PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14th March, 2018

10.00 am

Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone



AGENDA

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14th March, 2018, at 10.00 am Ask for: Andrew Tait Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Telephone: 03000 416749 Hall, Maidstone

Tea/Coffee will be available from 9:30 outside the meeting room

Membership (13)

Conservative (10): Mr R A Marsh (Chairman), Mr R A Pascoe (Vice-Chairman),

Mr A Booth, Mr P C Cooper, Miss E Dawson, Mr M D Payne, Mr H Rayner, Mr C Simkins, Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr J Wright

Liberal Democrat (1): Mr I S Chittenden

Labour (1) Mr B H Lewis

Independents (1) Mr P M Harman

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public

A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 1. Substitutes
- 2. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
- 3. Minutes 7 February 2018 (Pages 5 6)
- 4. Site Meetings and Other Meetings

B. GENERAL MATTERS

General Matters

C. MINERALS AND WASTE DISPOSAL APPLICATIONS

 Application SW/18/500195 (KCC/SW/0004/2018) - Section 73 application to vary conditions 1 and 6 of Permission SW/15/502632 (the phased extraction of brickearth over 4 summer campaigns) to allow for an extended period of working and amended restoration scheme at Orchard Farm, School Lane, Iwade; Weinberger Limited (Pages 7 - 32)

D. DEVELOPMENTS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Proposal Y/18/0061/SH (KCC/SH/0343/2017) - Renewal of temporary permission for the "Sharman Block" modular building, erection of 2.2m and 2.4m fencing within the site and new pedestrian access onto Bowen Road on part of the former Pent Valley School adjoining Bowen Road, Folkestone; GEN 2 on behalf of KCC (Pages 33 - 48)

E. COUNTY MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

- 1. County matter applications (Pages 49 52)
- 2. County Council developments
- 3. Screening opinions under Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011
- 4. Scoping opinions under Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (None)

F. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts General Counsel 03000 416814

Tuesday, 6 March 2018

(Please note that the background documents referred to in the accompanying papers may be inspected by arrangement with the Departments responsible for preparing the report. Draft conditions concerning applications being recommended for permission, reported in sections C and D, are available to Members in the Members' Lounge.)

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held at Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 7 February 2018.

PRESENT: Mr R A Marsh (Chairman), Mr A Booth, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr P C Cooper, Miss E Dawson, Mr B H Lewis, Mr M D Payne, Mr H Rayner, Mr C Simkins, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr M E Whybrow (Substitute for Mr P M Harman) and Mr J Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mrs A Hopkins (Principal Planning Officer) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 6 December 2017 (*Item. A3*)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2017 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

- 2. Site Meetings and Other Meetings (Item. A4)
 - (1) The Committee noted that it would receive training on Environment and Biodiversity issues following the meeting. It also confirmed that the training session on the Education Commissioning Plan would follow the Committee meeting on 14 March 2018.
 - (2) The Committee agreed to hold a site visit in respect of the Wilmington School and Wilmington Academy applications on 6 March 2018.
- Application SW/17/506523 (KCC/SW/0319/2017) Waste Transfer Station for the consolidation and onward shipment of end of life lead acid batteries at Unit 11d-11e, Dolphin Park, Cremers Road, Eurolink, Sittingbourne; Commercial Batteries Ltd (Item. C1)
 - (1) The Head of Planning Applications Group clarified the details of the conditions set out in her recommendations. These are set out in paragraph (3) below.
 - (2) In agreeing the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group, the Committee agreed to additional conditions requiring a Management Plan setting out measures to ensure that loads evidencing signs of leakage would not enter the site and that all loading and unloading was to take place within the building.

(3) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the application subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit for commencement; hours of operation being from 0700 to 1800 on Mondays to Fridays, 0700 to 1300 on Saturdays with no working on Sundays and Bank Holidays; a maximum quantity of 50 tonnes of batteries being stored at any one time; the total throughput of waste batteries being limited to 15k tonnes per annum with an average of 6 HGV visits (12 movements) and 1 LGV visit (2 movements) per day; details of the installation and maintenance of the bunding; the safeguarding of the parking and turning area; the submission for prior approval of a Management Plan setting out measures to ensure that loads evidencing signs of leakage shall not enter the site; and all loading and unloading activities taking place within the building.

4. Matters dealt with under Delegated Powers (Item. E1)

RESOLVED to note matters dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting relating to:

- (a) County Matter applications;
- (b) County Council developments;
- (c) Screening Opinions under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017; and
- (d) Scoping Opinions under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (None).

SECTION C MINERALS AND WASTE DISPOSAL

<u>Background Documents</u> - the deposited documents; views and representations received as referred to in the reports and included in the development proposals dossier for each case; and also as might be additionally indicated.

Item C1

Section 73 application to vary conditions 1 & 6 of planning SW/15/502632 (the phased extraction brickearth over 4 summer campaigns) to allow for an extended period of working and amended restoration **Orchard** scheme Farm. School at Lane. Sittingbourne, Kent. ME9 8QH SW/18/500195 (KCC/SW/0004/2018)

A report by Head of Planning Applications Group to Planning Applications Committee on 14 March 2018.

Application by Wienerberger Limited to vary conditions 1 & 6 of planning permission SW/15/502632 (the phased extraction of brickearth over 4 summer campaigns) to allow for an extended period of working and amended restoration scheme at Orchard Farm, School Lane, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8QH – SW/18/500195 (KCC/SW/0004/2018)

Recommendation: Permission be granted subject to conditions.

Local Member: Mr M Whiting

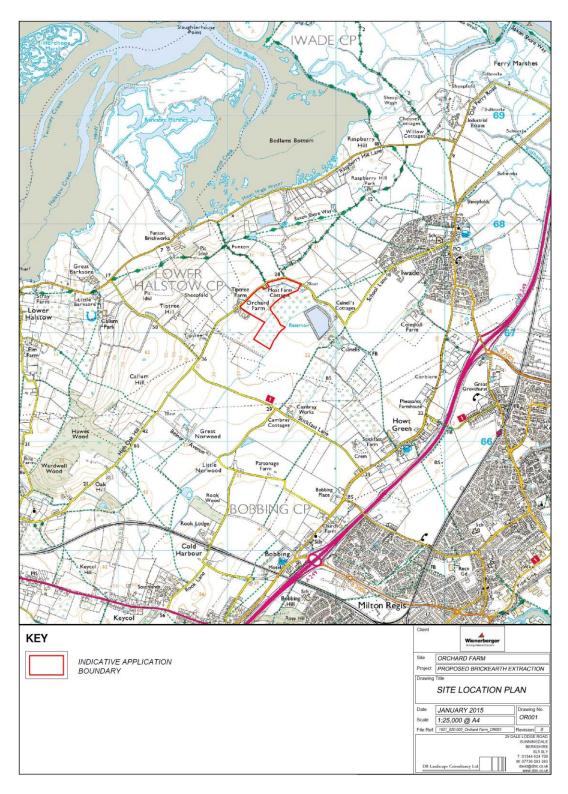
Unrestricted

Site description

- 1. The application site lies to the south of School Lane approximately 1-kilometre (km) west of Iwade and 2km west of Sittingbourne. The site slopes gently from a level of about 28.5m above ordnance datum (AOD) at the north-western corner to about 21.5m AOD at the south-eastern corner. Prior to the commencement of mineral working the site comprised orchard, arable land, several internal hedgerows and a small pond. The agricultural land comprises grades 2 and 3a (i.e. best and most versatile).
- 2. The permitted extraction area covers about 7.5 hectares (ha) of the 14.6ha site. The remaining land comprises an ecological receptor and mitigation area (1.5ha), settlement lagoon, topsoil and subsoil storage areas, brickearth stockpile area, concrete access road, HGV loading area and stand-offs between the extraction area and site boundary. A 5 metre (m) high straw bale noise barrier lies between the site access road and loading area and properties to the south-west and welfare facilities are provided in a small portacabin adjacent to the access road. The extraction area occupies the northern part of the site. To the south of this lie the concrete access road, HGV loading and brickearth stockpile areas. The settlement lagoon, topsoil and subsoil storage areas and ecological receptor and mitigation area lie further to the south-west / south. Brickearth from the site is used for brick manufacture at the Smeed Dean Brickworks in Sittingbourne.

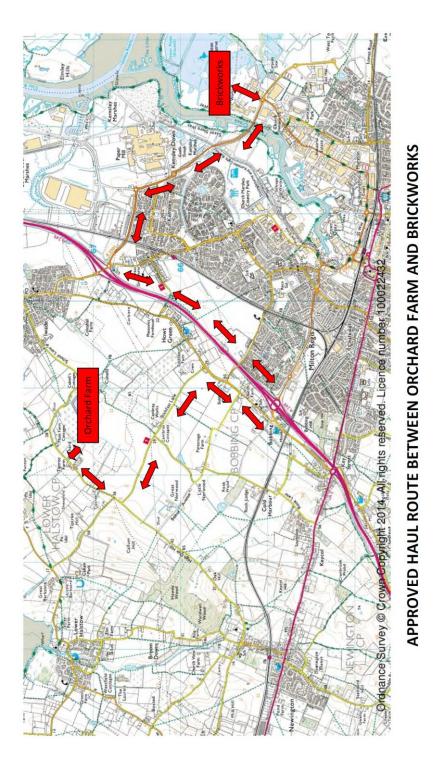
Page 7 C1.1

Site Location Plan



Page 8 C1.2

HGV Route between Orchard Farm and the Smeed Dean Brickworks



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- 3. A few residential properties lie close to the site. Orchard Farm Cottages and Tiptree Cottage lie just to the west of the site access (to the south and north of School Lane respectively) and Moat Farm Cottages lie just to the north of the extraction area (to the south of School Lane). A small number of other residential properties and farm buildings lie to the east and west of the site off School Lane (e.g. Plantation Lodge, Orchard Farm Tiptree Farm and Tiptree Farm Bungalow).
- 4. HGV access to the site is via the 750m stretch of School Lane to the south west of the site entrance, Stickfast Lane and Sheppey Way onto the A249. HGVs then travel to the Smeed Dean Brickworks in Sittingbourne via the A249 and Swale Way. HGVs associated with mineral working at the site are not permitted to turn right out of or left into the site (i.e. they may not travel through Iwade). The site and associated HGV route are shown on the plans on pages C1.2 and C1.3.
- 5. The site is not within or immediately adjacent to any designated areas although the Medway Estuary and Marshes SSSI, SPA and Ramsar Site lie approximately 750m to the north. The site and much of the surrounding land is safeguarded by Policy CSM5 of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Kent MWLP). The site lies in the countryside and is not allocated for any specific purpose in the Swale Borough Local Plan.

