

# Comment for planning application 20/02453/F

<b>Application Number</b>	<input type="text" value="20/02453/F"/>
<b>Location</b>	<input type="text" value="Hornton Grounds Quarry Hornton"/>
<b>Proposal</b>	<input type="text" value="A fuel depot including ancillary offices, the installation of plant and hardstanding"/>
<b>Case Officer</b>	<input type="text" value="Bob Neville"/>
<b>Organisation</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Name</b>	<input type="text" value="Steve Tilling"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text" value="The Barn,Millers Lane,Hornton,Banbury,OX15 6BS"/>
<b>Type of Comment</b>	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
<b>Type</b>	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
<b>Comments</b>	<input type="text" value="I wish to object to this application on the grounds that it fails to recognise the potential widespread impacts on biodiversity, including those which could affect freshwater communities throughout two adjacent Conservation Protection Areas - the Northern Valleys CTA. The proposed location of the fuel depot lies on one of the most important watersheds in the south midlands. It also lies above an aquifer. Water draining from this site emerges via numerous local springs (including, apparently, one on the proposed site) which become the sources for streams which flow towards the southeast into the Sor Brook and eventually the Cherwell. Positioning 750,000 litres of fuel oil on top of this hydrologically sensitive site is dangerously risky. The boundaries of the Northern Valleys CTA follow the catchments which the springs drain into. In other words, the fen and swamp habitats which are found in scattered flushes along the valleys and in small pockets near the streams at Wroxton, Balscote Mills and Horley - all of which are all notable in conservation terms - depend on the water quality emerging from those springs. These would be threatened by a fuel leak from the depot. A major leak could be catastrophic in ecological terms, and could impact on freshwater sites for large distances downstream. The location on top of a watershed would make remedial management following a leak almost impossible. I have sampled a nearby pond for freshwater invertebrates. It was biologically rich. It is likely that a survey of nearby streams that could be affected by a fuel leak (from tanks or tankers) would show that they scored highly in biotic assessments of water quality. I think that the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal carried in support of the application is inadequate in scope. Its survey area is too narrow. A much wider catchment-focused survey, including a very detailed hydrology survey which includes modelling for fuel leakages, would highlight the potential threats of a catastrophic leak which have not been considered by the current appraisal. The hydrological threat to underlying aquifers was one of the main reasons why nearby Wroxton Fields was rejected as a potential site for inert waste disposal (see Mineral and Waste Sites Assessment: Minerals and Waste Sites Local Plan For Oxfordshire County Council - January 2020)."/>
<b>Received Date</b>	<input type="text" value="19/10/2020 10:14:14"/>
<b>Attachments</b>	