

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

Hillingdon Council, High Street Uxbridge

5th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

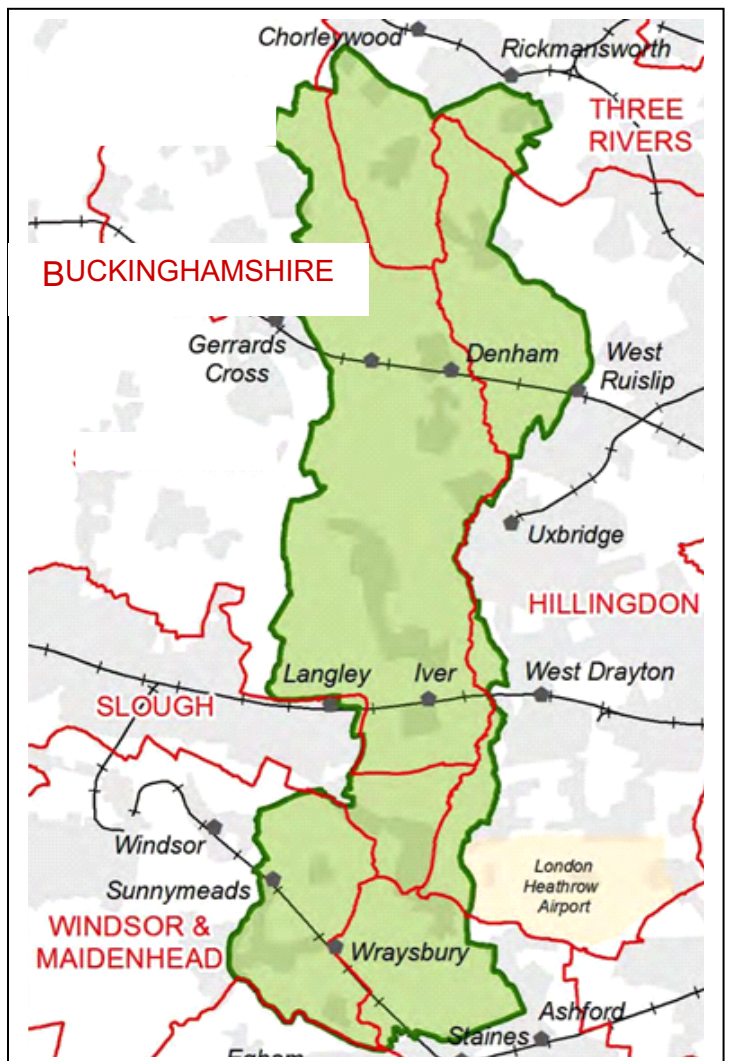
35376/APP/2024/282

Springwell Factory, Springwell Lane, Harefield, WD3 8UX

This response is from and behalf of The Colne Valley Regional Park

The Colne Valley Regional Park was founded in 1965 when local authorities – including Bucks County Council – showed great foresight in agreeing to work together to preserve and enhance this precious area for recreation and nature conservation.

It is supported by more than 80 member organisations including local authorities, businesses, residents' associations, environmental charities and user groups. Groundwork South acts as the Park's managing agent.



Colne Valley Park Trust

Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. Company No. 08131867

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

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This application to use the site for a scrapyard has a significant impact on the River Colne in terms of pollution potential and impact on local biodiversity.

We are concerned about several issues that we do not believe have been adequately addressed by this application.

Firstly The application does not appear to provide sufficient information on the risks that the development has on the River and its environs.

For example

Page 10 the application form asks: "Is your proposal within 20 metres of a watercourse" They answer no, despite it being no fewer than 10 metres from the Colne!

Under Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, the form asks:

"Is there a reasonable likelihood of the following being affected adversely ... on land adjacent to or near the application site?"

A. Protected and priority species. They answered '**no**' when we know Water Voles are occupying the banks of the adjacent Colne.

B. Important habitats or biodiversity features. They answered **no**. But there is a reasonable likelihood of waste, spills and pollutants entering the Colne.

"Please state how foul sewage is to be disposed of"

Answer to this was 'Unknown'.

"Is the site within an area at risk of flooding?"

Whoever filled out the application form stated 'No' when clearly this is very much within Flood Zone 3, having a 'high probability of flooding'.

Recently an oil slick has been spotted in the River Colne and on the access track, presumably leakage from the scrapped cars. This is being washed into the river. We are also greatly concerned by this, and the heavy plant, now carrying what the facility states will be 5000 tonnes/year of municipal waste up and down that track which adjoins the banks of the Colne. I believe this is a vulnerable and sensitive spot in the Colne Valley and is categorically the wrong location for a metal scrap yard.

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The scrap yard is operating within a Level 1 SPZ (Inner Source Protection Zone) and within 10 metres of a Local Nature Reserve/Local Wildlife site.

It is approximately 10m from an unculverted watercourse (Colne) and a site supporting Water Vole (UK Priority/BAP species) and c. 50m from known Soprano Pipistrelle roosting spots (UK Priority/BAP Species).

Should the works be deemed operating on the access track (they transport scrapped vehicles, metal etc. up and down this track regularly) these distances (excluding the bats) can be reduced to three metres. Due to it's location and function, the scrap yard could well be an environmental catastrophe in the making.

Secondly The site is also very noisy impacting both residents, wildlife and users of nearby rights of way. It is an unsuitable location for a scrapyard activity.

Finally We are also concerned that enforcement procedures have not yet been instigated. This use is of sufficient concern that a STOP Notice should be applied as soon as possible.

Jane Griffin
Trustee
Colne Valley Regional Park

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