

# Comment for planning application WSCC/028/21

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/028/21"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="E J Milner-Gulland"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="TILLEYS COTTAGE, THE PIKE, THE PIKE, PULBOROUGH, RH20 4AA"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<input type="text" value="I am a Professor of Biodiversity and have expertise in ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain. I have scrutinised the documentation from this perspective. It seems clear that the approved scheme is sub-optimal for the wildlife which has naturally colonised the site, and which includes notable species such as sand martins, peregrines, crested newts, marsh frogs. This is because of the loss of the sand cliffs and shallow water during flooding. I also accept the risks of deep water for people and the potential for pollution from contaminated groundwater. However I am very unconvinced by the proposed alternative - it leads to the loss of these sand cliffs (which are both of natural and of geological importance). It also places the continued flow of the Honeybrook stream in jeopardy. And it displaces the wildlife currently in residence. There must be a more imaginative approach that could retain and enhance the existing wildlife-rich area, which has been naturally recolonised, and provide a safe amenity for local users and tourists. Why can the site owners not continue pumping and enhance the site for wildlife and people, rather than infilling it? The currently proposed scheme may well have benefits for some wildlife in the medium to long term, but that is uncertain and very much dependent on the commitment to restoration of the landowner; what is certain is that the currently present biodiversity will be negatively affected by this proposal - and that some of the most important elements of it will be lost altogether. The fact that this will be done slowly does not negate the loss of habitat when there's nowhere else to go."/>
Received	<input type="text" value="21/08/2021 16:33:39"/>
Attachments	