Planning History and background

- 6. Planning permission (SW/15/502632) was granted (under officer delegated authority) for the phased extraction of brickearth at Orchard Farm over 4 summer campaigns, the storage and transportation of materials to the nearby brickworks throughout the year, the creation of a new vehicle access and the phased restoration of land back to agricultural use on 15 July 2015. The permission provides for the extraction of about 150,000 tonnes (t) of brickearth in 4 phases at a rate of about 37,500 tonnes per annum (tpa). Approximately 2m (depth) of brickearth is removed and the site is restored on a phased basis to agricultural use at levels about 2m lower than prior to extraction with a 1:10 gradient between the unexcavated and excavated areas. The stockpile has the capacity to hold about 49,000t of brickearth. Extraction is undertaken by 360-degree excavator and dump truck and bulldozers and dump trucks used to construct the soil storage mounds (all in accordance with accepted best practice). Whilst the topsoil and subsoil from initial works and phase 1a were stockpiled separately on site, those from subsequent phases are directly placed to restore subsequent phases. The stockpiled soils are to be used to restore the final phase and complete restoration of the brickearth stockpiling area and soil stockpile areas. HGVs are loaded and exit the site without leaving the concrete access road and loading area. The concrete access road and loading area will be retained for agricultural use.
- 7. Condition 1 of planning permission SW/15/502632 requires that mineral extraction shall cease on or before 31 October 2018 and that all brickearth stockpiled at the site shall be removed and the site fully restored by 31 October 2019.
- 8. Condition 6 requires the site to be restored in accordance with a specific drawing which (amongst other things) indicates the retention of two mounds of brickearth

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(within the extraction area) around the electricity supply line support pylons which previously crossed the site. In applying for planning permission in 2015 the applicant had indicated its preference for the electricity supply lines to be relocated around the site and for the mounds to be removed to maximise extraction and provide a better restored landform. However, the relocation had not been agreed with UK Power Networks at that stage and the application was determined accordingly. The possibility of the power lines being relocated away from the extraction and operating areas is referred to in informative (g) attached to the planning permission which also indicates that it would be possible for the working and restoration scheme to be amended in this eventuality.

- 9. The permission was subject to 48 conditions in total, including a number that required the prior approval of certain details before development could commence. A scheme of archaeological works was approved pursuant to condition 16 on 4 December 2015, a landscape scheme was approved pursuant to condition 45 on 17 February 2016 and off-site highway works, a traffic management plan and a road condition survey were approved pursuant to conditions 20, 21 and 22 on 24 June 2016. Condition 37 required a dust sampling survey to be undertaken before development commenced. Other conditions also required certain actions to be undertaken before materials were exported from the site. These included the provision of the off-site highway works required by condition 20 (i.e. the resurfacing of vehicle passing places in Stickfast Lane), the site access, parking and turning space required by condition 23, the provision of appropriate sight lines at the site access required by condition 25 and the provision of the 5m high straw bale noise barrier required by condition 35. All these requirements were complied with.
- 10. Other conditions include the following (with requirements summarised):
 - Extraction and restoration operations for a maximum of 8 consecutive weeks in any one calendar year – Condition 3;
 - Progressive restoration such that no more than 2ha (excluding the access road, soil and brickearth storage areas, settlement lagoon, stand-off's and ecological mitigation area) is unavailable for agricultural use at any one time – Condition 5;
 - No excavation below 20.5m AOD (except drainage ditches and surface water lagoon) – Condition 6;
 - No materials imported for backfilling / restoration Condition 9;
 - Site preparation, extraction and restoration only between 07:00 and 18:00 hours Monday to Friday and between 07:00 and 13:00 hours on Saturdays Condition 14:
 - Brickearth only to be loaded / removed from the site and HGVs only to enter or leave the site between 07:00 and 18:00 hours Monday to Friday – Condition 15:
 - Compliance with traffic management plan Condition 21;
 - Maintenance inspections of School Lane and Stickfast Lane to be undertaken both during and after the development and any damage to the highway attributed to the development shall be repaired – Condition 22;
 - Measures shall be taken to ensure that vehicles associated with the

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- development do not deposit mud or other materials on the public highway Condition 26:
- No more than 10 HGVs associated with transporting brickearth shall enter and leave the site in any one day (i.e. 10 in / 10 out) – Condition 28;
- HGVs transporting brickearth shall be limited in size to the rigid tipper profile proposed in 2015 Condition 29;
- HGVs shall not turn right out of or left into the site and shall follow the agreed routeing referred to in paragraph 4 above – Condition 30;
- All loaded open backed HGVs shall be sheeted Condition 31;
- Noise associated with site preparation, bund formation, mineral extraction and restoration shall not exceed 65 dB_{LAeq,1hr,freefield} at Orchard Farm Cottages and 62 dB_{LAeq,1hr,freefield} at Moat Farm Cottages (unless agreed by KCC) – Condition 32:
- No work in phases 2 and 3 until a temporary 3m high straw bale noise barrier has been constructed between the extraction area and Moat Farm Cottages (unless agreed by KCC) – Condition 33;
- Noise from operations associated with stockpiling, loading and export of brickearth (including HGV movements) shall not exceed 47 dB_{LAeq,1hr,freefield} at any noise sensitive property – Condition 34;
- Maintenance of 5m high straw bale noise barrier for duration of operations Condition 35;
- White noise or silent reversing alarms to be used for all plant and HGVs transporting brickearth – Condition 36;
- Dust control measures, surveys and additional mitigation as necessary Conditions 37 and 38;
- Surface water management / drainage Conditions 29, 40 and 41;
- Ecology Conditions 42, 43 and 44 (including ecological mitigation and management plan);
- Landscaping scheme Condition 45;
- Restoration to agriculture (at least 1.2m restoration profile with 0.6m brickearth, 0.3m topsoil and 0.3m subsoil above London Clay) – Condition 46; and
- 5-year aftercare period Condition 48.

The Proposal

- 11. The application proposes the variation of conditions 1 and 6 of planning permission SW/15/502632 to allow:
 - brickearth extraction to continue until 31 October 2020 and for all brickearth stockpiled at the site to be removed and the site fully restored by 31 May 2022; and
 - the site to be restored in accordance with a revised restoration scheme.
- 12. The applicant states that a combination of factors has led to the extraction and removal of brickearth not being undertaken at the rate originally permitted. These include:

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- delays in securing the necessary approvals for the pre-development requirements set out in the planning permission (e.g. relating to the need to undertake ecological surveys and commence extraction at specific times of the year);
- refurbishment works at the Smeed Dean Brickworks (meaning that it was unable to operate at its normal operating capacity therefore requiring less brickearth); and
- the quantity of brickearth transported by each HGV has been slightly less than predicted as the material has not compacted to the degree expected.
- 13. The applicant states that it is still exporting brickearth from the stockpile from the first phase of extraction undertaken in 2016, that no extraction took place in 2017 and that extraction will resume in 2018. As a result, it states that:
 - an additional two-year period is required to complete extraction from all 4 phases;
 - a further period (2 years and 7 months) is required after completion of extraction to remove the brickearth from the stockpile at Orchard Farm and fully restore the site; and
 - the additional time to complete extraction would then coincide with the expected commencement of mineral working at Paradise Farm (the applicant's long term permitted reserve between Hartlip and Newington).
- 14. The applicant states that the proposed revised restoration scheme reflects its ability to remove the two mounds of brickearth which would previously have been sterilised within the extraction area due to the pylons which supported the electricity supply lines which previously crossed the site. It would also enable the removal of a small additional quantity of brickearth from the south-western edge of the extraction area where a third pylon was located just outside the extraction area. The electricity supply lines have recently been relocated around the site and the support pylons removed. The applicant states that the removal of the mounds would allow the site to be worked in a more efficient way and improve the overall quality of the final restoration scheme.
- 15. Except for the amendments to conditions 1 and 6 and resultant changes to several other conditions to reflect the revised restoration scheme, no other amendments are proposed and the development would continue to be undertaken in accordance with that previously permitted. The permitted restoration / planting scheme, the proposed revised restoration / planting scheme and the proposed phasing arrangements are set out in the drawings included at Appendix 1 (pages C1.20 to C1.25).

Planning Policy Context

16. National Planning Policies – the most relevant National Planning Policies are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) and the associated National Planning Practice Guidance, including the Minerals Planning Practice Guidance. The National Planning Policy Framework: Draft text for consultation (March 2018) is also relevant. These are all material planning considerations.

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- 17. **Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 (July 2016)** Policies CSM1 (Sustainable development), CSM2 (Supply of land-won minerals in Kent), CSM5 (Land-won mineral safeguarding), DM1 (Sustainable design), DM2 (Environmental and landscape sites of international, national and local importance), DM3 (Ecological impact assessment), DM5 (Heritage assets), DM6 (Historic environment assessment), DM10 (Water environment), DM11 (Health and amenity), DM12 (Cumulative impact), DM13 (Transportation of minerals and waste), DM14 (Public rights of way), DM15 (Safeguarding of transportation infrastructure), DM16 (Information required in support of an application), DM17 (Planning obligations), DM18 (Land stability) and DM19 (Restoration, aftercare and after-use).
- 18. **Bearing Fruits 2031: The Swale Borough Local Plan (July 2017)** Policies ST1 (Delivering sustainable development in Swale), ST3 (Swale settlement strategy), CP1 (Building a strong, competitive economy), CP7 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment providing for green infrastructure), CP8 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment), DM3 (The rural economy), DM6 (Managing transport demand and impact), DM14 (General development criteria), DM21 (Water, flooding and drainage), DM24 (Conserving and enhancing valued landscapes), DM28 (Biodiversity and geological conservation), DM29 (Woodlands, trees and hedges) and DM31 (Agricultural land).

