

Council of the Isles of Scilly
Planning & Development Department
Old Wesleyan Chapel Garrison Lane
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0JD

Our ref: DC/2017/119512/01-L01
Your ref: P/17/098/FUL
Date: 12 January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

**CHANGE OF USE OF ONE FIELD, TO ALLOW FOR THE SORTING AND
PROCESSING OF GREEN AND GARDEN WASTE FROM THE MOORWELL SITE
PARTING CARN FARM, ST MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY**

Thank you for consulting us on the above planning application.

Environment Agency position

We object to the planning application, as submitted, because the applicant has not supplied adequate information to demonstrate that the risks to groundwater resources from which supplies of potable water are obtained can be safely managed. Without a risk assessment showing the contrary, the risks to groundwater from this development are considered unacceptable. We recommend that planning permission should be refused on this basis in line with paragraph 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reasons

The site is located up-gradient of and within Source Protection Zone 1 of the St Mary's Joaneys Public Water Supply abstraction well. We designate Source Protection Zones to identify the catchment areas of sources of potable water (that is high quality water supplies usable for human consumption) and show where they may be at particular risk from polluting activities on or below the land surface.

We consider that there is a risk that infiltration of leachate to groundwater could occur and have a detrimental impact on the quality of the potable water supply. The aquifer here is very thin and near the surface and considered to be highly vulnerable to contamination.

The applicant has not submitted a drainage plan describing how leachate will be controlled, circulated etc. and the risk of contamination from the proposal has not been adequately assessed.

Environment Agency
Sir John Moore House, Victoria Square, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1EB.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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Overcoming our objection

The applicant can overcome our objection by providing a risk assessment and leachate management/drainage plan that demonstrates:

- how leachate will be controlled and re-circulated, and that contaminated run-off (intentional or accidental) to surface water will not occur; and
- that the risk to the groundwater supply is low by stopping leachate infiltrating into groundwater.

Our objection may also be overcome by moving the proposal to a location where it is outside the SPZ's of the public water supply.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Emma Whereat
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor

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cc Mr Andrew Watts