

# Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council



**From: Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council**

**To: Ms Charlotte Brinkley**

**East Suffolk Planning/Suffolk Planning team**

**Hon Patrick Spencer MP**

**Subject: Objection regarding the proposed 'Scoping Operation' on Land at Westerfield, Westerfield, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9HZ. Application Number: SCC/0092/24SC/SCREEN**

I am writing to you as the Parish clerk for Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council, acting upon instruction of Tuddenham Parish Council councillors, to formally object and express serious concerns regarding the proposed 'scoping operation' on Land at Westerfield, IP6 9HZ. The community and councillors have several questions and reservations in regards to this proposal, specifically the suitability of transforming farmland into an industrial site.

## **Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (SMWLP) Compliance:**

The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (SMWLP), adopted in 2020, allocated 9 sites for sand and gravel extraction; which are estimated to meet the county's needs of 93.00 Mt up to 2036. This proposed site at Westerfield was not part of those allocations. Therefore, Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council strongly questions the necessity of adding another extraction site when the current plan already accounts for necessary materials.

**Section 1, Public health and safety:** The Parish Council and residents are particularly very concerned about the serious impacts on public health and safety, which could extend beyond the residents of Tuddenham St Martin. Key concerns as listed below:

**1.1. Dust, noise and light pollution:** Industrial operations, including the movement of heavy machinery, will most likely result in increased dust, noise and artificial light levels, which could negatively impact both physical and mental health of local residents. The Parish Council would like to know how the process of uncontrolled material in a green area is considered appropriate, especially given the potential consequences for public health and environment.

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**1.2. Traffic, Highway and road safety:** The proposed site is accessible via village roads that are not designed for high volumes of heavy vehicles. Tuddenham St Martin village already faces traffic problems, and the Parish Council has been working diligently to find solutions. The addition of industrial operations, with increased traffic will make these roads more hazardous, especially for children walking to school and other vulnerable road users. Also, the introduction of a considerable number of trucks would significantly heighten the risk of accidents.

The Quiet Lane status on Moss Lane and Westerfield Lane, which is part of the National Cycle route running from Church Lane in Westerfield to The Street in Tuddenham St Martin, will be further compromised. The mentioned lanes are already used as a cut-through route by a large number of vehicles. While this route is designated as 'unsuitable for HGVs', some trucks and HGVs already use it, particularly when other routes are closed. The potential additional demand arising from the proposed quarry/scoping operation raises significant concerns about the future of this route, as it could be destroyed by heavy vehicles and pose high risks to cyclists and pedestrians.

Additionally, Ipswich will be the main route for heavy vehicle movements. The already congested roads, combined with a level crossing, are likely to cause long tailbacks, especially during peak hours when people are travelling to work, school etc. This increased congestion will also contribute to air pollution, impacting public health further. Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council would also like to know if companies such as Anglian Water, Network Rail, Cadent Gas and Scottish Power have been informed and consulted about this proposal and whether their input has been sought regarding the impact on infrastructure and services.

**1.3. Light pollution:** Bright lighting from industrial operations causes disturbance to local wildlife as well as residents, particularly during dark hours, disturbing natural ecosystems and negatively affecting quality of life.

**Section 2, Justification for land selection:** We would like to understand why this particular area of farmland has been selected for industrial development. Farmland in this area is home to a wide variety of wildlife (such as protected species of birds), contributing to the biodiversity of the region. We are seriously concerned about the potential impact on local ecosystems and the displacement of wildlife. Could you please provide the reasoning behind the selection of this site and outline how the proposed industrial use aligns with environmental and biodiversity goals?

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**Section 3, Economic disadvantages:** The proposed 'scoping operation' could have significant economic disadvantages for existing local businesses, including Fynn Valley Golf Club; which draws members and visitors from beyond the local area.

Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council kindly request a response addressing all the questions and concerns raised in this letter. We would appreciate receiving an appropriate assessment for each item and a detailed explanation of how each concern will be addressed, along with the proposed resolution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Tilly Rampley, Parish clerk, 3rd October 2024.

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