Consultations

- 19. **Swale Borough Council** No objection, subject to no objection from statutory consultees.
- 20. **Iwade Parish Council** No objection.
- 21. **Bobbing Parish Council** No comments received.
- 22. Highways England No objection.
- 23. **KCC Highways and Transportation** No objection, subject to the requirement for an additional interim road condition survey to be carried out within 6 months of planning permission being granted and any necessary works arising from this being carried out within an agreed timetable.

Having considered the issues and concerns raised by the residents in respect of the condition of the roads serving the site (referred to in paragraphs 32 and 33 below), it has advised that it is satisfied that the proposed planning conditions are sufficient to enable the Highway Authority to maintain the infrastructure to an appropriate standard. It notes that any degradation that may have occurred since the development commenced will be identifiable from the road condition survey undertaken in 2016 and that if this is attributable to development traffic the applicant will need to rectify it. If degradation is not attributable to development traffic, it will be necessary for this to be addressed through the Highway Authority's public responsibility and the Operations Team will act appropriately. It also advises that the specific concerns relating to flooding and drainage referred to in paragraph 33 below have been passed to the

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Operations Team to investigate and that if this is attributable to development traffic, repairs will be required under the terms of the proposed planning condition. It has further advised that the other highway related issues referred to in paragraphs 32 and 33 appear to be matters of compliance with existing planning conditions which can be addressed through planning enforcement should this be necessary.

- 24. Environment Agency No objection.
- 25. **Natural England** No objection. It is satisfied that the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the interest features for which the Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA and Ramsar Site are classified and that appropriate assessment is not required. It is also satisfied that the proposed development would not damage or destroy the interest features for which the Medway Estuary & Marshes SSSI has been notified. It has advised that KCC have regard to its standing advice on protected species.
- 26. **UK Power Networks** No objection.
- 27. **Southern Water** No objection.
- 28. **KCC Ecological Advice Service** No objection, subject to the site being restored in accordance with the submitted landscaping plan.
- 29. **KCC Archaeology** No objection, subject to the approved archaeological scheme being complied with.
- 30. **KCC Sustainable Drainage Team (SUDS)** No objection, subject to the permitted drainage details being complied with.

Representations

- 31. The application was publicised by site notice and newspaper advertisement and the occupiers of all properties within 250 metres of the site and on School Lane to the west of the site entrance and Stickfast Lane (i.e. on the HGV route between the site and Sheppey Way) were notified in January 2018.
- 32. One letter of objection has been received from a resident of School Lane. The objections can be summarised as follows:
 - Impact on the countryside and residents;
 - Poor site management;
 - No additional time should be allowed;
 - HGVs arriving at the site before 07:00 hours and leaving after 18:00 hours (particularly in summer months);
 - Extraction taking place after 18:00 hours (during the summer of 2016);
 - Adverse impact of HGVs on Stickfast Lane and School Lane (e.g. uneven surface, cracks and potholes);
 - Speeding HGVs;

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- Vibration from HGVs; and
- Mud / brickearth on local roads and HGVs not being sheeted.
- 33. Another letter expressing concerns (but not formally objecting) has been received from a resident living at the junction of Sheppey Way and Stickfast Lane. The concerns can be summarised as follows:
 - Increased traffic;
 - Degradation of the road surface;
 - Damage to boundary wall of property;
 - Creation of a rut in the road adjacent to the wall leading to surface water draining onto the foundations of a brick outbuilding and cesspit (leading to increased costs associated with emptying the cesspit, the need for repairs to the building and, potentially, subsidence to the property);
 - Vibration from HGVs;
 - HGVs passing the property from 06:30 hours;
 - Noise from HGVs (including audible alarms due to HGVs needing to reverse to allow other traffic to pass at a narrow point on Stickfast Lane); and
 - HGV speed.

Local Member

34. County Council Member Mr M Whiting (Swale West) was notified in January 2018. Mrs S Gent (Sittingbourne North) was also notified as the adjoining Member.

Discussion

- 35. No statutory or other consultees have objected to or raised any concerns about the proposed development. However, one local resident has objected and another expressed concern. The reasons for objection / concern primarily relate to the impact of HGV movements on School Lane and Stickfast Lane although concerns have also been raised about the management of the site and associated impact on the countryside.
- 36. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that planning applications are determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In the context of this application, the development plan policies outlined in paragraphs 17 and 18 are of most relevance. Material planning considerations include the published and emerging national planning policies referred to in paragraph 16. Whilst the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Draft text for consultation (March 2018) proposes a number of changes to the published NPPF (March 2012) in terms of structure and detailed content, I am satisfied that these do not significantly alter overall policy in so far as it is relevant to the determination of this application. On that basis, I only refer to the published version in the rest of this report.

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- 37. The principle of brickearth extraction and restoration to agriculture at a lower level at Orchard Farm has already been established by planning permission SW/15/502632 (dated 15 July 2015). It is therefore necessary to consider whether anything has changed since the permission was granted and whether the proposed amendments (i.e. additional time to complete working and restoration and an amended restoration scheme) are acceptable.
- 38. The main change that has occurred since 2015 is that planning permission SW/16/507594 was granted on 5 May 2017 to the same applicant for brickearth extraction at Paradise Farm. That permission provides for the extraction of about 751,000t of brickearth from 18 phases over a period of about 18 years (i.e. at a rate of about 41,722tpa). The permission includes conditions which require the prior approval of details before the development can commence. These details have yet to be submitted and approved and development has not yet commenced.
- Paragraph 146 of the NPPF states that mineral planning authorities (MPAs) should 39. plan for a steady and adequate supply of brick clay (brickearth) by providing a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) of at least 25 years to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment. This requirement is reflected in Policy CSM2 of the Kent MWLP. Given that only one of the four phases has been worked so far. I estimate that approximately 112.500t of brickearth remains to be extracted at Orchard Farm. On this basis the combined total of permitted reserves of brickearth controlled by the applicant at Paradise Farm and Orchard Farm is about 863,500t. Assuming an extraction rate of 37,500tpa (as at Orchard Farm), this would supply the Smeed Dean Brickworks for about 23 years. Assuming the higher rate of extraction proposed at Paradise Farm (i.e. 41,722tpa), this figure would reduce to about 21 years. In either case, it would be less than 25 years. If the remaining permitted brickearth reserves (currently held by Ibstock Brick Ltd) were available to the applicant, this figure could potentially exceed 25 years. However, the applicant's ability to secure these reserves and the quantity of brickearth that could still be viably extracted at Hempstead House within the remaining permitted life of that site is uncertain.¹ With the exception of the relatively small areas of land that were initially proposed to be extracted at Paradise Farm but which were removed prior to determination of that application, no new brickearth sites are being proposed for inclusion in the Kent Minerals Sites Plan. On this basis, I am satisfied that there is planning policy support for the proposed development in enabling all the permitted brickearth reserves at Orchard Farm to be worked and that subject to no overriding reason to the contrary there is no reason why planning permission should be granted to extend the life of the site in this case.
- 40. Given the above, and having regard to consultee responses and the representation that has been received, I consider that other matters that need to be addressed are as follows:
 - Highways and transportation;

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¹ The Hempstead House permission (SW/13/939) requires that extraction cease by the end of September 2020 and restoration be completed by 31 October 2020.

- Landscape and visual impact;
- Noise, dust and air quality impacts;
- Water environment (hydrology, hydrogeology and groundwater impacts);
- Ecology:
- Archaeology, heritage and conservation;
- Agricultural land / soils.

Highways and transportation

- 41. Paragraph 143 of the NPPF states that local plans should set out environmental criteria against which planning applications should be assessed to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment and human health from traffic. Paragraph 144 states that regard should be given to such matters when determining planning applications. Policy DM13 of the Kent MWLP states that where new development would require road transport, proposed access arrangements must be safe and appropriate, traffic generated must not be detrimental to road safety, the highway network must be able to accommodate the traffic generated and its impact must not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the environment or local community. Policies DM6 and DM14 of the Swale Borough Local Plan (Swale BLP) include similar objectives.
- 42. Although neither KCC Highways and Transportation (H&T), Highways England nor any other consultee have objected to the application due to issues associated with highways and transportation, one local resident has done so and another has raised concerns. The objections / concerns relate to the adverse impact of HGVs on Stickfast Lane and School Lane (e.g. uneven surface, cracks and potholes), speeding HGVs, vibration from HGVs, HGVs arriving at the site before 07:00 hours and leaving after 18:00 hours, mud / brickearth being deposited on local roads (possibly due to HGVs not being sheeted), noise from HGVs (including reversing alarms), damage to a boundary wall and adverse impacts on a property due to drainage from the highway.
- 43. The Orchard Farm site lies within an area to the west of the A249 between Iwade and Bobbing that is subject to a 7.5t weight restriction. HGV access from Orchard Farm would normally need to be through Iwade due to the access via Stickfast Lane to Sheppey Way at Bobbing passing completely through the restriction that covers those specific roads. However, KCC H&T has previously accepted that the use of Stickfast Lane is preferable to using School Lane through Iwade (due to concerns about road widths, traffic calming measures and traffic impact, including that associated with Iwade Primary School) and has issued an exemption certificate to allow HGVs associated with the Orchard Farm site to use this route. These and related issues were discussed in detail between the applicant and KCC H&T prior to planning application SW/15/502632 being submitted and the application was accompanied by a transport assessment.
- 44. The applicant has responded to the objections / concerns that have been raised by residents. It states that HGVs associated with its operations do not speed, that its drivers undergo training to ensure vehicle safety and that HGVs arrive at about 07:10 hours and normally finish by 16:15 hours. It accepts that a very small number of HGVs

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have left the site unsheeted but states that once this was brought to its attention and the driver warned this has not been repeated. It also states that its production manager uses the roads regularly and has not witnessed mud on the road but that drivers are briefed to call for a road sweeper should they see mud on the road. It further states that the fact that HGVs remain on the concrete access and loading area and this is kept clean serves to minimise the risk of mud being deposited on the road.

