



The Planning Department
Hart District Council
Harlington Way
Fleet, Hants
GU51 4AE

17 March 2008 by email

Dear Sir or Madam

Planning application 07/03197/major

On behalf of Caroline Lucas MEP I am writing to object to this application. Please also see Dr Lucas' objection to the previous application attached, dated 21 May 2007.

The application falls into the South East constituency for which Caroline Lucas is MEP and she is also a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Climate Change. Although planning is not formally in her remit as MEP, she is objecting to the proposed development because of its harmful impact in relation to climate change. It does not comply with the UK government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and specifically contravenes principles set out in the Planning Policy Statement *Planning and Climate Change*, December 2007.

Secondly, at the European level, the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Areas (SPAs) could be harmed by an increase in air pollution as previously described.

The development would:

- cause a major increase in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions : the developer expects up to 8,000 vehicle movements (lorries, vans and cars) per day and additionally over 5,500 HGVs movements per week, with further traffic potential. The development will not achieve a modal shift of freight to less carbon-intensive forms of transport, such as rail, nor boost the local production of goods. An increased number of employees at the site would need to commute to work, raising carbon emissions further;
- cause major disruption to the local community and light pollution by operating 24 hours a day and seven days a week;
- destroy the protected Strategic Gap between Farnborough and Fleet.

This is the wrong planning application for this site and we urge the Council to refuse planning consent.

Yours sincerely

[Alison Craig](#)
[Regional Liaison Officer \(Hampshire\)](#)
[Caroline Lucas MEP](#)

[2 Pigeonhouse Cottages, Pigeonhouse Yard, Sutton Scotney, Winchester, Hampshire](#)
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DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

**Green Party Member of the European Parliament
for the South East of the UK**

Caroline Lucas
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Emma Whittaker
Hart District Council
By email

May 21, 2007

CC Rushmoor Borough Council (their ref: 07/00338/ADJ)

Dear Emma Whittaker,

Reference: 07/00764/Major – Pyestock North/Hartlands Park

I am a European Parliament member whose constituency includes the area covered by this application. I would like to record my objection to this scheme.

My principle concerns are that the depot will lead to an increase in both air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Air quality

I note that the Environmental Statement says that the operation of the depot is not expected to result in the UK National Air Quality Objectives being exceeded. However, the increases in pollutant concentrations are predicted at the majority of the sensitive receptors selected, especially on roads leading to the M3 motorway. Minley Link Road is expected to exceed the provisional annual mean objective for 2010 for PM10s.

As our understanding of the effects of air pollution on health grows, the regulations covering air quality are being tightened, not loosened. I would therefore urge caution in approving a plan that will lead to greater exposure of residents to pollutants.

The Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan said that the Thames Basin Heath SPA, which lies to the south of the development, was at risk from increased air pollution. Two SPA sites - Eelmoor Marsh SSSI and Bourley & Long Valley SSSI - lie less than 300m from Pyestock, but I have been unable to find any discussion of this issue within the ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement accompanying the new application.

Greenhouse gas emissions

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I note that the transport report submitted with the application says that in planning legislation terms the baseline for calculations about any change in traffic-generated impacts must be the traffic generated by the previous use of the site. However, this is a cause for concern as only absolute reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will curb the effects of climate change. This development will not assist in achieving absolute carbon dioxide reductions. It will not facilitate a modal shift of freight to less carbon intensive forms of transport, such as rail, nor boost the local production of goods, the ultimate antidote to the greenhouse gas emissions from the unprecedented levels of international shipping now taking place.

In addition, although distribution depots are recognised as having a low employment density, this development is of such a size that 1,600 people are expected to be employed there. There is no pool of potential workers close by and the area has low unemployment levels. Therefore a great deal of long-distance commuting can be expected.

An on-site bus stop and shuttle bus service to Fleet and Farnborough rail stations would help to maximise the number of journeys taken by public transport.

Finally I am concerned that there is no mention in the ecology chapter of evidence from Mick Neeve, chair of East Hampshire Badger Group and a professional consultant on badgers. He looked around the outside of the site in August 2006 and found badger hairs on the large, badger-sized push-unders beneath the chain link fences.

I am meeting members of the public at Pyestock on June 1 to discuss the second application and may wish to amend my objection in light of that meeting, particularly on issues relating to disturbance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Lucas MEP