

Statement to the Inglewood Inquiry

My name is Jennifer Walter and I have lived in the village of Churston Ferrers, one mile from the proposed Inglewood Development, for 25 years.

I am vehemently opposed to this development.

On a local level, this site will have a visual negative impact. It will also be damaging to our Tourism industry which is the mainstay of Torbay's business. People come here for our beautiful rolling countryside not to see sprawling housing estates.

Of even greater concern, is the impact of this development on the environment.

On 1st May 2019 the U.K. government declared an Environment and Climate Emergency and has stated that the U.K. should be carbon neutral by 2050.

On 24th June 2019 Torbay Council declared a Climate Emergency with a pledge to make Torbay carbon neutral by 2030.

These declarations have been made following the clear and irrefutable science showing that we must take urgent action now to avert catastrophic climate change and restore nature. This is of particular concern against the backdrop of the 2019 State of Nature report which showed that populations of the UK's most important wildlife have plummeted by 60% since 1970.

We cannot allow this to continue and must take action to preserve and enhance ALL our green spaces. We need them to absorb as much CO2 as possible. Concreting over pristine countryside and planting a few trees around the houses is NOT acceptable. All new builds should be on brownfield sites, of which there is a plentiful supply within Torbay.

On 18th November 2020 the government announced a 10 point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

Point 9 is protecting and restoring our natural environment.

Boris Johnson stated 'Britain's iconic landscapes are part of the fabric of our national identity – sustaining our communities, driving local economies and inspiring people across the ages. That's why with the natural world under threat, it's more important than ever that we act now to enhance our natural environment and protect our precious wildlife and biodiversity.'

If the landowner of the proposed development does not wish to continue farming the land then he/she should be encouraged and funded to re-wild it, improving the biodiversity in the area and contributing precious ecosystem services. This is in keeping with the Government's new 'public money for public goods' approach to land management being rolled out under the Agriculture Act 2020. The land should not be used for a housing development.

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including a central presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF sets out 12 core planning principles, one of which is conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

This proposed development does neither.

It could be argued that Inglewood will only have a small impact on our environment but I would urge you, Mr. Dawe (Inspector) to consider the bigger picture. Developments like this one are being built all over the country and overall are having a huge impact on our country's carbon sequestering capabilities. The time to stop building these developments is NOW! Please Inspector, take a stand, support our community and our Council and for the sake of our grandchildren reject this appeal.