- 45. KCC H&T's response to the objections / concerns that have been raised are set out in paragraph 23 above. This clearly indicates that the objections / concerns that have been raised above are capable of being satisfactorily addressed either through existing / proposed conditions or as part of the Highway Authority's public responsibilities.
- 46. As noted in paragraphs 9 and 10 above, planning permission SW/15/502632 is subject to controls and measures which are designed to minimise impacts associated with HGVs. Notwithstanding the objection and concerns that have been received, I am not aware of any complaints about operations at the site since mineral working began. I am content that the existing planning conditions provide appropriate mechanisms for controlling / addressing such issues had KCC been aware of any complaints or concerns. Whilst some noise and vibration from HGVs using the public highway (including reversing alarms) is unavoidable, I am satisfied that the number of HGVs and the permitted hours of operation are such that impacts are not significant.
- 47. Subject to the re-imposition of the conditions imposed on planning permission SW/15/502632, updated as necessary to reflect the details approved since 2015 and now proposed and amended to provide for the further road condition survey requested by KCC H&T, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of highways and transportation.

Landscape and visual impact

Paragraph 144 of the NPPF states that mineral development should not give rise to 48. unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment and that restoration and aftercare should be provided at the earliest opportunity and be carried out to high environmental standards through the application of appropriate conditions where necessary. Policy DM1 of the Kent MWLP supports sustainable development and states that minerals proposals should demonstrate that they have been designed to avoid causing any unacceptable adverse impact on the environment and communities by appropriate measures to protect and enhance the character and quality of the site's location. Policy DM19 requires that provision be made for high standards of restoration, aftercare and after-use such that the intended after-use of the site is achieved in a timely manner. It also states that restoration plans should reflect the proposed after-use and, where appropriate, include details such as: the site boundaries and areas identified for soil and overburden storage; directions of phasing of working and restoration and how they are integrated into the working scheme; the proposed final landform; the seeding of grass or other crops and planting of trees, shrubs and hedges; a programme of aftercare (including vegetation establishment and management); and the restoration of the majority of the site back to agriculture, if the site consists of the best and most versatile agricultural land. It further states that

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aftercare schemes should incorporate an aftercare period of at least 5 years. Policies DM14, DM24 and DM29 of the Swale BLP seek to minimise landscape impact and protect and enhance landscape, trees and hedgerows.

- 48. No consultee has objected to the proposed removal of the mounds of brickearth (including UK Power Networks) or to the resultant revised restoration scheme. However, one resident has objected to the application due to the impact of mineral working on the countryside and the appearance of the site.
- 49. The applicant has responded to the objections that has been raised. It states that the planning permission is temporary, that the site is well laid out in accordance with the planning permission and that the proposed revised restoration scheme would continue to enable the site to be fully restored in a holistic way.
- 50. I am satisfied that the proposed removal of the mounds and the resultant revised restoration scheme would improve the final landform. I am also satisfied that the removal of the additional brickearth associated with this would not have a significant impact on the time required to complete working and restoration. Whilst the proposed additional time to complete extraction and restoration would result in the site being disturbed for longer than originally envisaged (i.e. 2 additional years for extraction and 2 years and 7 months for the removal of all extracted brickearth from the site and completion of restoration), it should be noted that working and restoration is phased and that condition 5 limits the amount of land out of agricultural use as a result of mineral extraction to no more than 2ha at any one time.
- 51. Subject to the re-imposition of the conditions imposed on planning permission SW/15/502632, updated as necessary to reflect the details approved since 2015 and amended to provide for the amendments now proposed, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of landscape and visual impact.

Noise, dust and air quality impacts

- 52. Paragraph 144 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on human health when granting permission for mineral development and that any unavoidable noise, dust and particle emissions are controlled, mitigated or removed at source and appropriate noise limits are established for extraction in proximity to noise sensitive properties. Policies CSM1 and DM1 of the Kent MWLP support sustainable development. Policy DM11 states that minerals development will be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it is unlikely to generate unacceptable adverse impacts from noise, dust, vibration, odour, emissions or exposure to health risks and associated damage to the qualities of life and wellbeing to communities and the environment. Policy DM14 of the Swale BLP states that development proposals should cause no significant harm to amenity and other sensitive uses or areas.
- 53. Although no consultees have objected to the application due to issues associated with noise, dust and air quality impacts, one resident has raised related concerns. The

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objections relate to alleged poor site management and a breach of the permitted hours of operation, leading to adverse impact on the local community.

- 54. The applicant has responded to the objections / concerns that have been raised. It states that the site is managed in accordance with the planning permission and that extraction has not taken place outside the permitted hours.
- 55. KCC's Noise and Air Quality Consultants had no objection to permission being granted in 2015 subject to the imposition of, and compliance with, the conditions that were included in planning permission SW/15/502632 and KCC's Air Quality Consultant was satisfied that the results of the dust sampling survey undertaken in 2015 provided an appropriate baseline against which to assess the dust monitoring required for each phase of development. The dust monitoring that has been undertaken since 2015 has also been accepted by KCC as demonstrating the effectiveness of the dust controls. The noise attenuation required by the planning permission has also been implemented as required and the absence of complaints during operations would appear to indicate its effectiveness. Notwithstanding the concerns that have been raised, I am not aware of any complaints about operations at the site since mineral working began. I am content that the existing planning conditions provide appropriate mechanisms for controlling / addressing such issues had KCC been aware of any complaints or concerns. If residents have reason to believe that any of the conditions are not being complied with, they should bring this to KCC's attention in order that this can be investigated and action taken as necessary.
- 56. Subject to the re-imposition of the conditions imposed on planning permission SW/15/502632 relating to noise, dust and air quality, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of these issues.

Water environment (hydrology, hydrogeology and groundwater impacts)

57. Paragraph 143 of the NPPF states that local plans should set out environmental criteria against which planning applications should be assessed to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment and human health from flooding, the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater and contamination (including cumulatively). Paragraph 144 states that regard should be given to such matters when determining planning applications. Policy DM1 of the Kent MWLP states that minerals proposals should demonstrate that they have been designed to utilise sustainable drainage systems wherever practicable. Policy DM10 states that permission will be granted for minerals development where it does not: result in the deterioration of physical state, water quality or ecological status of any waterbody; have an unacceptable impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones; and exacerbate flood risk in areas prone to flooding and elsewhere, both now and in the future. It also states that all minerals proposals must include measures to ensure the achievement of both no deterioration and improved ecological status of all waterbodies within the site and/or hydrologically connected to the site and that a hydrogeological assessment may be required to demonstrate the effects of the proposed development on the water environment and how these may be mitigated to

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an acceptable level. Policy DM21 of the Swale BLP includes similar objectives.

- 58. No objections have been received from the Environment Agency, KCC Sustainable Drainage Team (SUDS) or other consultees and no representations have been made in respect of issues relating to the water environment.
- 59. Subject to the re-imposition of the drainage conditions imposed on planning permission SW/15/502632 and conditions to provide for the amendments to the working and restoration scheme now proposed, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of the water environment.

Ecology

- Paragraph 143 of the NPPF states that local plans should set out environmental criteria against which planning applications should be assessed to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable impacts on the natural environment and ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity and that highquality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place, including for biodiversity. Paragraph 144 states that regard should be given to such matters when determining Paragraph 118 states that when determining planning planning applications. applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Policy DM1 of the Kent MWLP states that minerals proposals should demonstrate that they have been designed to protect and enhance the character and quality of the site's setting and its biodiversity interests or mitigate and if necessary compensating for any predicted loss. Policy DM2 states that proposals for minerals development must ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on sites of international, national or local importance unless it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the development and any impacts can be mitigated or compensated for, such that there is a net planning benefit. Policy DM3 states that proposals will be required to demonstrate that they result in no unacceptable adverse impacts on Kent's important biodiversity assets and that proposals that are likely to give rise to such impacts will need to demonstrate that an adequate level of ecological assessment has been undertaken and will only be granted permission following (amongst other things): an ecological assessment of the site (including specific protected species surveys as necessary); the identification and securing of measures to mitigate any adverse impacts; the identification and securing of compensatory measures where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated for; and the identification and securing of opportunities to make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity. Policy DM19 states that restoration plans should include details of (amongst other things) key landscape and biodiversity opportunities and constraints ensuring connectivity with surrounding landscape and habitats and proposals for meeting targets or biodiversity gain. Policies CP7 and DM28 of the Swale BLP include similar objectives
- 61. No objections have been received from Natural England, KCC Ecological Advice Service or other consultees and no representations have been made in respect of ecological issues. KCC Ecological Advice Service wishes to ensure that the site is

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restored in accordance with the submitted landscaping plan which provides for both new and replacement hedgerow and woodland shaw planting. It also includes the ecological mitigation area which has already been established.

62. Subject to the re-imposition of the conditions imposed on planning permission SW/15/502632, updated as necessary to reflect the details approved since 2015 and amended to provide for the amendments now proposed, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of ecology.

Archaeology, heritage and conservation

- 63. Paragraph 143 of the NPPF states that local plans should set out environmental criteria against which planning applications should be assessed to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable impacts on the historic environment. Paragraph 144 states that regard should be given to such matters when determining planning applications. Policy DM5 of the Kent MWLP states that proposals for minerals developments will be required to ensure that Kent's heritage assets and their settings, including locally listed heritage assets and archaeological sites are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. It also states that proposals should result in no unacceptable adverse impact on Kent's historic environment and, wherever possible, opportunities must be sought to maintain or enhance historic assets affected by the proposals. Policies CP8 and DM14 of the Swale BLP include similar objectives.
- 64. No objections have been received from KCC Archaeology or other consultees and no representations have been made in respect of archaeological issues. KCC Archaeology wishes to ensure that the approved scheme of archaeological works is complied with.
- 65. Subject to the imposition of a condition which requires the approved scheme of archaeological works to be complied with, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of archaeology.

