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Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Clerk,
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The Development Management Group
Lancashire County Council
PO Box 100
County Hall
Preston
PR1 0LD

For the attention of Lancashire County Council Planning Department and Cllr. Barry Yates, from Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council.

To whom it may concern,

Objection to LCC/2021/0021 – Extraction of Sand and Gravel including construction of new access road and new junction with A59 Preston New Road, creation of plant site, weighbridge and stockpiling area, silt ponds, landscaping including screen mounding, with progressive restoration to wetland and passive flood management facility, woodland and agriculture.

Harelyford Aggregates' plan to develop a sand and gravel quarry at Lower Hall has developed into a long, drawn-out, never-ending process, and Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council considers that it has gone on long enough. The matter needs to be concluded.

It is not right that a company can choose to dig in green belt in an area which will have such an archaeological wealth of history.

We are submitting these objections as evidence to back our position, with the request that you will help us to maintain this very important green belt.

As a Parish Council we are strongly opposed to the Extraction of Sand and Gravel from Lower Hall Farm. It appears that the documents that are used throughout this proposal are too old to be reliable and lack basic information.

For this application to go ahead it means destroying green belt Land and demolishing ancient woodland which houses a significant amount of wildlife. This area around Potter Lane is a significant wildlife corridor within our community and is enjoyed by many of the residents within the parish and visitors from outside communities.

Potter Lane is not only a public footpath and bridleway, but also appears to be a Safe CycleWay link with BAE Systems site at Samlesbury which LCC itself designated. This in itself should be considered

a limitation towards the proposed plans due to the increase of public access to the area, with HGV's regularly using the route. As Catherine Lewis (Development Control Team Leader from South Ribble Borough Council) has stated 'The site is surrounded by Biological Sites and the extraction activities including 8m high screening bunds would have a detrimental impact upon the openness of the Green Belt, contrary to Paragraph 146 of the National Planning Policy Framework.' The proposed exit onto the A59 is considered unacceptable, it will create a situation of a 32 ton HGV moving from stationary to slowly up an incline on a very busy dual carriageway with a speed limit of 50mph. Due to the expansion at the BA site together with the development of the enterprise park the road which is already showing a marked increase in flow from traffic counts will become even busier in the future. The problem, or better expressed as danger is with two lanes of fast-moving traffic approaching a very slow-moving HGV will create the hazardous situation of the inside lane being forced to merge into the outside lane.

The proposed site has a historic element to it which would be outrageous to demolish. The original manor house of Lower Hall is believed to have been situated within the Horseshoe Bend feature of the River Ribble, where the land is enclosed on three sides by the river and two well-maintained fords crossing over to Brockholes. The old Anglo/Saxon term bury suggests that it was a fortified manor house or peel tower which could give some protection. This theory was confirmed in 1926 when Ribble Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd. Were excavating the rich alluvial plain within the Horseshoe Bend at Lower Hall. Numerous large dressed stones were brought to the surface and foundations indicated a structure some 38 square feet. In the History of Samlesbury (1936) Robert Eaton wrote about the 'unmistakable evidences of numerous long-forgotten settlements and dwellings now razed to the ground... which spread over all the Lower Hall flats extending quite to the Cuerdale boundary. These are about ¼ mile from the present Lower Hall and close to Elston ford, but the stone from there was probably re-used in the construction of other buildings or field walls. Eaton also say's there is 'a carved stone in semi-relief, bearing a heart and the letters SHJ.' (Sacred Heart of Jesus.) Earth works situated on the edge of nearby Seed Park are believed to be the site of a motte and bailey castle 'on promontory forward of the escarpment overlooking the Ribble Valley. A ferry was established near the church in very early times, but an outbreak of Bubonic Plague may have decimated the population. In his book 'The Place Names of Lancashire,' Professor Ekwall remark, "I take this to be the site of the original Samlesbury." An archaeological survey may well lead to some very interesting discoveries, but one has never been carried out.

The proposed extraction site is currently on a major flood plain.

Underneath the proposed site runs a high-pressure gas line. As well as running through the extraction site, the gas line also crosses the A59 at the site of the proposed haul road exit near to Roman Stone. It is obvious that any threat to a high-pressure gas line has the potential to cause a major incident. Between the gas line and Roman Stone are both the Thirlmere Aqueduct Water Line and a LCUS Water line.

Catherine Lewis has made many valid objections to this proposal and as a Parish Council we agree with the points that have been made. South Ribble have raised an objection to this application and request that the application be refused. As does Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely



Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Clerk

