

TM/20/00461/MIN

KCC/TM/0036/2021 : Installation of a temporary drainage ditch Borough Green Sand Pit, Maidstone Road

19 Feb 2021

Whilst we see no reason to object to the aims of the proposal, we do have serious concerns.

1. This operator has a long history of undercutting banks and causing landslips into the pit, which is why MR 251 has had to be diverted twice in recent years. The original MR251 is now sitting at the bottom of the pit.

2. The operator has also demonstrated a cavalier disregard for the destination of his site drainage, and most recently blocked the Railway Culvert and drain behind Lingfield Rd causing flooding to residential properties.

We would like to see a report by an independent expert setting out a route for the drainage ditch and MR 251 that will prevent any more "accidental collapses". If land has to be leased for this temporary diversion, it might be best to take both drain and MR251 directly east to Botany Wood before turning south, keeping both well clear of the area being excavated on the site of the old Workshops. There also needs to be calculations that the destination end can cope with the volumes generated in a worst weather scenario, or when the operator decides to pump water from the bottom of the system into the drain.

3. The applicant advises this temporary application should be read in conjunction with the previous pending applications TM/20 2400, 2397 & 2399. I therefore believe it is proper to submit the new access road to fresh examination in the light of occurrences and complaints since the first applications were lodged. It may well be that the operator has wheel cleaning and washing equipment in place, but the evidence of the Estate road and the main A25 Maidstone Rd suggests it is rarely used, except during inspection visits by the Mineral Authority. We would like to see the new access and the wheelwash arranged and controlled in such a manner that it is not possible for a vehicle to leave the site without wheel spinning and washing. It must also be conditioned that any vehicles parked there that the Operator claims are not part of the landfill should also be subject to this regime.

I note again that Borough Green Landfill on Wrotham Rd has a very similar operation, albeit with a much shorter access road, but seems to manage to operate with depositing mud, slurry, bricks, stone and other materials on the Public Highway.

The Mineral Planning system incorporates a strong ethic to protect the public from the depredations of unscrupulous operators, it is long past time those rules were properly enforced.

Borough Green Parish Council
Agreed 1 March 2021