

From: Countryside Planning
Sent: 07 June 2013 11:35
To: County Planning
Cc: Countryside Planning; Beal, Matthew
Subject: 13/00755/CMA - Warren Heath Recycling Facility, Welsh Drive, Eversley

Katherine, Thank you for sending us this consultation.
Please accept this response as being that of The Highway Authority in respect of Public Rights of Way.

We must object to the proposal due to the adverse effect it would have on those wishing to enjoy quiet recreation in the countryside, particularly users of rights of way and most especially those on horseback.

Eversley Bridleway No 11, commonly referred to as Welsh Drive, runs along the northern boundary of the site and indeed is used by the site as the means of access for vehicles, which includes HGVs. The red line boundary appears to include the stretch of bridleway which runs between the site and the A327. This bridleway provides access to the many acres of Forestry Commission woodlands in the area.

Whilst the Landscape Proposals Plan, *Drwg No WH 9/005 Rev A* and the Proposed Indicative Site Layout *Drwg No 002 Rev A* show the line of this bridleway and two photographs (Viewpoints 5 and 6) include a glimpse of it, we could find no mention within the rest of the submission of the bridleway, or of the increased adverse effects the proposal would produce and hence no mention of any mitigation for these effects.

The current temporary permission (*06/02863/CMA*) requires operations on site to cease within six months of the completion of mineral extraction permitted under permission *00/00679/CMA*, or by 31 December 2013, whichever is the sooner. The land is then to be restored to forestry within a further six months.

Under these requirements, the negative features of noise, dust and views of an industrial complex would be removed and users of the bridleway would once again be able to enjoy safe, peaceful use of the countryside.

The current proposal seeks, not only to make the operations permanent, but to increase tonnage throughput per annum by a factor of five, from 50,000 tonnes pa to 250,000 tonnes pa.

In terms of safety, we understand that horse-riders have a particular problem trying to cross the A327 from Welsh Drive as this is a fast stretch of road. Coupled with this, is the fact that HGVs from the recycling site have to pull up behind them and their air-brakes can spook the horses. An increase in the number of vehicles using the site would only exacerbate this problem.

We consider that such a proposal represents an unacceptable level of disturbance in the countryside, both in terms of its proposed permanency and in the scale of the proposed operation and specifically would produce an unacceptable adverse impact on users of the bridleway, particularly horse-riders. Consequently, we believe the proposal should be refused.

Many thanks

Barry Lockyer

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