Agricultural land / soils

66. Paragraph 143 of the NPPF states that local plans should include policies to ensure worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity and that high-quality restoration and aftercare takes place, including for agriculture (safeguarding the long-term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land and conserving soil resources). Paragraph 144 states that regard should be given to such matters when applications are determined and conditions applied where necessary. Paragraph 109 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing soils. Policy DM1 of the Kent MWLP states that proposals for minerals development will be required to demonstrate that they have been designed to minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. Policy DM19 also aims to protect agricultural land and soils. Policy DM31 of the Swale BLP also seeks to protect good quality agricultural land

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- 67. No objections have been received from Natural England or other consultees and no representations have been made in respect of agricultural land / soils issues.
- 68. Subject to the re-imposition of conditions to ensure that soils are handled as previously permitted and the site is worked and restored as now proposed, I am satisfied that the proposed development would accord with the above policies and be acceptable in terms of agricultural land / soils issues.

Conclusion

- 69. The application proposes the variation of conditions 1 and 6 of planning permission SW/15/502632 to allow brickearth extraction to continue until 31 October 2020, for all brickearth stockpiled at the site to be removed and the site fully restored by 31 May 2022 and for the site to be restored in accordance with a revised restoration scheme. The principle of brickearth extraction and restoration to agriculture at a lower level at Orchard Farm has already been established by planning permission SW/15/502632 (dated 15 July 2015). Whilst there have been a number of changes since that planning permission was granted (e.g. the granting of planning permission at Paradise Farm), I am satisfied that these are not sufficient to warrant refusal. I am also satisfied that the proposed amendments (i.e. additional time to complete working and restoration and an amended restoration scheme) are acceptable.
- 70. Notwithstanding the objections and concerns raised by the two residents, none of the consultees have raised objection subject to the re-imposition of appropriate conditions (including that to secure a further road condition survey within 6 months).
- 71. I am satisfied that the proposed development gives rise to no material harm, is in accordance with the development plan and that there are no material considerations that indicate that the application should be refused. I am also satisfied that any harm that would arise from the proposed development would reasonably be mitigated by the imposition of the proposed conditions. I therefore recommend accordingly.

Recommendation

- 72. I RECOMMEND that PERMISSION BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO conditions covering amongst other matters:
 - The cessation of brickearth extraction by 31 October 2020;
 - The removal of all brickearth stockpiled at the site and the completion of restoration by 31 May 2022;
 - The restoration of the site in accordance with the proposed revised restoration scheme:
 - The requirement for a further road condition survey within 6 months; and
 - The re-imposition of the conditions imposed on planning permission SW/15/502632 with such amendments as are necessary to reflect the above changes and the approvals given pursuant to the permission.

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Case Officer: Jim Wooldridge	Tel. no: 03000 413484		
Background Documents: see section heading			

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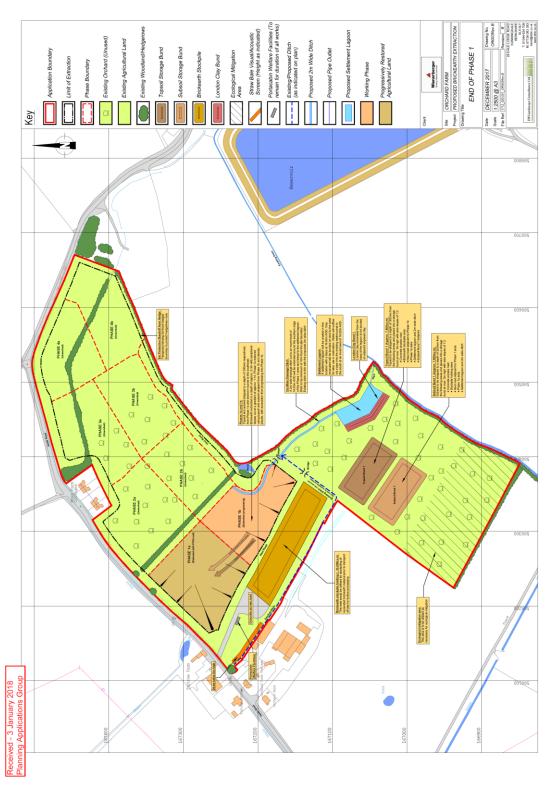
Section 73 application to vary conditions 1 & 6 of planning permission SW/15/502632 to allow for an extended period of working and amended restoration scheme at Orchard Farm, School Lane, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8QH - SW/18/500195





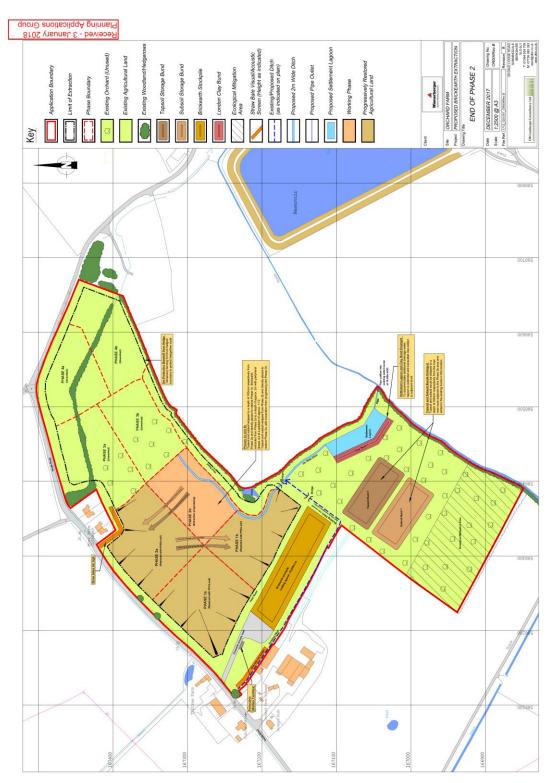
Page 27 C1.21

End of Phase 1



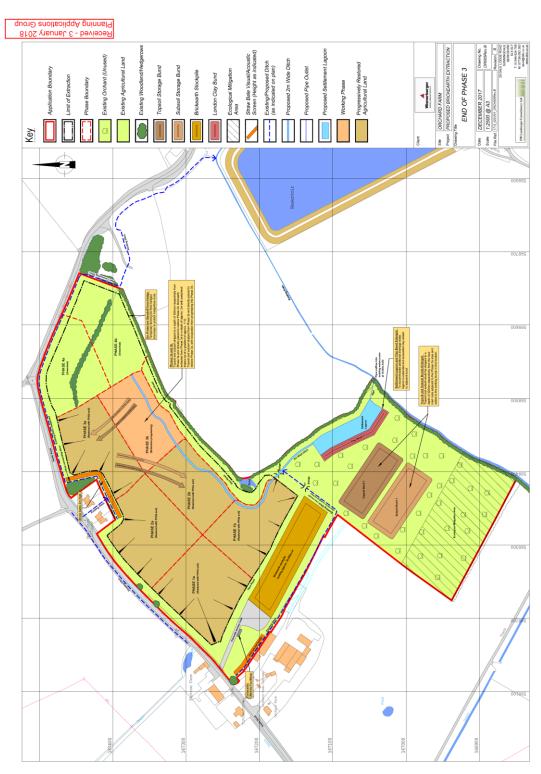
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End of Phase 2

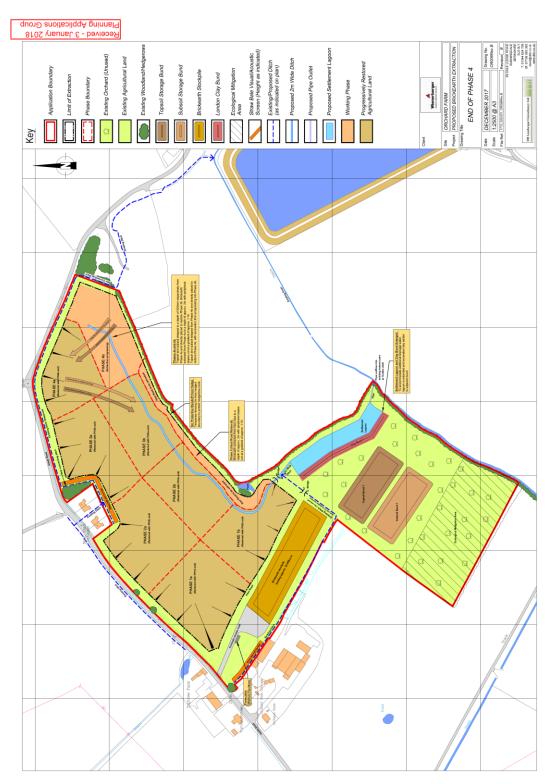


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End of Phase 3



End of Phase 4



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SECTION D DEVELOPMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

<u>Background Documents:</u> the deposited documents; views and representations received as referred to in the reports and included in the development proposals dossier for each case; and other documents as might be additionally indicated.

Item D1

Renewal of temporary permission for the 'Sharman Block' modular building, erection of 2.2m and 2.4m fencing within the site and new pedestrian access onto Bowen Road on part of the Former Pent Valley School adjoining Bowen Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4ED – Y18/0061/SH (KCC/SH/0343/2017)

A report by Head of Planning Applications Group to Planning Applications Committee on 14th March 2018.

Application by Gen 2 on behalf of Kent County Council for the renewal of the temporary permission for the 'Sharman Block' modular building; erection of a 2.4m high fence and gates to separate it from the rest of the former Pent Valley School; construction of a 1.8m wide access path to a new 2.2m high gate onto Bowen Road; and erection of a 2.2m high fence between the building and the electric substation on part of the Former Pent Valley School adjoining Bowen Road, Folkestone – Y18/0061/SH (KCC/SH/0343/2017)

Recommendation: Permission be granted subject to conditions.

