

FAO: Philip Millard, Planning Department, Hampshire County Council

Planning application no: 21/03089/HCS

**Ref: The Funtley Refuse Tip (Former), Titchfield Lane, Wickham, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6DY
Proposed revised landform modifications to enable the construction of a 10.5 mw solar photovoltaic (PV) farm and gas management system with associated works**

I am writing on behalf of the Wickham Society to object to the above planning application for the following reasons:

1. The route (Titchfield Lane) taken by lorries to and from the site starts in a rural lane of varying width. It has a white central line for the majority of the road but there are two key sections where the road narrows significantly and there is no white line. These two places only just accommodate two passing cars and two lorries capable of carrying 20 tons are unlikely to be able to pass each other. At these points, there is also reduced visibility due to bends in the road. This rural road is used by dog walkers, horse riders and cyclists to reach other footpaths and woodlands – their safety will be compromised by this proposal.
2. The Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) submitted with this application fails to mention that Titchfield Lane has a weight restriction that this proposal will exceed.



3. There has been a significant increase in housing on the Gosport peninsula, Locks Heath and Bishops Waltham in the intervening years since the site was used previously as a refuse tip – with an additional 200 houses due to be completed in Wickham in the next 2 years. Titchfield Lane has become a ‘rat run’ for many wishing to travel to and from these areas and beyond. Whilst there may not have been an excessive number of reported accidents in the last 5 years, many a local resident can recall a near miss or minor incident on this road. The 40-mile speed limit on this route is frequently exceeded.
4. The junction at Titchfield Lane with A334 is not well designed and is currently unsuitable to cope with heavily laden lorries turning onto or off the A334, particularly at commuter times of day. In recent years traffic lights have been installed at this junction, but they are configured in a way that can create unacceptable levels of traffic queues on Winchester Road at commuter times of day. Additional lorry manoeuvres, particularly at these times will only aggravate the already negative impact on the flow of traffic at this junction and thus the environment in this built-up area.
5. The TIA carried out in April 2021 was conducted during a period of lockdown restrictions and therefore will not be a true reflection of the normal vehicle use of Titchfield Lane or the surrounding area.

6. The application documents give no indication of their plans for the entrance to the site. The existing entrance is located immediately after a bend as shown below (chevron signs to warn of a corner are partially concealed by foliage on right; site entry on right).



7. The route north from the site runs over a railway tunnel – there is no evidence of any consultation with National Rail to assess the impact of this proposal on that structure.
8. This proposal must be considered alongside HCC20/01483/HCS (Five Oaks Farm, Shedfield, Sand Extraction), which would, if they are both granted, be using the same road network through Wickham, potentially during the same time period.
9. On the A334 in Wickham, there are two significant ‘pinch points’ with pavements on either side – one just west and one east of Wickham Square - where it is difficult for large lorries to pass each other. This proposal would be creating an additional risk to pedestrian safety, along with the extra dust and sand generated from their transportation by these lorries.
10. The application suggests that there is to be a Community Liaison Group with community stakeholders. Apart from a site visit by members of Wickham Parish Council (who are objecting to this application), there is no further evidence of approaches being made to key stakeholders or local residents by the applicant to consider mitigation measures for this proposal.
11. The supporting documentation for this application did not adequately explain why an additional 3 metres of inert waste is going to make the ground more stable to support the installation of solar panels – why cannot it be less than this amount? The noise and dust will have an adverse effect on the ancient woodland and sites of special interest which lie immediately alongside this land.

In the current conditions and circumstances, this application will have an unacceptable negative impact on highway safety and biodiversity in the immediate access area. Whilst none of us wish to thwart organisations looking to reduce our carbon footprint, this proposal is too detrimental in other ways to be justified even in these times and we therefore object to this planning application.

With regards

Wendy Greenish

Chairman of Wickham Society

33 Manor Close, Wickham, Hampshire PO17 5BZ Tel: 01329 833583