

From: Janet Rouse
Sent: 17 March 2017 10:30
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 the gravel in this area is Grade 2 gravel (that is for uses other than housing) I believe it would be impractical to excavate it and my reasons are:-

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. On the only routes available for HGVs either to the A40 or the A420 there are schools and churches on the roadside. There are many S bends which are hard enough for today's large farm machinery to negotiate and passing such vehicles with an HGV can be done only in limited places.
3. There is no lorry route close to this area and all the bridges over the Thames are humpbacked and narrow and have weight restrictions.
4. To gain any reasonable access would call for a vast road and bridge building programme which would inevitably take away valuable agricultural land, rural habitat and yet more natural soak-away.
5. 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'.
6. On the roads in this area there are more than 200 listed buildings in Domesday villages. They could not withstand the inevitable vibrations from heavy lorry pounding.
7. This area is absorbing considerable expansion at the moment with housing growth in Carterton and Bampton as well as what appears to be continual expansion of RAF Brize Norton. The roads are already congested and full of potholes.
8. Any increase in waterways, as in the case of excavations, will increase the risk of bird strike at Brize Norton and the base commander has previously stated he would not wish to see any large areas of open water that would attract flocks of large birds.
9. 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.
10. The area is good agricultural land. Some of the parishes concerned are conservation areas. Areas of ancient habitation and historical importance abound.
11. The area is very flat and it would be impossible to hide a quarry.
12. 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. This area relies on the valuable income from tourism and nothing should be done to make it unattractive to visitors.

Yours truly

Janet Rouse