

Major impact on the visual amenity of the Farthing Common scenic viewpoint, part of the North Downs AONB



The Farthing Common scenic viewpoint car park is a very well used by both tourist and locals who come to take in the extremely pleasant views across the Kent countryside and into East Sussex. You will often find people with binoculars and SLR cameras viewing and taking pictures.

The area is marked on maps as a scenic viewpoint.

The pictures were taken using a GE (General Electric) HZ15 camera which is 14.1 mega pixel with a 15X optical zoom, it is a modest camera costing a little over £100 opposed to a SLR camera which generally cost from around £400.

Even using no zoom, you can quite clearly pick out Sellindge in the foreground of this first picture, the Aldington Ridge and the South Downs National Park in East Sussex.

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Using some of the zoom on this modest camera, you can easily pick the South Downs which is now a National Park.

Using the zoom we have zoomed over the main body of Sellindge, but Sommerfield Court can be still seen in the foreground, the Aldington Ridge and NOTE that one of the Ecotricity wind masts eclipses the top of the South Downs on the horizon.

I made sure that I kept the nearby woodland on the hill up to Farthing Common, in shot as a marker as to where the photo was taken.

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This photo was taken approx 10m further along towards Canterbury at Farthing Common.

One thing that can be seen is that some of the EDF wind farm at Cheyne Court, Romney Marsh have a real major adverse impact on the visual view of Fairlight Cliffs in Sussex.

In this photo you have both some of the EDF wind farm wind turbines and one of the Harringe Brooks wind masts in the same shot.

The Fairlight Cliffs, Sussex view has been ruined; the

addition of the Harringe Brooks wind farm would continue the ruined part of the much loved views from Farthing Common.

It will also ruin the views from the South Downs in Sussex, as there is bound to be viewpoints on the South Downs in Sussex where people relish the chance of viewing and taking pictures of the North Downs in our part of Kent.

As can be seen from the EDF wind farms, there is no way that the adverse visual impact can be mitigated.

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National Planning Policy Framework

115. Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.

118. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles: • if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

