
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 February 2021 20:59
To: East 1
Subject: For the attention of: Alison Kendal, Ref: APP/X1735/W/20/3260889
Attachments: Maize pit response for inspector.docx

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Please find attached our comments about the appeal, Ref: APP/X1735/W/20/3260889, could you please acknowledge receipt of this information.

With thanks

J M Pike
Director, A H Brown Ltd

There are a number of misconceptions put forward by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which we would like to clarify.

1. The maize pit is not a new development. It replaces a pit of a similar capacity on the same site. We grow 11 hectares of maize every year. Therefore, the amount of maize silage stored in the pit is approximately the same every year. There will be slight fluctuations depending on the quality of the crop.
2. There is no other site available for the maize pit other than using a portion of the field to the east of the farm complex. This would be a green field site and much more intrusive in an AONB.
3. There has been no increase in herd size. In fact, the numbers have decreased over the past few years.
4. There has been no increase in the use of machinery or its size in or near to the maize pit. There has been no increase in the operating hours at the pit. There is a picture of a JCB on the silage clamp. This situation arises once a year, lasting for less than a day, when the maize is harvested and delivered to the clamp and has to be rolled to remove any air pockets so that the maize ferments successfully. The safety rail is in place to give guidance and security to the JCB driver who is rolling the maize. It is not, as suggested at the planning meeting, for the safety of farm workers. All machinery operations from that point on is at ground level.
5. Maize silage gives off little to no smell.
6. It is suggested that there is no public benefit gained from the farm activities. This is not correct. Without Northney Farm and its herd of cows Northney Village would be a very different place. The rural idyll would quickly be lost without a working farm at its heart. The Northney Village Design Statement quantified this. The farm is seen as a key neighbour. Also, in a normal year some 500 school children visit the farm to learn where their dairy products and beef come from.