Local Member: Mr David Monk

Classification: Unrestricted

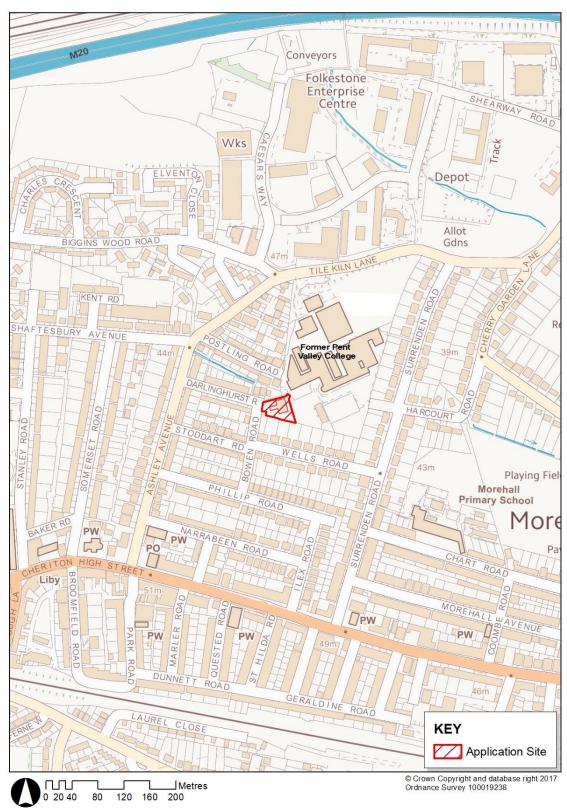
Site

- 1. The former Pent Valley School is located within the northern part of the town of Folkestone, and lies within a residential area between the B2064 Cheriton Road to the south and the M20 to the north. The school can be accessed from three surrounding roads Postling Road to the west, Tile Kiln Lane to the north, and Surrenden Road to the east. The school is currently vacant but has been purchased by the Turner Schools Group, who intend to open a Free School here in September 2018. Within the School site is a modular building known as The Sharman Block, which is located in the southwestern corner of the site, and it is this part of the site which this application relates to.
- 2. The Sharman Block is a modular building tucked into part of the site which shares a boundary with the rear gardens of properties in Wells Road to the south, and has a frontage onto Bowen Road to the west. The boundaries of the school in this area are formed by a combination of 2.2m high steel palisade fencing in galvanised steel, some older timber fencing (overgrown with shrubs along Bowen Road) and some close board fencing down the boundary of the driveway with 25 Darlinghurst Road. The modular building is single storey with a monopitch roof, with a combination of white and green walls. Footpaths surround most of the building and there are a number of doors into the various rooms which are accessed by steps and blue railings.
- 3. Bowen Road is a narrow road (5m wide) which links into Darlinghurst Road at the point where the school has its boundary. The junction is formed by a sharp left-hand bend when viewed from Bowen Road. There are no road markings in Bowen Road or Darlinghurst Road therefore on street parking occurs on both streets, and a number of houses have created off street parking on what would have originally been front garden.

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Renewal of temporary permission for the 'Sharman Block' and erection of fencing to separate it from the former Pent Valley School, and construction of a new pedestrian access onto Bowen Road, Folkestone – Y/18/0061/SH (KCC/SH/0343/2017)

General Location Plan



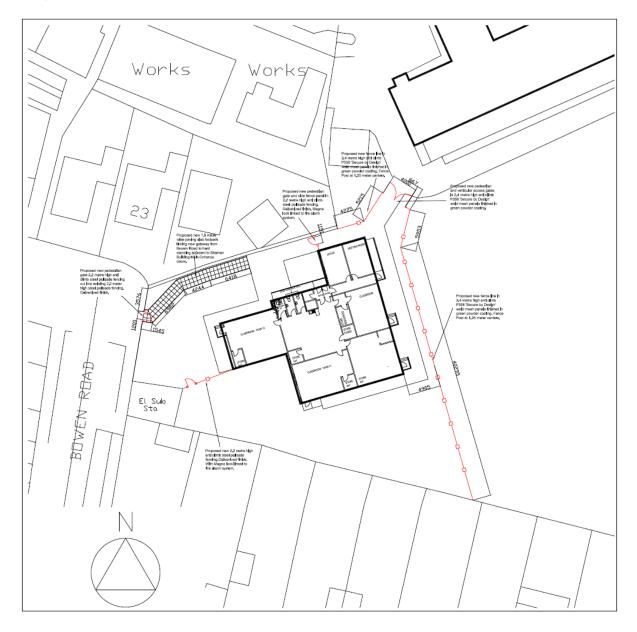
Renewal of temporary permission for the 'Sharman Block' and erection of fencing to separate it from the former Pent Valley School, and construction of a new pedestrian access onto Bowen Road, Folkestone – Y/18/0061/SH (KCC/SH/0343/2017)

Site Location Plan

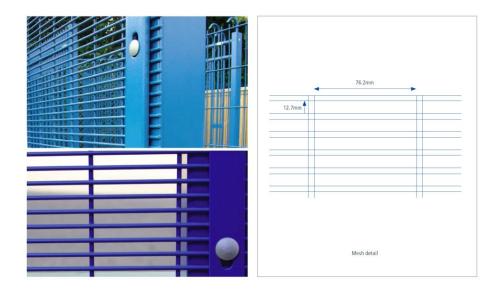


Renewal of temporary permission for the 'Sharman Block' and erection of fencing to separate it from the former Pent Valley School, and construction of a new pedestrian access onto Bowen Road, Folkestone – Y/18/0061/SH (KCC/SH/0343/2017)

Proposed Block Plan



Proposed Fence Styles





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The land falls away noticeably from south to north such that the houses in Darlinghurst Road and the Sharman Block are at a lower level than the road and footpath. There is a grass verge and footpath on both sides of Bowen Road, which is wider in front of the school boundary. Alongside the school frontage onto Bowen Road is an electricity substation enclosed by green wire mesh fencing. In the corner of the school site by 25 Darlinghurst Road are two tall fir trees which are visible from the road.

Recent Site History

- 4. There have been a number of historic planning applications for the Former Pent Valley School, but those relating to the Sharman Block itself are listed below:
 - 98/0966/SH for the siting of a new classroom block to replace the existing humanities block after demolition, granted permission until 31 December 2004.
 - SH/05/1327 for the renewal of planning permission with respect of a mobile classroom unit used as humanities teaching block, granted permission in November 2005 until November 2010.
- 5. The applicants are aware that the temporary consent granted in 2005 has expired and should have been renewed before now, but are seeking to regularise this with the current application.

Proposal and Background

- 6. The application seeks permission for a number of different elements as set out below. First it seeks to renew the temporary permission for the modular building known as The Sharman Block which was first installed on site in 1999. As set out above the most recent temporary permission for the building has expired. The application seeks permission for a new temporary consent for 5 years for the proposed continued education use.
- 7. Secondly the application seeks permission for the erection of some additional fencing within the site to provide a demarcation between the proposed use for the Sharman Block and the remainder of the former Pent Valley School. This would include a section of 2.4m high fencing that would run in an approximate north-south direction across the playing field from the main school building to a point along the southern boundary fence shared with the rear gardens of properties 26 and 28 Wells Road. A pair of vehicular and pedestrian access gates would be provided close to the original school buildings of the same fence material (2.4m high and 4m wide) and the fence would then return to the west to meet the corner of the school site with the boundary of number 25 Darlinghurst Road, thus separating the Sharman Block from the main school grounds. This 2.4m high fence would be an anti-climb mesh style fence which would be powder coated in a green colour.
- 8. Two smaller sections of 2.2m high fencing would be positioned to either side of the Sharman Block itself, one across to the electricity sub station and one to the boundary with 25 Darlinghurst Road. Both of these elements would have a pedestrian gate within them, with a lock linked to the alarm system. This 2.2m high fence would be a steel

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galvanised palisade fence, identical to the fencing that already runs around the boundary with Bowen Road and along the side boundary to the driveway of 25 Darlinghurst Road.

- 9. Finally the proposal includes the laying of a new 1.8m wide footpath along part of the boundary with 25 Darlinghurst Road to extend the path that already exists towards the Bowen Road boundary. This pathway would lead to a new pedestrian access gate to be inserted into the existing 2.2m high palisade fence on this boundary. This gate would be 1.2m wide and would be located towards the northern end of the frontage onto Bowen Road. The gate position would not require the removal of either of the fir trees which are located in this corner of the site.
- 10. The following additional information has been provided as background to the proposal:
 - The Sharman Block would be run as a Pupil Referral Unit, registered for a maximum of 24 children and serving children from schools in the Folkestone and Hythe areas.
 - At present the children are accommodated in unsuitable premises on Cheriton Road, to the south-east of the application site, approximately 1.4 miles away.
 - Although registered for 24 it is likely that only 18-20 children would be on site at any
 one time, and these children would attend for a whole day, therefore there wouldn't
 be additional comings and goings throughout the day.
 - The new pedestrian access onto Bowen Road would only be used by the children attending the Sharman Block.
 - Staff will park on the former Pent Valley School site and access the Sharman Block from within the school grounds.
 - The grassed area within the proposed fenceline surrounding the modular building would be used for outdoor recreational space and the Turner School has also stated that the sports hall could be used for recreation times.

Planning Policy

- 11. The most relevant Government Guidance and Development Plan Policies summarised below are pertinent to the consideration of this application:
 - (i) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) March 2012 and the National Planning Policy Guidance (March 2014), sets out the Government's planning policy guidance for England, at the heart of which is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The guidance is a material consideration for the determination of planning applications but does not change the statutory status of the development plan which remains the starting point for decision making. However, the weight given to development plan policies will depend on their consistency with the NPPF (the closer the policies in the development plan to the policies in the NPPF, the greater the weight that may be given).

