Jason.Day@Wiltshire.gov.uk

**Objections to Application 16/05464 – Freeth Farm Sand & Gravel Extraction**

Dear Jason,

I understand that Hills Waste Solutions Limited (HWSL) have put forward new proposals for the sand and gravel extraction around Freeth Farm Cottages amounting to around 307,200 tonnes over the next 5.2 years, with an annual output of around 60,000 tonnes per year transported by covered conveyor to the concrete plant at Calne Quarry on part of the wider Lower Compton site.

The final excavation surface will be 3-4 metres below the existing surface and below the existing water table, even in Summer which will create a quagmire across the whole area.

I wish to object to HWSL's revised planning application 16/05464 on the grounds that it will cause:

1. Unlawfully high noise levels for prolonged periods for the local residents and residents of Compton Bassett which are unacceptable and unlawful;

2. The 3 metre high x 9 metre wide earth bunds located at around 20 metres from the property boundaries will cause a severe loss of visual amenity for a 2 year period around Freeth Farm Cottages and The Freeth which is unacceptable;

3. Permanent destruction of the Bridleway/Brown Track which is unacceptable and unlawful without proper authorisation;

4. Permanent loss of around 11 hectares of Grade 2 best and most and versatile farm land;

5. Short term and long term subsidence instabilities at the quarry edges, which will undermine the only access road the proposed Bridleway/Brown Track diversion and local properties which is unacceptable;

6. Permanent loss of ancient hedgerows and ancient woodland;

7. Damage to local flora and fauna, including great crested newts and badgers;

8. Permanent destruction of nationally important archaeology; and

9. Potential dust nuisance to local residences and businesses, including a food processing unit.

All of the above could be mitigated to a large extent by a 100m exclusion zone and at the 100m range, HWSL could still excavate around 60% of the proposed sand without any of the negative consequences detailed above.

The minimal short term benefit to society arising from the extraction of such a small quantity of sand from the heart of the Parish of Compton Bassett does not outweigh the permanent environmental damage and the damage that would be inflicted on the local community of Compton Bassett over a 6 year period.