

Tom Hawkes

From: Evelyn Andrews [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2025 17:17
To: Consultations
Subject: Local Plan - Policy N34 - Barham Layby

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--Email From External Account--

Dear Sirs

I must object to the proposal put forward by National Highways (Policy N34 - Barham Lay-by) to expand the existing lay-by on the A2, adjacent to Ropersole Park, to provide up to twenty additional HGV parking spaces.

This area is in Womenswold Parish - not in Barham, which is on the opposite side of the A2 - and in very close proximity to both the residential park and ancient woodland (Woolage Wood).

- Firstly, I am concerned for the residents of Ropersole, many of whom are elderly. The noise and light pollution which is likely to occur, from lorries coming and going at all hours, especially at night - when the A2 itself is relatively quiet - could be very disruptive, especially in the very likely event that some of the vehicles are refrigerated. If additional lorry parking is needed to offset the loss of existing parking when the new slip road is built at Wincheap, it would be preferable to locate further along the A2, towards Dover, away from the residential area.
- Secondly, I am concerned for the wildlife which has made its home in Woolage Wood and the adjacent countryside. This includes badgers, bats and many species of birds, including owls, buzzards, kestrels and, most recently, a peregrine falcon. These animals would be greatly impacted by any increase in noise and light pollution, and by the litter that might well be left behind by those using the lay-by, as has happened frequently in the past.
- I am particularly concerned about the prospect of light pollution, both from the lorries themselves and from any security lighting which may be installed in the extended lay-by. Womenswold Parish is fortunate to be situated within a dark sky area. Street lighting in the parish has been kept to a bare minimum and is usually off by around 10 pm. Consequently, on a clear night, the vast array of stars, constellations and planets one can see is breath-taking. It would be a great shame if this were lost, should the plan go ahead. At the very least, CCC would need to insist that state-of-the-art security lights, that minimise light pollution, must be installed. This would obviously have a serious impact on the budget, as I am sure it does not come cheap.

I am well aware of the need for lorry parks, especially in view of our close proximity to the Port of Dover, but I feel that this location is not the right place and the extended park would be better located further down the A2, closer to Dover and away from residential area and ancient woodland.

Regards
Evelyn Andrews

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