

# Comment for planning application WSCC/028/21

Application number	WSCC/028/21
Name	David Anthony Johnson
Address	THE HOLT, 7, THE HOLT, PULBOROUGH, RH20 4AN
Type of Comment	Objection
Comments	<p>To my knowledge, the application for landfill at Rock Common Quarry has been thrown out on two previous occasions. That Wiston Estates and Dudman should come back for a further attempt is nothing short of shocking, presumably entirely for reasons of financial gain, and particularly since, in the intervening period, the South Downs has been given National Park status and their proposed monstrosity will sit inches from the boundary of the Park. There are of course many well known reasons for objecting - impact on the local environment, traffic in an area with insufficient access (the A283 is already a dangerous road and a bottleneck) , noise and pollution, effect on wildlife - but my main objection remains the fact that the quarry sits atop a natural aquifer. It should be blindingly obvious to anyone with a care that landfilling on top of an aquifer risks creation of a swirling "landfill soup", which will be devastating and have wide-ranging repercussions for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Local sentiment is already running high as it has on previous occasions. CLAG3 has been established, luckily, to fight this proposal, and will doubtless do all it can to publicise this application and prevent it from going ahead. I have already written to my MP and will do all I can to support CLAG3's efforts. Their recent publication, issued to local residents, has pointed out, sagely, that the "development" will have a massively detrimental effect on quality of life in the area, increasing local pollution for many years to come, whilst the Storrington Road is already apparently one of the most polluted routes in the country. The aquifer supplies drinking water as widely as an area from Brighton to Portsmouth, and previous landfill is, of course, now failing and causing the leaching of toxic waste into a local stream and woodland. I would take much convincing that any future activity will be any safer, and various local voices I have heard have always maintained that Dudman is a "dirty" business, although I have no direct experience of them myself.</p> <p>If we think of the impact this will have on the stunning landscape of the South Downs, it is quite clear to me that any "restoration" of the quarry should be sympathetic to the local environment. Landfill is hardly likely to get Countryfile flying over us to record visuals, but equally I am sure the national press will be only too happy to give voice to local objections when the implications of the "development" are more widely known, as they doubtless will be. People will fight this one right the way along, it will not happen quietly.</p> <p>In summary, I think the residents of Washington and surrounding villages must be wondering what we have done to deserve so much adverse attention at the moment. On the one hand we have the potential for the Rampion 2 windfarm to be cutting a vast swathe across the local fields and the A283, exactly adjacent to the quarry, to permit cable laying, whilst Dudman and the Gorings want to bury us under pollution at exactly the same time. In principle, I support the advance of windfarms, but I remain to be convinced that cutting a trench diagonally right the way across Sussex is a sensible answer, but that is for another day. This is an area that has a timeless quality about it, too much of our native landscape is disappearing before our eyes, and one would have hoped that being given National Park status would have meant that this would be a protected area. To allow this monstrosity to proceed, so soon after the new status was given, would be unthinkable, and I can only offer my objections in the strongest terms. I am sure my sentiments are shared by many others locally and further afield.</p>
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Attachments	