

Essex Mineral Consultation

Points to note in your comment

Site A68 Crabtree Farm (within Great Bentley)

**It is important to note that all comments must be tailored to an individuals perspective on the proposal, a blanket template with the same points will not be as effective as lots of individual comments.**

* The proposed site is the size of 90 football pitches at 165 acres and 3.5 times the size of Great Bentley Village Green.
* The proposed access Road is out onto the A133, this has only recently been upgraded as it couldn’t cope with the increase in traffic, so this addition with over 100 HGV movements a day would completely back this system up.
* The proposed route the HGVs will take is through the centre of Frating straight into an accident reduction zone, onto a crossroads that is not big enough for these size lorries.
* The natural vista of the land is open and flat, the addition of bungs (soil heaps) through excavation will be detrimental to the landscape of the village
* Great Bentley has already had a 60% increase in houses in the last 5 years, this development has already had a damaging effect on the roads and amenities within the village, the addition of a site as huge as this would have a similar impact on the infrastructure.
* There is already an active site at Lufkin’s Farm in Great Bentley.
* The site has previously been turned down as it is not suitable – but the historical scoring section has been removed, so there is no mention of this in this newly structured RAG report. This would have given this site a red score.
* The mention of no ancient trees which has lowered the score, needs to actually make this a red score, due to the development in the village we have lost previous areas that contained these older trees that would have eventually formed these protected habitats, with this loss already we can’t take away more.
* Loss of Fertile Farm land when food security is a huge problem.
* No mention of possible changes to hydrology – with new housing estates in close proximity since the last time this site was put forward may mean dust prevention measures are needed which includes dowsing with water. This water entering into the brook could have a damaging effect on the hydrology.
* Also the extra water could increase the problems with flooding that the neighbouring village of Frating have been suffering with. (Already logged with the Essex County Council flood investigation team).
* Loss of a bridleway with no alternative of the same value available in the vicinity.
* Not enough weight given to the archaeological importance of the site with multi periods mentioned.
* The close proximity of 2 play areas, the village green, new housing estates and a primary school that is currently being expanded with all the children and local residents that will all be affected by the damaging effects of the dust particles released into the air – this could be as far as 1500 metres from the site much more than is advised in the report.

***Sites A69 and A88 are also in close proximity and worth making a comment on.***