

From: [Nicky Hodkinson](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: App No SMD/2024/0087
Date: 22 September 2024 15:17:54

From Peter and Nicky Hodkinson
Daisy Croft Farm
Commonside
Boundary
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST10 2NR

Dear Sir or Madam, with reference to the above planning application to erect steel portal frame unit for dry wood store and associated machinery and the installation of 4 Biomass Boilers linked to 2 steel drying skips. We hold great concerns for the following reasons

1/ Air pollution. The proposed site would be situated near the bottom of the valley. The boilers would produce emissions and smoke which would rise up the hill thus polluting the surrounding properties and countryside.

2/ Noise. In addition to the noise created by the Biomass Boilers themselves there would be additional turmoil from lorries and vehicles servicing the boilers, echoing up the valley. It is noisy enough already from the Industrial estates!

3/ Right of access to our field from New Haden Bank. We have lived at our property for 28 years and hold historical rights of access to our field through the Wood Yard on New Haden Bank. From the diagram on the application it indicates that it may create restrictions of access to our field.

4/ Sourcing of the wood to feed the Biomass boilers. We have concerns as to the sourcing of the wood for the boilers. Many trees were planted by SMDC following the reclamation of the open cast mining at the site. Would these trees be felled and used for the boilers? These very trees create a wildlife corridor between ancient woodlands for species such as Roe deer and barn owls (which have been seen by ourselves and neighbours, very recently), also badgers, foxes and bats and other wildlife.

5/ Public Right of Way. The proposed site is located on a Public Right of Way. Although the footpath is used infrequently, it is a public right of way nevertheless.

6/ Risk of fire. What precautions would be taken to prevent the risk of fire spreading to the adjoining woodland and domestic properties? This has not been mentioned at all, in the proposal.

We would like to point out that a previous attempt to construct a similar project was

forced to shut down by SMDC, a few years ago, due to pollution.

Yours faithfully,

Peter and Nicky Hodkinson