



## ***Respecting the past, shaping the future***

Press release from  
Suffolk Preservation Society  
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### **Plans “fly in face” of greenest county goal, society warns**

Councillors who vote in favour of controversial plans for a huge quarry at Chilton will not only be responsible for the destruction of Suffolk’s cherished countryside but also risk losing all credibility as they fight for status as the UK’s “greenest county”.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) issued the stark warning as members of Suffolk County Council’s Development Control Committee prepare to discuss the proposals, for a sand and gravel quarry, concrete batching plant and aggregate bagging plant at a meeting on Thursday (4 December).

The society, which has long campaigned for the protection of Suffolk’s countryside, urged refusal of the application, saying it would have a significant and adverse affect on both local residents and the beauty and character of a tranquil area of land.

In addition, approval of the plans would stand in stark contradiction to Suffolk County Council’s self-proclaimed goal of making the county the UK’s greenest, and would fly in the face of government policies designed to protect the countryside.

Richard Ward, society director, said: “There is absolutely no justification for this application progressing in any way, shape or form.

“This site is typically open, softly undulating, quintessential Suffolk countryside. It is exactly the type of tranquil landscape which gives Suffolk its special character. We must do everything we can to protect it if this character is to be preserved.

“The proposal would have a devastating affect on the environment and approving it would make it nigh on impossible for the county council to pursue its campaign to make Suffolk the greenest county. Both are completely at odds with one another and simply cannot be justified.

“In every respect, the quarry plans also fail to comply with government’s planning policy. It is not well designed, inclusive or sensitive to the character of the countryside or local distinctiveness. It does not protect or enhance the countryside but would instead do quite the reverse.”

The society said there was strong opposition to the application amongst local people, whose quality of life would suffer should councillors give the proposal the green light.

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“Approving this application will ride roughshod over the views and opinions of local people, who have sent a clear and consistent message to decision-makers throughout this process,” added Mr Ward. “Creating a quarry at Chilton would forever destroy the peace and tranquility they currently enjoy and would ruin the landscape around their homes.

“We would urge Suffolk County Council to listen to their views – otherwise there was no point of consulting them about the proposal in the first place.”

**Ends**

### **Note to editors:**

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

### **For more information please contact:**

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