

**Douglas, Sarah**

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 10 April 2023 22:36  
**To:** Dinnage, Claire  
**Subject:** Application for Certificate of Lawfulness - LDC/23/94813 - Beech Ridge, The Bridleway, Brook Lane, SO30 2ER  
**Attachments:** Jan 2018.JPG; Mar 20.jpg; Mar 21.jpg; Jan 22 Fire.jpg; Jan 22 Fire 2.jpg; Feb 22 Fire.jpg; Mar 22 - fire.jpg

Claire

Further to the above reference number, we would like to object to the recent application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of an Existing Use or Development for the site opposite 'Tamella'. In the application, it is suggested that this site has been used in excess of 10 years. We do not believe this is the case. We moved into our property in 2017 and at this point, the area in question was a wooded area that had no signs of any development.

The trees were cleared around late 2019/early 2020. At this point, I was employed as a utility surveyor for SSE and surveyed the electricity line going alongside this site. One Sunday around this time, I heard chain saws, went to investigate and saw that the site was being cleared. I challenged this at the time as the trees being cut were too close to the electricity lines. I reported this to SSE so they would be aware of unauthorised works in the area. I also reported this to HCC at the time as I believed they were the land owners, not the current occupiers.

If I am not mistaken, the recent consultation between the Botley Parish Council and local residents on the development of the Local Plan earmarked this area as a part of the settlement gap. I believe this area was protected from any development?

In addition to the above since the site has been converted into a yard, the current occupiers have a habit of starting fires early in the morning. I attach photos of some of the fires from 2022. Since the yard was more built up over the past year, we can no longer see a fire but still see the smoke rising. This is a fairly frequent thing and in my opinion, consists of trade waste as the smoke is often thick, very dense and can be either black or white smoke. Some mornings, the smoke has been so dense, it travels across the fields, creating a hazard to the main road at Broad Oak.

I have attached several photos taken from our back garden over the years which show the area as trees and more recently after the trees were cleared, with evidence of fires being lit early in the morning. The site has been significantly developed over the course of the past year.

As stated above, I strongly object that this site has been in use as a commercial yard/storage facility for the period of time as stated by the applicant. If you require any further clarification or would like to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Dave Denby  
16 Blossom Close  
Botley  
SO30 2FR  
[REDACTED]