In determining applications, the NPPF states that local planning authorities should look for solutions rather than problems, and decision takers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.

In terms of delivering sustainable development in relation to this development

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proposal, the NPPF guidance and objectives covering the following matters are of particular relevance:

- Consideration of whether the opportunities for sustainable transport have been taken up and safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people;
- Achieving the requirement for high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
- The great importance that the Government attaches to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities, and that great weight should be given to the need to create, expand or alter schools.

A draft review of the NPPF was published on Monday 5th March 2018 but the section relating to the delivery of school facilities remains largely unchanged with similarly worded text regarding the need to ensure sufficient choice of school places to meet the needs of existing and new communities.

- (ii) Policy Statement Planning for Schools Development (15 August 2011) which sets out the Government's commitment to support the development of state-funded schools and their delivery through the planning system. In particular the Policy states that the Government wants to enable new schools to open, good schools to expand and all schools to adapt and improve their facilities. This will allow for more provision and greater diversity of provision in the state funded school sector, to meet both demographic needs, provide increased choice and create higher standards.
- (iii) Shepway District Council Core Strategy Local Plan (September 2013)
 - Policy DSD Delivering Sustainable Development: To take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF. To work proactively to find joint solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.
- (iv) Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006)
 - **Policy SD1** Sustainable Development: All development should take account of the broad aim of sustainable development.

Consultations

12. Shepway District Council were consulted on 11th January, and provided initial officer views which are set out below, but due to the number of representations received they will be considering the application at their own planning committee on 20th March. It is anticipated that we can provide a verbal update at our meeting with the details of their published committee report, but please note that the Members of Shepway District Council Planning Committee will not have made a decision on the application at the time of our meeting.

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<u>Shepway District Council Senior Planning Officer Views:</u> No objection subject to there being no general access through the site from this new gate to the main school.

Folkestone Town Council raised an initial objection, querying what the access would actally serve. They state Bowen Road is a side road and the corner is 90 degrees. It is not clear whether the access will be a busy one or not.

In response to these comments I wrote to the Town Council to explain the proposed use of the gate and the Sharman Block itself. No additional comments have been received from the Town Council in response to this further information.

Kent County Council Transportation Planning raise no objection to the application, subject to the imposition of a condition requiring the gate for the pedestrian access onto Bowen Road to open away from the highway.

Local Member

13. The local County Member, Mr David Monk, was notified of the application on 11th January 2018.

Publicity

14. The application was publicised by the posting of two site notices, one on the fence by the proposed access point into Bowen Road and one at the main entrance to the former school on Postling Road. In addition, the individual notification of 18 residential properties was undertaken.

Representations

- 15. In response to the publicity, 10 letters of representation have been received. The key points raised can be summarised as follows:
 - Do not think the temporary permission should be renewed the building should be demolished, and the site turned back to open ground;
 - Already three existing and safer accesses into the school do not consider it necessary for an additional one to be added now;
 - The children should access this unit from the existing school as the staff will;
 - Having a new entrance here would result in increased traffic and traffic congestion in Bowen Road and Darlinghurst Road, which are narrow residential roads;
 - Proposal would also increase traffic on other surrounding roads;
 - The narrow bend at the junction of Bowen Road and Darlinghurst Road does not allow two cars to pass which would result in the need for reversing manoeuvres which would be hazardous to pedestrians;
 - The proposed fencing would make the site look like a prison, affecting the outlook of local residents and the pupils using the facility;
 - Do not think there is sufficient recreational space for the pupils if it is fenced off as proposed from the main school;
 - The original wooden fence can no longer be properly maintained due to the new

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metal fences;

- The facility is not large enough to accommodate 24 pupils;
- Do not want the existing cherry trees on site to be affected;
- Fear staff will choose to park on the roads close to the Sharman Block rather than on the school site, which would affect residents parking, especially when the main school is occupied again and parking in the school comes under pressure;
- Concerned about where the pupils will be travelling from to get to the site;
- Do not believe the children will all arrive by public transport or on foot as stated, and think parents and carers will drive down Bowen Road and Darlinghurst Road to drop them off, affecting local residents;
- An increase in traffic and parking here would force residents to change front gardens to off road parking spaces affecting the environment;
- The proposed gate would be at the corner of the two roads where visibility is poor;
- Concerned that deliveries and visitors to the unit would make the problems worse;
- Concerned that pupils using this access would ultimately cause damage, graffiti, litter, noise and nuisance, abusive language and antisocial behaviour affecting residents' amenity;
- Concerned that existing driveways would be blocked by vehicles dropping off children or by imposed zig-zag or yellow lines;
- Do not think the application was advertised widely enough;
- Concerned that the planning application contravenes Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which ensures everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life and home.

Discussion

- 16. In considering this proposal regard must be had to the Development Plan Policies outlined in paragraph 11 above. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) states that applications must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Therefore the proposal needs to be considered in the context of the Development Plan Policies, Government Guidance and other material planning considerations arising from consultation and publicity.
- 17. This application is being reported for determination by the Planning Applications Committee due to the objections received from local residents. In my opinion, the key material planning considerations in this particular case are the principle of retaining this temporary building for an education use; the visual impact of the proposed additional fencing within the site and for the wider area; and the impact of the proposed pedestrian gate on the amenities of the residents of the surrounding roads.

Retention of the Sharman Block

18. The Sharman Block has been sited within the Pent Valley School grounds since 1999 and has an established education use, albeit only with on-going temporary permissions. The most recent permission expired in November 2010 and the applicants are aware that a renewal of the permission should have been applied for some time ago. Nevertheless, the current application seeks to regularise this and a further 5 year consent is requested at this time. The existing premises for the Pupil Referral Unit

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(PRU) are unsuitable and of a poor standard which is why alternative provision is being sought. In planning terms, the proposed use of the Sharman Block for the PRU complies with the existing educational land use with both falling within Class D1 (non-residential institutions) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order. The principle of using the former secondary school premises for a PRU is therefore acceptable in land use terms. The Planning Policy Statement for Schools (2011) puts great emphasis on providing a diverse range of facilities within the state funded school sector and the use of the Sharman Block for this facility would comply with this aim and meet the need for such places within this geographical area. It is generally considered inappropriate in planning policy terms to give a permanent consent for a temporary building due to the very nature of the accommodation and the fact that a permanent structure/facility should be found. In this case it is considered that a 5 year temporary permission would be appropriate, after which time the need for the facility in this location can be reassessed.

Visual Impact of the Proposed Fencing

- 19. In this part of the former Pent Valley School site there is existing 2.2m high steel palisade fencing enclosing the grounds, sometimes in addition to timber fencing along residential boundaries. Part of the application is for additional sections of 2.2m high fencing and gates to be erected to provide a secure boundary for the unit, and these would run across from the Sharman Block to the existing boundary with 25 Darlinghurst Road and on the other side to the electricity substation. Although this palisade style fence is quite stark and imposing, it is what already forms the boundary to the school and therefore additional elements of this type of fence need to be considered in this context. These elements of the fencing are minor in nature and enclosed within the site, such that they would have little material impact on the neighbours in Darlinghurst Road and Wells Road.
- 20. The 2.4m high fence is of a slightly different design to the steel palisade fence in that it would be a close mesh style and the fence would be powder coated green. This taller fence would run from the rear garden boundary of 26/28 Wells Road across the existing playing field towards the former Pent Valley school in the vicinity of the access from Postling Road. The proposed fence would be 4.9m away from the Sharman Block and would enclose the existing footpath along the side of the building and a small strip of grass at the edge of the small bank. This fence would only be 20cm higher than the existing boundary treatment and although tall would again be contained within the school site and viewed within the context of the surrounding buildings not only the Sharman Block but also the original Pent Valley School building, a prominent two storey structure.
- 21. The closest property to the school in Darlinghurst Road is number 25, which has one first floor window on the side elevation facing in towards the school grounds. Given the existing view from this window would include the buildings and current fencing on the school site it is considered unlikely that the new mesh fence would cause any additional visual impact. The new residential properties which have replaced the former engineering works in Postling Road do not have windows which face towards the school site or the location of the new fence. Those houses which back onto the site from Wells Road would be some distance from the fence itself (their rear gardens are

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approximately 26m long) and would view the fence 'end on' rather than 'face on' which would again limit any visual impact it may have on those occupiers.

22. It should also be noted that the School would be allowed to erect fencing within the school grounds up to a height of 2m without requiring any planning permission. Although this close mesh style of fence is not the most aesthetically pleasing a 2m high one would not need permission and therefore we are really considering whether a fence that is 0.4m higher would be visually harmful and detrimental to the wider area. In my opinion the additional height would not be significant enough to warrant refusal of permission.

Impact of the New Pedestrian Gate

- 23. The proposed pedestrian gate onto Bowen Road would be used for the pupils who would attend the PRU only. There would be no through route from here into the wider school grounds when the School becomes a free school later in the year. The security locks on the proposed gates within the site would ensure no free access could be obtained. A number of objections have been received about the need for another access when the main school already benefits from three access points. The issue arises from the change in ownership of the main school from KCC to the Turner Schools Group. Kent County Council will acquire the freehold of the application site including the Sharman Block (subject to planning permission) to enable them to run the PRU and would need access to this parcel of land separate to the remainder of the school site. Staff would park in the school grounds, however, and there will be a gated access within the new 2.4m mesh fence to allow staff to enter, and emergency vehicles.
- 24. The gate can be conditioned to open inwards as requested by the Highways and Transportation Officer and further conditioned to restrict the use of the gate to pupils in the PRU only, as suggested by the District Council. The local residents who have objected to the application however, are concerned that whilst it might only be a pedestrian access being applied for, that the pupils would be brought to the unit by car which would create additional traffic problems along Bowen Road and Darlinghurst Road in particular. The comments listed in paragraph 15 above set out their concerns about not only the additional traffic but also perceived future parking problems, the nature of the small residential roads and the tight bend in the road immediately outside the proposed gates.
- 25. Whilst the comments of local residents are noted it should be remembered that this facility would *only* serve 24 pupils and as such it's use would be very small in nature. The Highways and Transportation Officer has stated that this proposal simply could not generate such an increase in traffic on the surrounding road network that it could be classified as having a severe impact when considered in the context of the NPPF guidance. As such a refusal on highway capacity or safety grounds cannot be justified.
- 26. Notwithstanding the view of the Highways Officer above, the applicants provided further details about how the children attending the PRU travel to the existing premises (10 children walk, only 2 are brought by car and the rest use public transport) and this demonstrates the rate of car usage for the existing unit is actually lower than the national average for secondary school children. In part it is considered this is because

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pupils receive travel assistance from KCC if they live more than 3 miles from the facility. Furthermore, where the Headteacher feels the child's attendance would be facilitated by providing a bus pass and they are not eligible under the KCC rules, the Centre's budget funds one, and this would continue should the unit relocate as proposed.

