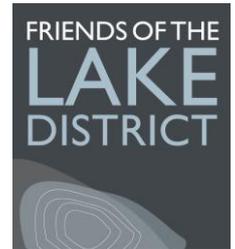
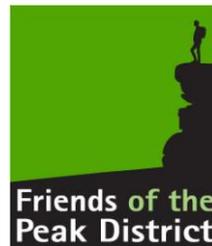


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South Downs Society  
formerly Society of Sussex Downsmen  
*Protecting the Beauty of the Downs*



Nick Boles MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Planning)  
Department of Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

29 January 2014

Dear Minister

### **Barn conversions proposals will damage National Parks**

We are aware that you are due to make your final decision on proposals to allow redundant barns to be converted into housing without planning permission and wanted to emphasise our deep concern over the damage these proposals will cause in all National Parks.

We recognise that National Parks are living landscapes which must adapt over time. There is a need for the appropriate change of use of existing buildings, particularly where this can provide much needed affordable housing or ensure the future upkeep of traditional buildings. However such changes of use need to be carefully managed and monitored to ensure that they are not harming the unique character of an area. This is particularly important in National Parks which are our finest landscapes with the highest level of protection and where even small changes can have a disproportionate impact.

If these changes go ahead they will lead to the development of new, isolated residential units in unsustainable locations. Residential use will require physical changes (power lines, driveways, gardens, parked cars) and generate new traffic from, for example, refuse collections and postal

and other deliveries in addition to journeys made by the occupants and their visitors. Where once there was a field barn standing isolated in a hay meadow, there will be a pocket of suburbia, which if repeated throughout the landscape would create sprawl and spoil everyone's enjoyment of nature, open space and tranquillity.

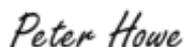
All of this will have a detrimental impact on the statutory purposes and special qualities of National Parks and result in damage to our most precious landscapes. It will also remove planning authorities' ability to monitor important aspects of development such as the impact on wildlife.

We do not believe that these changes should be introduced at all, but if they are then they should not apply in National Parks.

Yours sincerely



Anne Robinson, Chairman  
Campaign for National Parks



Peter Howe  
Broads Society



James Paxman, Chief Executive  
Dartmoor Preservation Association



Rachel Thomas, Chairman  
Exmoor Society



Jack Ellerby, Policy Officer  
Friends of the Lake District



Andy Tickle, Director  
Friends of the Peak District



Peter Roberts, Chairman  
New Forest Association



Tom Chadwick, Chairman  
North York Moors Association



Robert Cheesman, Chairman  
South Downs Society



Malcolm Petyt, Chairman  
Yorkshire Dales Society