

Planning application Comment - FUL/2023/0005

As a school we have used Hilltop Outdoor Centre for over 10 years, specifically for our vulnerable children who we feel would benefit from the increased confidence their days at Hilltop bring. It provides a fantastic range of activities and accommodation for schools. It is a nationally recognised leader in the Outdoor Education market. It is a truly fantastic facility for several reasons.

The activities on site offer our children a chance to learn about themselves and the environment, providing a fantastic opportunity for personal and social development. In fact, I would say our visits there form a vital part of our Disadvantaged Pupils' strategy. Staffing is of high quality and encourages enjoyment, self confidence, working and living together cooperatively, mutual respect & support and rising to challenges. We see a real change in our children from their experiences, which is why we return year after year.

The activities of Hilltop are matched by the wonderful grounds that surround the centre. It is available all year round and we visit in the late autumn. Hilltop is set in acres of rolling woodland and pasture. This is very special to the children who enjoy the freedom of the site away from industry and roads. The NCC proposal would certainly create the danger of damaging this feeling of open countryside and I feel it would probably harm the children's experience.

We would ask those in authority to think again and look at an alternative location which would not have a negative affect on Thousands of young people's experience whilst at Hilltop.