- 27. The proposed site at The Sharman Block is a walkable distance from the Cheriton High Street bus corridor and this route serves many of the same bus services as accessible by the school's current location and as such the number of pupils who currently arrive by bus (10 pupils) may not change greatly. The unit is relocating 1.4 miles away from the current premises, therefore it may be that some children find themselves further away from the PRU, whilst others will live closer, and it should also be borne in mind that the spatial pattern of the children attending will obviously change over time as some leave and others join. However, given the very small scale of the unit, the provision of bus passes for the children, the Sharman Block's accessibility from a bus corridor, and the fact secondary age pupils are less likely to be taken to school by car, it is considered the new pedestrian access gate would not give rise to an unacceptable level of traffic as set out in the response by the Highways and Transportation Officer.
- 28 Finally it should be noted that Bowen Road has few frontage properties and as such parking pressures would be slightly less here than on the surrounding roads. In addition, the afternoon collection time for pupils is outside of the peak traffic period on the wider highway network and therefore anyone arriving by car and waiting to collect a pupil would be doing so off peak and when a large proportion of the local population are more likely to be at work. This would reduce potential conflict in temporary parking pressures. Subject to the imposition of a condition requiring the gate for the pedestrian access onto Bowen Road to open away from the highway, which is included in my recommendation, it is considered that the development is acceptable on highway grounds.

Other Representations

29. In addition to the concerns addressed above, there were also comments received regarding the potential impact on trees on the site; the belief that the application was not advertised widely enough; and general noise, disturbance and antisocial behaviour from children accessing the Sharman Block. The applicants have confirmed that no trees are to be removed as a result of this planning application. The only works that would be undertaken would be to prune the lower branches of the fir tree closest to the new footpath leading to the gate onto Bowen Road. It is considered that this would be acceptable and would not materially affect the appearance of the trees themselves or their contribution to the street scene. The application was publicised by the posting of two site notices. The legislation requires that they are posted close to the application site so that they are seen in relation to the site itself, which is why they were posted at the location of the proposed gate onto Bowen Road and then an additional one at the closest existing entrance to the school. In addition, this planning authority undertakes additional discretionary publicity, notifying neighbours in the vicinity of the site. Letters were therefore sent to neighbours which adjoin or are in close proximity to the site which included 8 on Wells Road, 4 on Darlinghurst Road, 1 on Stoddart Road and the 4 new houses on Postling Road. It is considered that the advertisement of the application

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- undertaken was in accordance with the legislation contained within the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
- 30. The proposed use of the Sharman Block would be for an education use, as it was when the Former Pent Valley school was open and was used as part of this school. The only change in practice which would be created by this proposal would arise from the pupils using the proposed new access gate to enter this building, whereas they would have previously accessed it from within the school grounds. The pupil referral unit is registered for a maximum of 24 children and they would only use the building during term time and under supervision. Given the very limited scale of the use it is considered that any noise and disturbance would be minimal and unlikely to create a level of noise and disturbance which would be considered unacceptable, and in my view the scheme would not contravene Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Conclusion

31. In my view the key determining factors for this application are the continued temporary use of the building for education purposes, the visual impact of the proposed fences on the wider area, and the impact of the new pedestrian gate on the amenities of the residents of the surrounding roads. Subject to the imposition of the conditions below, I consider that the proposal would provide a continued education use on an established school site, with the same land use class, and which would be reviewed in 5 years' time. The proposed fencing would not result in any visual harm to the wider area or neighbouring residents. The proposed pedestrian access gate would allow direct access to the unit for a very small number of children, the majority of whom are expected to travel by means other than a car, and therefore would not give rise to an increase in traffic that would be considered as having a severe impact on the surrounding road network. In my view, the development would not give rise to any significant material harm and is in accordance with the general aims and objectives of the relevant Development Plan Policies. The development is in accordance with the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework and moreover the Planning Policy Statement for Schools (2011) which promotes the importance of providing a range of educational facilities. I therefore conclude that the development is sustainable and recommend that the application be approved as set out in the recommendation below.

Recommendation

- 32. I RECOMMEND that PERMISSION BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO the imposition of conditions covering (amongst other matters) the following:
 - The Sharman Block shall be removed from the site on or before the 31st March 2023 and the land reinstated to its former use as part of the secondary school grounds;
 - The development to be carried out in accordance with the permitted details;
 - The approved gate onto Bowen Road shall open away from the Highway;
 - Access to the former Pent Valley School shall not be permitted via the new gate on Bowen Road, which shall serve the Sharman Block PRU only.

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- 33. I FURTHER RECOMMEND that the following INFORMATIVES be added:
 - That the applicant ensures that all necessary highway approvals and consents are obtained.

Case Officer: Helen Edwards	Tel. no: 03000 413366
Background Documents: see section heading	

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E1 <u>COUNTY MATTER APPLICATIONS AND DETAILS PURSUANT</u> <u>PERMITTED/APPROVED/REFUSED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</u> MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Since the last meeting of the Committee, the following matters have been determined by me under delegated powers:-

Background Documents - The deposited documents.

GR/15/205/R8 Details pursuant to condition 8 (Traffic Management Plan) of

GR/15/205 waste oil transfer station (and confirmation of replacement rubber liner for containment of any oil spillage within the loading area). Unit D2, Springhead Enterprise Park, Springhead Road, Gravesend,

Kent, DA11 8HH Decision: Approved

SE/12/2970/R4 Details of a dust and odour suppression system pursuant to condition

(4) of planning permission SE/12/2790 for a new waste transfer

station with replacement Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Dunbrik Household Waste Recycling Centre, Main Road, Sundridge,

Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 6EP

Decision: Approved

KCC/SH/0005/

2017/R

Non-material amendment relating to the landscape treatment required

under planning permission KCC/SH/0005/2017.

Hope Farm, Crete Road East, Hawkinge, Folkestone

Decision: Approved

TM/18/0301 Section 73 application to vary conditions 19 and 20 of

TM/98/2045/MR92 (as amended by TM/10/3237) to allow importation of inert materials (other than spent railway ballast, hardcore and

waste concrete products) by road until April 2020.

East Peckham Quarry (Arnolds Lodge Farm Quarry), John Boyle

Way, East Peckham, Kent

Decision: Permitted

E2 COUNTY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND DETAILS PURSUANT PERMITTED/APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Since the last meeting of the Committee, the following matters have been determined by me under delegated powers:-

Background Documents – The deposited documents.

DA/17/1042/R Non material amendment to planning permission DA/17/1042 to

enable the building to be constructed as a modular build.

Temple Hill Primary School, St. Edmunds Road, Dartford, DA1 5ND

Decision: Approved

MA/16/505892/R14 Details of the implementation, maintenance and management of the

approved SUDS scheme pursuant to condition 14 of planning

permission MA/16/503892.

Headcorn Primary School, Kings Road, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent,

TN27 9QT

Decision: Approved

MA/16/507442/R14 Details of a School Travel Plan pursuant to condition (14) of planning

permission MA/16/507442.

Maidstone Grammar School, Barton Road, Maidstone

Decision: Approved

MA/16/507463/R15 Details of a School Travel Plan pursuant to condition 15 of planning

permission MA/16/507463.

Maidstone Grammar School, Barton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15

7BT

Decision: Approved

MA/18/500226 Remove 1.5m high chain link fence and erect 2.4m high P358

weldmesh fence. Extend height of 2 no gates and fence alongside with 2.4m high fence and gates. Install anti climb measures to small

section of roof.

Bower Grove School, Fant Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8NL

Decision: Permitted

SH/16/470/R3 Details of landscaping pursuant to condition (3) of planning

permission SH/16/470.

Land adjacent to Selsted Primary School, Stockham Lane, Selsted

Decision: Approved

SW/504626/R Non material amendment to relocate the approved bin store to the

front of the site.

Sittingbourne Community College, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne,

Kent, ME10 4NL Decision: Approved SW/16506387/R3

Details of external materials pursuant to condition (3) of planning

permission SW/16/506378.

Minster In Sheppey Primary School, Brecon Chase, Minster On Sea,

Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2HX

Decision: Approved

E3 <u>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 - SCREENING OPINIONS ADOPTED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</u>

Background Documents -

- The deposited documents.
- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- The Government's Online Planning Practice Guidance-Environmental Impact Assessment/Screening Schedule 2 Projects
- (a) Since the last meeting of the Committee the following screening opinions have been adopted under delegated powers that the proposed development does not constitute EIA development and the development proposal does not need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement:-
- KCC/DO/0339/2017 Wood recycling to produce biofuel together with ancillary power production.

 Former KCC Waste Transfer Station, Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge, Kent, CT18 7AW
- (b) Since the last meeting of the Committee the following screening opinions have been adopted under delegated powers that the proposed development does constitute EIA development and the development proposal does need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement:-

None

E4 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 - SCOPING OPINIONS ADOPTED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

(b) Since the last meeting of the Committee the following scoping opinions have been adopted under delegated powers.

Background Documents -

- The deposited documents.
- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- The Government's Online Planning Practice Guidance-Environmental Impact Assessment/Preparing an Environmental Statement

None