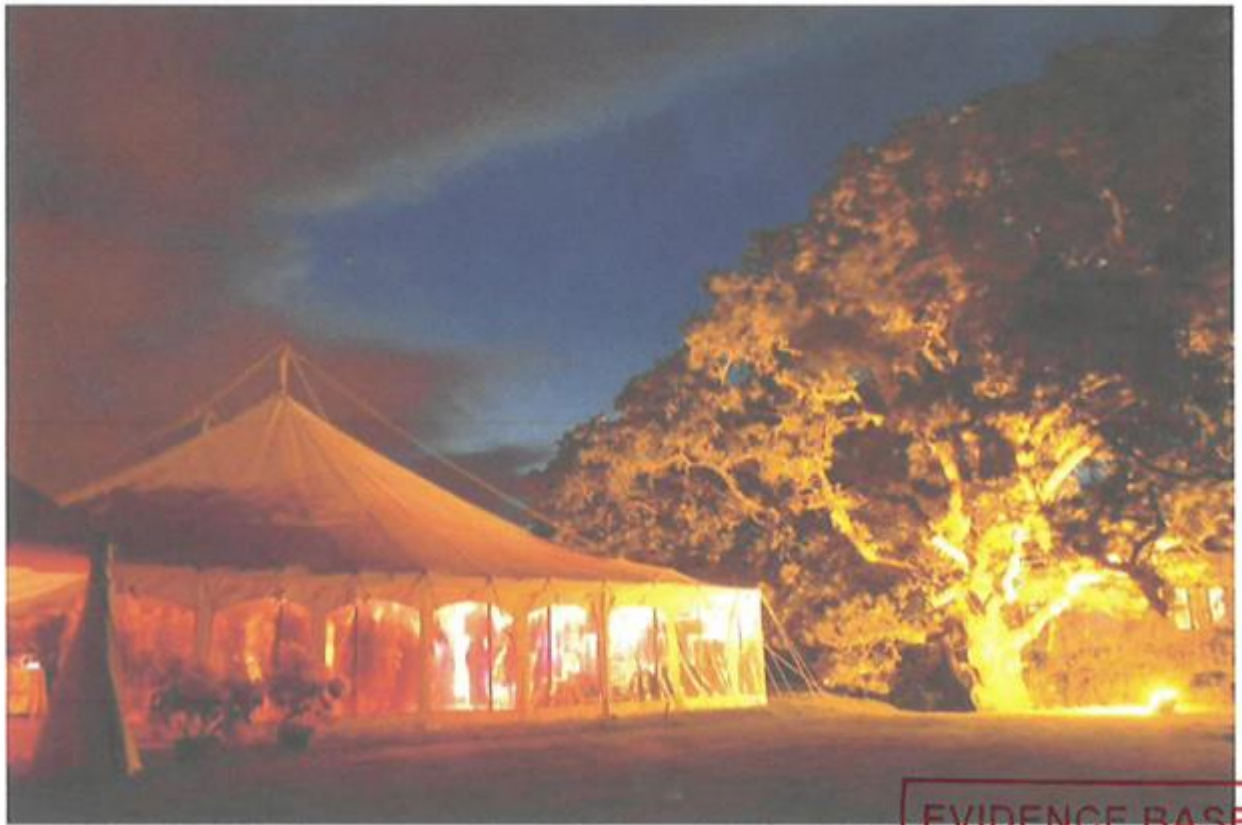
3.2.3 Historical use of the site

The site was previously used as a brick works from the late 1800's through to the early 1930's. Woods Cottage was then used as a private residential dwelling until c.2000, after which it has been in use as a wedding & event venue and for holiday lets and accommodation associated with events on site. The site has therefore been in constant active human use for the last c.100 years. Varying levels of noise and artificial lighting have been associated with the various uses of the site over the years.

While it maybe true people have visited the site for the past 100 years. The numbers that have visited the site in the past are not comparable to those discussed in the planning application. Although impossible to calculate, it is not inconceivable that the number visiting the site in one year, if the planning goes through, would be more that the number of people visiting in the last 100 years.

Light and noise pollution

Two photographs submitted by the applicant showing a weeding in progress. The environmental report suggests limited light pollution and minimal noise impact. The applicant's own photographs indicates this is absolutely NOT the case with fireworks and significant lighting around the marque.



EVIDENCE BASE

