

## **Public Statements for Cabinet 23 January 2023**

1. Catrina Smith

### **Statement to Cabinet - Objection to Hampshire County Council's Mineral and Waste Plan**

I object to Hampshire's proposal to extract minerals at Midgham Farm and Cobley Farm, adjacent to Alderholt, and to the proposal for asbestos disposal at Hamer Warren.

Our road infrastructure, especially the Somerley Road, is totally unsuitable and inadequate for the addition of 200 or more HGV movements a day. Hillbury Road and Harbridge Drove form the key route between Alderholt and Ringwood and are already in very poor condition, narrow and unsuitable for the existing level of HGV movements to and from Hamer Warren. The roads are unlikely to be upgraded. Hants CC claim that the road is capable of handling the additional HGVs, yet they recently refused a similar application on a similar route near Kingsworthy - on the grounds of road safety.

There would be at least a doubling of greenhouse gas emissions from the extra HGV movements. Dorset Council has declared a climate emergency and must surely object to this, because of its impact on global heating, residents' health and the detriment to environmentally sensitive, protected sites. There are already too many development proposals and sites in build around Fordingbridge and Alderholt. Cumulatively, these will have a serious impact on the River Avon, which is a protected landscape, i.e. SSSI and SAC. Meadow land would be lost with a negative impact on wildlife. Landscapes could be lost open water. Plans to backfill with inert waste might change in the future to landfill or hazardous waste.

Dust from the site would have a serious adverse impact on the quality of life and health of residents at Alderholt, Harbridge, Bicton and Fordingbridge. The plans state the quarry sites are not even in an air monitoring zone so silica dust is a real risk.

The increase in noise above background noise levels would be significant and detrimental to health and wellbeing. Some properties are very close indeed to the site. The existing Hamer Warren quarry is already too noisy.

I do not believe that adequate consideration has been given to extracting gravel in areas that would not affect residents and the natural environment so badly. This site as well as Cobley Wood should be deleted from the plan and more suitable locations identified.

The proposal for asbestos waste disposal at Hamer Warren should also be strongly opposed. If this waste were safe, it could and would be disposed of near the source, probably building demolition in areas of high population such as Southampton and Basingstoke. Asbestos can give rise to a virtually untreatable cancer, mesothelioma with a very poor survival rate. Instead, Hants CC want to truck it to Hamer Warren, which is unsustainable, and expose Verwood and Alderholt residents to the health hazards.

Please object to these proposals, which have no support and indeed are strongly opposed by residents whom you represent.

2. William Roberts

I am both shocked and disgusted to learn that Dorset Council are planning to vote 'no objection' to the gravel landfill at Midgham Farm.

I am a resident of Alderholt and I strongly urge you to reconsider and object to the proposed gravel pit based on the following negative impacts:

Noise and air pollution as a direct result of extraction, processing and transportation.

Alderholt road leading to the B3081 is already in huge disrepair, potholes everywhere; extra HGV traffic from the pit will make the road far worse.

Damage to environment and ecology - there are sensitive water meadows close to the proposed site which must be protected.

We have terrible water logging issues, with standing water remaining for long periods after heavy rainfall and the proposed pit will make this worse.

Severe negative effect on residents' well-being by taking away the footpath and cycle path.

Loss of agricultural land which could be needed in the future.

Ugly blot on our beautiful landscape.

3. Kathleen Henderson

I strongly object to the proposed gravel pit at Midgham Farm.

Please submit the following statement at the Dorset Council Cabinet meeting on Monday 23rd January at 10am:

I object based on the following negative impacts:

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6. Venetia Rowland



## **The Need**

HCC consistently overestimate the need for soft sand and gravel (SSG). Resulting repeated extension of planning permissions.

Since 2001 there has been a reduction of 26% in the use of recycled and secondary aggregate production

**Midgham Farm** was withdrawn due to the Officers report in June 1995 which recommended refusal. These reasons were:

- No need for the extraction could be justified for the proposed development and it did not outweigh the adverse environmental impact that it would have had on the local area.
- Extreme sound impact in excess of 10 dB(A) above the existing background level throughout the life of the site, severely impacting on the amenity of residents.
- The cumulative impact of the proposal on the Harbridge Area being worked at the same time as Bleak Hill would be unacceptable.
- Unacceptable implications on traffic movements.

