

We wish once again to strongly oppose the Planning Application by CERTAS to build a Fuel Storage Facility in Hornton Grounds Quarry. For the following reasons,

- 1) **THE CHOSEN POSITION** The part of north Oxfordshire surrounding the proposed Fuel Storage depot is an area of outstanding beauty. Arriving at the proposed site entrance on the A 422, one could believe that the nearest village is Wroxton almost 3 miles away. The facts are very different. Hornton Grounds Farm overlooks the site and **the conservation village of Hornton lies behind it, only metres away.** A conservation site is designated as such, so that geographical locations can be retained as valuable examples for present and future generations to enjoy and learn of their heritage. Everything in and around Hornton Village Conservation Area is subject to the strictest of developmental controls. Home - owners cannot even change a window, or reshape a tree without permission. Hornton is not just for its residents. With its criss-crossing footpaths it is a destination of choice for walkers, ramblers and groups of precious young people from many schools across different counties who come to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. How quite do you see that a fuel storage facility within our parish boundary fits into this background? It does not. Allowing a Bulk Fuel Storage Depot on this site would make a mockery of Cherwell District Council's stated policy of conserving Hornton and all that is best in its environment. It would also be a breach of trust with the many of us who have consistently applied for planning permission for the smallest property changes to comply with Cherwell District Council's stated aims.
- 2) **THE BREAKING OF A PROMISE.** When Hornton was asked to take on the many inconveniences of quarrying close to our village, we were promised, at a meeting in Hornton Pavilion, that the land would be returned to agricultural use. We were even advised that the new contours produced, would be easier to farm than the original ones!
- 3) **THE A422** This will be the road used by every tanker going North, South, East or West. Have you travelled this route? A tanker going South or East will enter Wroxton at a bend which includes a double junction just a few metres from Wroxton Primary School. Much of the village lies on the main road. At the southern end there is a hotel and hair- pin double bend. A mile away is Drayton which mainly lies on the Banbury Road including a care home. At the T junction, is North Oxfordshire College with its gates directly onto this road. To get to the M40 tankers will have to traverse Banbury adding to local black spots such as the Tesco junction. Going North from Hornton Grounds, tankers will pass a busy National Trust Property on a bend and then descend in all weathers, the dangerously steep Sunrising Hill with its sharp left hand bend. Banbury has an arterial route running right along its eastern border - the M40. Why is this facility not being put close to this motorway which was designed for heavy and hazardous traffic.? The A422 is not even a designated lorry route and for good reason.
- 4) **SAFETY AND RISK FACTORS** The water table around Hornton is complicated by springs, and streams. The Hornton Grounds site raises huge safety issues with regard to pollution. Also, in the event of fire, a Tender would take twenty minutes to get to the scene (a fact sadly illustrated by a devastating fire in Hornton last Summer). Ambulances would take almost as long
- 5) **THE RUINOUS IMPACT ON TWO RURAL BUSINESSES** Hornton Grounds Farm shares an entrance with the site. It comprises two separate businesses built up over several years. One is a livestock farm with a shop selling home produced meat from animals at present reared in perfect conditions. This is run by a young hard working couple who thought their future was secure. The other is a Country House Bed and Breakfast Facility, run as a rural retreat for a wide variety of clients including riders who bring their horses. However with 24/7 lighting and the noise of tanker traffic nobody is going to choose to bring their animals next door to a Fuel Storage Depot and those seeking a break in a quiet and tranquil retreat with walks along peaceful footpaths are certainly going to go elsewhere!

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