

# Howardian Hills



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference: 3.1

Your Reference: 09/00290/MFUL

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Dear Sir

## Erection of agricultural storage building; Blackdale Farm, Coulton

I am responding on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee to your consultation regarding the above proposal.

This application involves the erection of a new agricultural building on a site that already contains a number of large industrial-style agricultural buildings.

I visited the site on 13<sup>th</sup> May and have the following comments to make:

- Whilst I don't wish to object to the erection of the building itself, I have **serious reservations** about the choice of colour. I appreciate that the building is due to be the same colour as the existing buildings on the site, but I have always considered this to be too light a shade of green for buildings set within a dark green woodland setting.
- I would therefore strongly urge that the colour of the new building (should it be approved) is changed to a darker shade of green, similar to that of the walls of the pig buildings that are due to be demolished.
- The concrete side-walling should also be in this darker shade of green – I observed the paint treatment of the block-walling of the existing buildings so this practice should be continued. The most important principle is to ensure that the side walls are not a light grey natural concrete colour but are toned-down to a darker shade.
- I have no concerns in connection with the management of the woodland around the site. The crop of larch trees present on the site when the legal agreement was entered into were in a poor condition and were always going to have to be felled in the near future. The recent management works were carried out to a specification prepared by the AONB's Native Woodland Development Officer and they have been implemented to a high standard. The conifers have been replaced with native broadleaves, which will be more appropriate in the AONB landscape.

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- The specification did however include the replanting of an area to the west of the mill complex, which doesn't appear to have been implemented. Whilst this may have been as a result of a Forestry Commission contract amendment, this unplanted area appears to include a patch of cleared woodland/made-up ground, as well as other more open woodland areas. I would therefore like to see these areas replanted as per the original plans, so as to create a substantial screen around the whole site.

Yours sincerely

PAUL JACKSON  
AONB Manager  
Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee