

Comment for planning application 20/02453/F

Application Number	20/02453/F
Location	Hornton Grounds Quarry Hornton
Proposal	A fuel depot including ancillary offices, the installation of plant and hardstanding
Case Officer	Bob Neville
Organisation Name	
Name	Anne Joyner
Address	The Gables, Millers Lane, Hornton, OX15 6BS
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Re the application for a fuel depot in the quarry next door to Hornton Grounds Farm, Ref: 20/02453/f. Although technically a 'brownfield site' this is a completely rural location and we have always understood that the permissions for mineral extraction required the land to be put back to agricultural use when mining ceased. The owners of Hornton Grounds Farm, Mr and Mrs Vint, who share a boundary with the site, are dedicated to farming in the most environmentally friendly way possible, with the result that their land hosts an unusually large array of wildlife, many of which are nocturnal. This balance would be threatened by the presence of an industrial unit running 24 hours a day with attendant lighting, noise and smell. We have been in Hornton long enough to have experienced the working quarry when it was closer to the village. In the supporting documents section covering any potential noise disturbance the report airily dismisses any disturbance to this village as 'unlikely' as it's one kilometre away, which does not take into account the prevailing wind. Our past experience however tells us otherwise - even a relatively 'small' noise like the reversing beepers on lorries becomes extremely disturbing when it is continuous. There would also be the noise of electric pumps and a constant stream of heavy lorries and at 5.30 in the morning, every morning except Sunday, that will definitely constitute a disturbance. The use of the weasel word 'unlikely' in the application is not at all reassuring. The depot would be lit for 24 hours as loading will be taking place overnight. This must mean the use of gantries and floodlights which will cause serious light pollution in what is currently a dark area. The fact that we would suddenly have an extensive storage facility containing huge amounts of hazardous material nearby is very concerning. There must be a constant risk of leakages from fuel pipes contaminating the ground. The flood risk assessment in the plans mentions the sandstone and excellent soak-away system but presumably this efficient soak-away will also easily allow for contamination of the Sor Brook which runs adjacent to the site. There is also the serious question of safety and what the risks of fire or explosion might be. We understand that this same application has already been refused for a site on Sugerswell Industrial Park. If it's not considered appropriate for an area already zoned as industrial how can it be considered for a completely rural, agricultural setting? The documents dealing with roads rightly state that apart from staff the fuel tankers will only be using the A roads and not the lanes. This does of course mean that the A road through Wroxton, Drayton and the route to the M.40 will, in addition to quarry lorries and regular MX track users, have to cope with multiple large fuel tankers at all time of the day and night. We know that Wroxton residents have already expressed understandable concerns over dirt, noise and above all speeding through their village, and this application talks about a hundred additional tanker movements. There must surely be a site closer to the M40 among the already heavily industrialised areas of Banbury that would be more appropriate. Finally, our experience with Wroxton MX makes us nervous about the actual results and motives of this new application. Naturally the applicants will strive to make their original application look as neighbour-friendly and safe as possible, but clearly the operators will want to make as much money as they can and no doubt usage will accelerate dramatically in the future, when nothing can be done about it. It's beginning to feel as if Hornton, our neighbouring villages and our peaceful way of life is under siege on all sides.</p>
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Attachments	