**Cobley Wood Farm** withdrawn by the applicant in 1992 due to the Officers report which recommended refusal.

The NFDC Planning Officer commented “***New Forest District Council raises the strongest possible objection to this application and backs the concerns expressed by local residents and amenity societies.***”

## **Transport Assessment:**

110 two-way HGV movements per day, and additional 20 car journeys per day from Monday

– Friday: 7am – 6pm and Saturday – 7am – 1pm. This doesn't align with “***For transport this means enabling, supporting and delivery a reduction in transport related carbon emissions to net zero (neutrality) by 2050***”

## **Ecological impact**

The Catchment Map from Natural England Technical Information Note. TIN208. clearly shows that both Midgham Farm and Cobley Wood are within the Nutrient Neutrality SSSI Catchment.

## **Landscape Impact**

The character of large parts of the Avon valley has been changed by the extraction of sands and gravel and the sites being restored to open water bodies rather than meadow land. The landscape value of the remaining parts of the valley that are still intact is becoming a more

important and this is a highly sensitive area. Both sites are visible from the western escarpment of the New Forest National Park.

**Restoration of land to agricultural use:** there is evidence that this is not achievable due to gravel extraction and clay base.

## Hydrogeology

At this time there are no hydrogeological reports within the Partial Update which can show mitigation of the adverse impact to the area.



Disturbance of Water flow through the land – springs into the ditch systems to Avon River. **The EA has identified that Midgham Farm has secondary A aquifers, permeable layers that can support local water supplies, and form an important source of base flow to rivers.**

## Footpaths

Footpaths 24 and 26 at Cobley Wood and Footpaths 2,3,7,8a & 8b would be impacted at Midgham Farm. The PROW network in this area is being seriously eroded.

**Proximity to Airport/aerodrome (safeguarding)** both sites are within the Bournemouth airport safeguarding zone.

## Cumulative Impact

Within the HMWP Partial Update: SA/SEA Interim Report August 2022 it is noted that due to the considerable extraction which has been concentrated. However, consideration cannot be at the planning application stage, as these sites would be taken in isolation as the timing would be significantly different in each coming forward

## Need for Inclusion/Exclusion?

Additionally within the HMWP Partial Update: SA/SEA Interim Report August 2022 on Midgham Farm and Cobley Wood Farm considerations have been identified which are closely aligned to **Hyde Farm, Bickton** which has been now excluded from the proposed extraction sites in this “partial update”.

**I urge you to object to Midgham Farm, Cobley Wood Farm’s inclusion and the implications of hazardous waste infill at Bleak Hill 2. *These sites should not go forward to the next stage of the HCC Mineral and Waste Plan.***

## 7. Stephen Godsall

"Please consider the evidence that Midgham Farm is not a suitable site for mineral extraction and is not required to meet demand over the next 20 years. An application for extraction here was refused in 1995 because there was "no need for the mineral currently or in the foreseeable future" and because of the environmental impact. These reasons apply even more strongly today.

It was not known in 1995 that the nearby Hamer Warren workings would continue to expand for over 30 years, and that the operators would fail to restore the land to agricultural use - they are now applying for permission to dump hazardous waste there. Nor was it known that the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency would become so acute, and the need for productive farmland in the UK become such a priority.

Your report suggests that more sites are needed for gravel extraction to meet demand. The attached evidence shows this is not really the case, particularly if care is taken to make use of recycled materials. Over 30 years we have seen a clear pattern of HCC overestimating the need for soft sand and gravel. This has resulted in the existing extraction sites having their operations extended time and time again, well beyond the original timescales.

Midgham Farm is an essential wildlife corridor between the housing of Alderholt and Fordingbridge and the degraded landscape caused by gravel workings at Hamer Warren. It is located where the Dorset and New Forest heathlands are closest together - only 2km apart across the Avon Valley. All three habitats are protected by European legislation which the UK government has promised to strengthen. The landscape of raised alluvial terraces allied with woodland, water meadows and productive farmland is far more valuable than the aggregate deposits beneath it.

On top of these factors is the disruption and heavy goods traffic which is already a nuisance to Alderholt people and would multiply if these sites operate together. Your report suggests that Hampshire should mitigate the cumulative impact of traffic from the sites but once they are in the Minerals Plan they would be unable to resist planning applications or enforce mitigation. Midgham Farm must be left out of the plan, at least until other sites are completed and restored."