

From: Richard McBrien
Sent: 16 March 2017 18:33
To: Day, Peter - E&E
Subject: Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation – Clanfield/Bampton area

Dear Mr Day,

Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation – Clanfield/Bampton area

I am writing on behalf of Bampton Parish Council which strongly supports the exclusion of the above area from the final Plan, Policy M3.

We feel it is impractical to exploit the deposits in this area for the following reasons:

1. The road network is one of narrow ancient roads bordered closely by houses in the many villages that abound in this area. The roads would be unable to take heavy traffic and there are many weight limits.
2. Schools and churches are on the roadside and the many S bends are almost impassable for today's agricultural machinery and impossible for large lorries.
3. There is no lorry route close to this area and all the bridges over the Thames are humpbacked and narrow. There are weight restrictions on the Thames crossing bridges at Radcot, Tadpole Bridge Bampton, Standlake and also we believe on Thames Street, Lechlade.
4. To gain any reasonable access would call for a vast road and bridge building programme.
5. On the roads in this area there are more than 200 listed buildings in the Domesday villages. They could not withstand heavy lorry pounding.
6. This area is absorbing considerable and continual expansion of RAF Brize Norton. This has already impacted on increased traffic and the problems associated with bird air strike. If there is gravel extraction and therefore water pits formed the increase risk of bird strike at Brize Norton is inevitable.
7. The gravel in this area is not deep. The Geographical Survey of Oxfordshire indicated that of the 59 locations surveyed the locations in the Clanfield/Bampton area came 9th, 20th, 50th and 59th for the number of tonnes per hectare. There are therefore many locations in the County with considerably deeper deposits.
8. The area is low lying and at risk from flooding. In 2007 more than 365 houses were flooded. WODC stated in their flood report 'further gravel extraction or other major developments beyond existing allocations should not be permitted without the fullest consideration of the potential of that development to worsen or ameliorate the flooding situation'.
9. The area is good agricultural land. Several of the Parishes concerned are conservation areas and are of historical importance.
10. The area is very flat and it would be impossible to hide a quarry.

11. This remains the only area in the Upper Thames Valley that has not been desecrated by quarries. It should be protected further. Many visitors find this area convenient for touring the Cotswolds and the thriving and growing tourist trade would be badly damaged by gravel extraction.

Yours sincerely,

Richard McBrien
Councillor, Bampton Parish Council