

## **Frieze Hill Community Orchard**

### **Objection to planning application 34/17/0016:**

**“This application is for the construction of a 3.5m wide x 590m long stone track from an existing tarmac apron then across the north end of a field that has recently received outline planning permission for up to 9200sqm of Class B1b (research & development), Class B1c (light industrial), Class B8 (storage & distribution) floorspace and other sui generis employment uses. By Taunton Dean Borough Council, TDBC Ref: 34/16/0029.**

**The track will initially allow development of a 20MW Flexible Electricity Generation Facility (FEGF) on land at far east end of the Land off Silk Mills Lane, Staplegrove, Taunton.”**

Frieze Hill Community Orchard objects to this application for two main reasons:

1. The application itself is not a fit application; it contains erroneous statements and insufficient information in response to questions.
2. The application does not take account of a number of pertinent Reserved Matters in relation to outline planning consent granted 22.12.2016 for application 34/16/0029.

### **Erroneous statements on the application**

#### **Q12 Assessment of Flood Risk**

Applicant has erroneously answered NO to all questions

Note that:

- The site is subject to flood risk; the site as a whole is included in Flood Zones 1,2 and 3.
- There is a partly culverted watercourse on the eastern boundary of the site; this discharges water into the River Tone.

#### **Q13 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation**

Applicant has erroneously answered NO to all questions.

Note that:

- There are two Local Nature Reserves adjacent to the site – Frieze Hill Community Orchard to the east, and Silk Mills to the south. In December 2016, Frieze Hill Community Orchard was designated as a **Centenary Field in Trust** and has entered into a Deed for the protection of the site, in perpetuity, with the national charity Fields in Trust – see <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Frieze-Hill-Community-Orchard>

### **Q15 Trees and Hedges**

Applicant has erroneously answered NO to all questions.

Note that:

- Reserved Matter no. 12 in respect of application 34/16/0029 requires protection of existing trees on site and of the hedge on the eastern boundary.

### **Q24 Site Visit**

Applicant has erroneously answered NO to all questions.

Note that:

- The site can be seen from the public footpaths T24/18 and T3/7 that cross the site; from public footpaths on the adjacent Silk Mills Local Nature Reserve; from the bridlepath on the southern boundary of Frieze Hill Community Orchard Local Nature Reserve; from public footpaths on Long Run Meadows; and from Silk Mills Road.

## **Reserved Matters in relation to outline planning consent granted 22.12.2016 for application 34/16/0029.**

This application is for a track only but its stated purpose is to enable the construction of a Short Term Operating Resource (STOR) – a fossil-fuelled 20 MW electricity generating facility. If planning permission is given for this track, this will be interpreted as the local authority being open to the site being used for a STOR. Such an installation would be inappropriate on this greenfield site for many reasons which we will expand on should a planning application for such be forthcoming.

However, we note that the existing outline planning permission for the site comprises use classifications with which such an installation is unlikely to conform. Also, such an installation would be constructed by specialist firms, not necessarily local, and would thereafter not be staffed – thus bringing no employment to the area as was the explicit expectation and intention when outline planning permission was granted.