

Appendix 1 – Planning Item 6.1 (the council was asked to read out in full the following objection)

Dear Warbleton Parish Council

Re: Item 6 on the agenda for 18/02/25.

My name is Sue Copp and I have lived at Beech Hill Farm, Cowbeech Road for over 14 years, I have an honours degree in Agricultural Botany and spent over 25 years working the agricultural and horticultural sectors both in the UK and abroad before moving to Rushlake Green and starting the smallholding. I apologise for not being able to attend this evening's meeting due to a long-standing prior arrangement, but I wish to strongly object to the planning application **WD/2025/7006/AD**.

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My objection is mainly regarding the additional roadway but I would also like to raise questions about the applicant's statement on other points.

Re: the proposed track runs from the one granted under WD/2021/7045/AD (which is omitted from relevant planning history in the statement):

1. This is proposed to run along the bottom boundary of my smallholding (Beech Hill Farm) which is bordered to the south by Morgan's Farm and to the north by Durrants Farm. There was previously a ditch along that stretch on Morgan's Farm which has either been filled or piped and was a boundary on their side with the tree line on my slightly elevated side. The proposed roadway goes approximately 2/3 of the way along this boundary but leads nowhere.

The idea to store used straw, presumably cleared out of the cattle barns, would then be significantly closer to the watercourse to the East and further from the farmyard. Clippenham Stream, which has already suffered enough damage recently with regard to the catastrophic pollution at Furnace Brook Fishery, is the next recipient for any spillage or seepage but the contamination would travel -albeit somewhat diluted during its journey - to the Pevensey Marshes, an SSSI.

Government regulations for locating and constructing temporary field heaps of organic manures state that one must:

- make sure your field heap is at least 10 metres from any surface water (such as a river, pond or ditch) or land drain, or 30 metres if the land slopes at 12 degrees or more
- make sure the location of the field heap is not liable to being waterlogged or flooded
- locate field heaps at least 50 metres from a spring well or borehole

- move the field heap at least every 12 months
- leave a 2 year gap before returning to the same site
- keep a record of the sites used for field heaps and the dates of use

To comply with these rules, the construction of this proposed roadway is totally unnecessary as it would only be used every third year. The field is liable to significant surface water run off – especially noted in the recent seasons. The land drainage system installed in this field is clearly visible on the Google Earth shot at the base of this submission and shows it leads to the stream.

2. The track applied for on WD/2022/7031/AD (also omitted from the statement) was rejected by Wealden District Council but it went ahead anyway and is visible from surrounding properties and clearly visible on Google earth. This runs along the northern boundary of Anne's Wood towards Clippenham Stream.

There continues to be heavy traffic tipping materials at all times of day and night – from 20-24 January 2025, tipping was carried out during the hours of darkness near Anne's Wood until after midnight on the Friday 24th/ Saturday 25th.

Re: statement for hard standing and erection of a **fifth barn in 4 years**

Unless the owner of Morgan's Farm intends to plough up the grassland and drill barley - in which case the cattle would have no field grazing - the argument to erect a secure building for the seed storage is fragile.

As they are clearly keen to save up to 8 hours travelling between sites per week moving the straw, moving fertiliser and seed to and from Rushlake Green is surely an equally wasted carbon use and it would surely be better stored close to where it is ultimately required.

The hard standing which is proposed for the silage wraps (which are currently stored on the edge of Annes Wood) would be a further extension of the farm yard to an increased area of some 2.5 acres over the past 4 years

Most recent Google Earth shot (20 May 2024) clearly showing the roadway denied (WD/2022/7031/AD) and the herringbone drainage of the proposed site for storing used straw leading to Clippenham Stream.