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Mrs Laura Horner
The Planning Control Team
Enforcement and Compliance
Community and Environmental Services PP B2S 4
Somerset County Council,
County Hall,
Taunton TA1 4DY

21st December 2016

Dear Mrs Horner

APPLICATION NO.16/05249/CPO: IMPORTATION AND DEPOSITION OF CONSTRUCTION, DEMOLITION AND SUBSOIL WASTE TO RE-CONTOUR LAND TO IMPROVE THE SLOPE GRADIENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL FIELD: LAND AT MAPERTON RIDGE. MAPERTON ROAD, MAPERTON, WINCANTON BA9 8EH

CPRE Somerset wishes to **OBJECT** to this application for the following reasons;

The proposal is not 'restoration-led': In our view the main purpose of the application is to create a short term landfill site on a steep corner of a field, rather than to make “*agricultural improvements*” as claimed in the Planning Statement which forms part of the application. The overall acreage of the farm in which the field is situated is not disclosed in the application, nor are the farming activities of the applicant in any detail, so the economic benefits of increasing the yield in one corner of one field by altering the gradient from 1:4 to 1:5.7 cannot be quantified. They are likely to be minimal. The proposal is therefore contrary to Somerset County Council Waste Core Strategy (SCCWCS) Policy WCS4 (Disposal).

The waste does not involve the excavation of a previously excavated site: The waste is not being used for the restoration of quarries, nor other excavation sites, nor is the waste being used with “*clear benefits to the local community and environment*”. It is therefore contrary to SCCWCS Policy WCS2 (Recycling and Refuse)

Adverse impacts on the environment and local communities: The application proposes 8601 HGV movements over an 18 month operation, or 36 lorry movements a day, six days a

The Somerset Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquility and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

week. The Planning Statement does not disclose the size of these lorries, but we understand they could include 8 wheeled vehicles capable of transporting 20 tons. The local roads serving the site may not be suitable either for the size or the number of lorries. There will be excessive noise of lorries manoeuvring, tipping, and loud alarms when reversing. The site of this application is located on a slope above Maperton and there is no technical assessment in the application to show the distance the noise and dust will carry within the valley. Tipping operations on a steep slope on high ground will clearly generate a huge amount of both, thereby impacting adversely on the quiet enjoyment of the countryside. The Planning Statement claims that the development cannot be seen “*from adjoining roads*” - but it will be visible from Maperton. The site is not well screened by mature woodland. CPRE does not agree with the claim that “*there is a significant number of trees and vegetation separating the site from properties in close proximity*”. Thus there will be adverse effect on the quiet enjoyment of nearby residential properties as a result of noise, dust and other contaminants. The proposal is therefore contrary to SCCWCS Policies DM2 and DM3 (Impacts on the Environment and Local Communities), as well as South Somerset District Council Policies SD1 (Sustainable Development) and EQ5.

Likely non-compliance with the 'Proximity Principle': The proximity principle states that waste should be dealt with as close to its source as possible. This principle is compromised by permitting a site for which need is not established. There is no explanation in this application of where the waste is coming from. The site is near a primary market town (Wincanton), and a local market town (Ansford/Castle Cary) but neither town has sufficient development activity in the next 18 months to justify landfill operations on this scale. Lack of proven need may be harmful in itself because excess supply of void in one area would result in wastes being attracted from elsewhere ie from a greater distance and thereby contravening the proximity principle. CPRE Somerset consider landfill on this site to be intrinsically harmful due to nuisance, noise, and adverse visual impact. Therefore “need” should be demonstrated in order to overcome that harm. In our view no such need has been shown.

We believe the application should be refused for the above reasons.

We hope you will take our views into account.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Becky Collier', is written on a light green rectangular background.

Becky Collier, Branch Manager- CPRE Somerset