

Planning dept
Norfolk County Council
County Hall

5th March 2024

Dear Planning Officer

New recycling centre at Holt Road Sheringham in the AONB – FUL/23/0005 Objection

As a current user of the Sheringham recycling centre I would like to comment on the proposed relocation of this centre on to the AONB site in Sheringham.

I recognise that the proposed centre will be an improvement on the present one. It will solve the issues of the current site by removing the need to close the site to empty containers and provide staff parking off the main road.

However, I have lived in an area where a new centre was developed which created great traffic congestion as the question of traffic was treated too lightly and the popularity of the site increased very quickly.

Once the new site is built, Norfolk County Council will be committed to that site for at least 25 years. NCC state there will be no more traffic in the short term. I am unsure how this can be the case as the proposed site will be four times larger than the current centre, the move from 'main' to 'main plus' will increase the facilities it offers and the closure of other recycling centres in the area will only attract more people. In addition, the proposal to close the west exit of this road will hugely increase the traffic trying to access the A148 at the east end.

The proposed new junction looks pitifully inadequate to manage any increase in vehicle movements. I am very concerned that the combination of these matters will result in huge queue's both entering and exiting the site.

The solution may be a roundabout, but this would double the cost of the development.

Over the last 4 to 5 years, the A148 has become ever more busy, especially in summer months. The time I wait to exit is now sometimes measured in minutes. I have seen first-hand the risks people take to pull out onto this dangerous section of the A148. It seems that Norfolk County Council has not surveyed this main road as part of the planning process. That must be a serious omission.

Whether in the woods or on the field, this enlarged facility will cause great problems at this location. The site is restricted by its connection to and effect on the local road network which has not been taken seriously into account. For sustainable development the new site should be restricted to the uses of the present site, but with enough development to ease vehicle movements, separate lorries from the public and provide for off road staff parking. Anything more will create chaos that I have seen elsewhere.

Norfolk County Council, I suggest limited extension of the current site into the woodland but with no additional facilities. This will solve the issues of the current site but keep traffic under control and prevent compromising the AONB.

If a larger recycle centre is required with increased facilities as proposed, use the alternative Cromer site which is not on an AONB, it has perfect road network links and it has plenty of space to accept further development as the public increase their recycling (which assumably is the whole point). The council could save money through this option as no new junction would be needed and the site is already of hard standing.

Yours Faithfully