



## W H ALLAN FARMS

W H Allan Farms  
Hornton Grounds Farm  
Hornton  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX15 6HH

19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Mr Neville,

### **Objection to Planning Application: - 20/02453/F**

I am writing to fully object to the proposed planning for a fuel depot at Hornton Grounds Quarry. I live in the cottage at Hornton Grounds and farm the surrounding land adjacent to the quarry and fear that the proposed depot would have a hugely detrimental effect on my home and my entire farming business for a number of reasons.

I currently farm crops and livestock, producing high quality pasture-fed beef pork and lamb and free-range Kellybronze turkeys. I employ three people on the farm and in the on-site farm shop through which we sell our quality home-produced beef, pork and lamb. The site of and driveway to the proposed fuel depot runs alongside the fields where my stock graze. The field where the 1000 free-range Kellybronze turkeys currently graze is directly adjacent to the boundary of the proposed fuel depot and I fear for the affect the additional noise would have on the welfare and wellbeing of the birds. Free-range birds are very sensitive to light and noise and any variations may result in the birds feather-pecking each-other to such an extreme that it causes death. Once the birds exhibit this reaction it is very difficult to control and can result in very high levels of bird mortality.

The farmland at Hornton Grounds is rolling Ironstone Down countryside, rich in biodiversity and supporting a huge diversity of farmland birds, butterflies, bats, flora and fauna. Something we are extremely proud of. The presence of such a large scale fuel depot and its associated noise and light pollution will definitely have a massive detrimental effect on the native wildlife.

I also have huge concerns for the safety of the water courses and natural springs which flow through the farm and which the cattle and sheep regularly drink from. I believe the risk of flooding due to run-off from the proposed fuel depot and the risk of contamination to the water courses has been grossly under-estimated.

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The proposed level of traffic activity to the depot – 158 tankers per week is far too great for the local road network to sustain. Large fuel tankers, accessing the shared drive 24 hours a day, and pulling out onto the fast and busy A422 has huge safety issues on what is an already accident hotspot. The safety to animals and to farm workers whilst moving cattle and sheep to and from fields either side of the quarry drive is also of major concern. Currently customers coming to buy their meat from our farm-shop can enjoy the experience of coming to a peaceful, rural setting knowing that they are buying quality products direct from the working farm. This experience will be totally destroyed if they have to try to safely navigate their way through the continuous flow of large tankers sharing the same driveway access.

As a working farm we support and promote the national initiative to try to educate and connect consumers with the understanding of and source of their food. Each year we open our farm gates for Open Farm Sunday (an initiative developed by LEAF – Linking Environment and Farming) and welcome the public to our farm to see and learn about food production. We regularly attract 1000 visitors. Whilst the event is free to attend, it is a major contribution to our business as visitors purchase our meat. Obviously, having a major fuel depot in the adjacent field with tankers continuously driving in and out does not enhance the rural day out that families come to enjoy.

I do not believe that the Hornton Quarry is an appropriate site for this proposed development. The area is currently a peaceful, rural haven for people and wildlife and the implications of siting a large fuel depot such as the planning suggests, is completely out of balance with the natural environment and I fear for the negative effect it will have on my home and livelihood.

I strongly oppose the planning application.

Yours sincerely,

Will Allan