

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Clerk to the Council: - Mr M.H.Hunter

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Mr. Andrew Brown
Minerals & Waste Planning Team
Bedfordshire County Council
County Hall
Cauldwell Street
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MK42 9AP

Bedfordshire MWDF Issues & Options consultation – Site WSD33 (Chelveston).

Dear Andrew Brown,

The Council has considered the above potential waste site, having taken advice from various sources, including the BCC MWDF strategy meeting held in Bedford on Wednesday 7th November. In turn, the Council has consulted with the electorate of the parish at a parish meeting held on Monday 19th November 2007.

Having looked at the evidence presented, the view of the Council is that the site WSD33 should not go forward to the next stage (the Preferred Options) for the following reasons.

1. Contrary to Policy.

The site is at the far north-western end of cluster 1 and thus well away from the primary sources of the waste, namely Bedford, Luton and Dunstable. Both EU (directive 2006/12/EC) and UK (Waste Strategy 2007 and PPS10 - Planning for Sustainable Waste Management) policy is for waste centres to be located in close proximity to the sources, minimising road transport.

Of the 43 speculative sites, many of the other MWDF sites are better geographically placed to handle waste near to the source. The selection of this site over these others would therefore be contrary to the proximity policy.

2. Transport infrastructure.

The site is served by neither a rail link nor an A class road network. The nearest A roads would be either the A6 or A45 in Northamptonshire and then via B, C or unclassified roads to the site. A recent technical survey by NCC of these minor roads for its own MWDF consultation found only 50 vehicle movements an hour peak rate, with no HGV movements at the time of survey and that the approach roads to the site were currently unsuitable (less than 5.5m width in places) for sustained HGV traffic and would require improvement.

The site has a potential for 150,000 tonnes annually, which if all the waste was transported in 44 tonne articulated HGVs with a 30 tonne payload, this would require 10,000 HGV movements to and from the site annually, ignoring any service or plant maintenance vehicles. The site approaches would therefore suffer a level of HGV traffic beyond the capability of the present infrastructure, contrary to PPS10 para 21 (identifying suitable sites and areas).

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3. Environment.

The site would negatively impact on the surrounding natural environment as;

- a. The site is on a plateau and hence any tall structures would be visible for miles, impacting on the surrounding rural area.
- b. The site is on the watershed between the River Ouse and River Nene; with the potential to contaminate both if adequate precautions were not taken and maintained.
- c. The site is only 600m from the Yelden Meadows SSSI (wetland site).

This is contrary to PPS10 Annex E (location criteria) parts a, c & d.

4. Heritage.

The site is on a plateau and hence it is likely to impact negatively on the following recognised heritage (built environment) sites:

- a. Yelden Church (Grade 1 listed) – only 725m away.
- b. Yelden motte & bailey castle (C12 scheduled ancient monument) - only 800m away.
- c. Shelton Church (Grade 1 listed) – only 1,625m away.
- d. Hargrave Church (Grade 2* listed) – only 1,700m away.
- e. Chelveston Church (Grade 2* listed) - only 1,825m away.
- f. Newton Bromswold Church (Grade 1 listed) – only 1,125m away.

This is contrary to PPS10 Annex E (location criteria) parts c & e.

5. Proximity to sensitive receptors (e.g. smell, noise).

The site is located close to the surrounding rural villages of

Yelden - 550m (to nearest dwelling)

Shelton -1,500m (to nearest dwelling)

Hargrave -1,400m (to nearest dwelling)

Chelveston - 1,700m (to nearest dwelling)

Caldecott -1,325m (to nearest dwelling)

USAF Housing Annex at Chelveston Base Crescent - 575m (to nearest dwelling)

Newton Bromswold -1,000m (to nearest dwelling).

Plus the isolated dwellings and farms such as High Barn (100m), Manor Farm (100m), Lodge Farm (250m) and Airfield Farm (250m).

The types of recycling plant being proposed require 24/7 operation. The most probable negative impacts on the receptors will be visual (structures and light pollution), noise, smell and vermin. There will be secondary effects from the increased HGV traffic near some receptors. This is contrary to PPS10 Annex E (location criteria) parts c, f, g, h, i, j & k.

6. Cumulative effect.

The site is directly adjacent to site WA8 on the NCC MWDF Preferred Options consultation. As the developer has provided the same information to both County Councils, this is also a potential 150,000 tonnes annually site.

The site is only 3 miles from the recent NCC determined application for a 45,000 tonnes annually AD plant at Westwood, near the A6 on the county border (Grid Ref SP 9889 6323). This application has been withdrawn at the time of writing due to failure of the developer to provide sufficient technical information, but is expected to be resubmitted.

Were all three sites permitted to develop to their maximum potential this would create a 345,000 tonnes annually tri-site within a 3 mile block straddling the county border, contrary to PPS10 para 21 (identifying suitable sites and areas).

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Conclusion.

On the basis that this potential site is contrary to policy, being located far away from the waste sources compared to other potential sites, has inadequate transport infrastructure, will negatively impact the natural and built environment, is proximate to sensitive receptors and could potentially create a 345,000 tonnes annually tri-site straddling the county border, the Council requests of BCC that site WSD 33 (Chelveston) is not taken forward to the Preferred Options stage.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mark H Hunter

Clerk to the Parish Council
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott