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**Our ref.;** MW/

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006

Mr J. Day  
 Principal Planning Officer  
 Environmental Services Department  
 Wiltshire County Council  
 County Hall  
 Trowbridge  
 BA14 8JD

Dear Mr Day,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990**  
**Porters Metals & Skip Hire, 28 Main Road, Christian Malford**  
**Application number N.05.07003**

I refer to the above application which was considered by the Regulatory Committee of the County Council at its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. Further to the comments of local residents and to the debate of the Committee, I am pleased to submit three copies of our amended plan number 1206/01/B and a copy of a letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 from the Environmental Health Officer, North Wiltshire District Council.

I would be grateful if you would draw the following comments to the attention of the Committee.

Access Way. You will see that it is proposed to tarmac the entire stretch of the access track, which will help to reduce the noise of vehicles passing along the track. In addition, the applicant is arranging for the chains on the skip lorries to be fitted with canvas sleeves, which will reduce the noise from the chains banging against the sides of the skips. In order to reduce noise and to protect the character of the area, the applicant is also willing to plant an 'under-storey' of appropriate indigenous plants within and to the south of the existing trees between the road and the track. This can be dealt with in more detail within the proposed landscaping condition.

Footpath. The existing public footpath is clearly shown on the plans. This is a little-used footpath which ends at the road, where there is no footway and no immediate connection to another footpath. The crossing point will be marked with warning signs and 'zebra' markings.

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External lighting. Four external lights have been erected on the south side of the building. These are to be removed and re-erected on 5m high poles on the south side of the extended yard. The lights will be directed down into the yard towards the existing building, rather than shining across the field towards existing dwellings. No other external lighting is proposed.

Fencing. You will note that it is proposed to erect a 2.4m high welded mesh fence and gates around the yard in the interests of security.

Bonfires. The applicants do not burn waste at the site. Please see the letter from the EHO attached. The only bonfire in recent times was on Fireworks Night, 5<sup>th</sup> November, when dry timber only was burned at a family fireworks party. The burning of waste at the site would contravene the existing Site License conditions, so a planning condition is unnecessary.

Heights of bunds. We do not believe that it appropriate, practical or desirable to increase the height of the bunding proposed. First, the greater part of the bund passes alongside the access track. The track itself is flush with the ground, so it does not need anything more to hide it. It is the tree and shrub planting that will help to hide vehicles. It is extremely difficult to established planting on a high bund, because it will quickly dry out in the summer. It is also difficult to maintain planting on a high bund. Planting will establish quicker and have a much better chance of survival on a lower bund.

The same can be said about the bund around the yard. This part of the bund is to be a maximum of 1.5m high. Once the tree and shrub planting becomes established the yard will be well landscaped. Raising the height of the bund will not help.

Noise Survey. As requested, I have spoken to the Environmental Health Officer at North Wiltshire District Council. First, I have asked for their comments on the noise report prepared by Hylton Dawson. You will see that the EHO is '**satisfied with the methodology and recommendations of the noise report**'.

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Second, it was suggested at the Committee meeting that the District Council's EHO had received 'a stream of complaints' about the use of the site.

You will see that in the past 18 months there have been just three complaints to the District Council about noise and one about both noise and smoke. You will see that the EHO investigated these complaints and found '**no evidence of noise severe enough to be classed as a statutory nuisance**'. Officers also found no evidence of bonfires.

Please also note that I have spoken to the District Councils Planning Enforcement Section. They report that they have had no record of any complaints since this matter was referred to the County Council in July 2003.

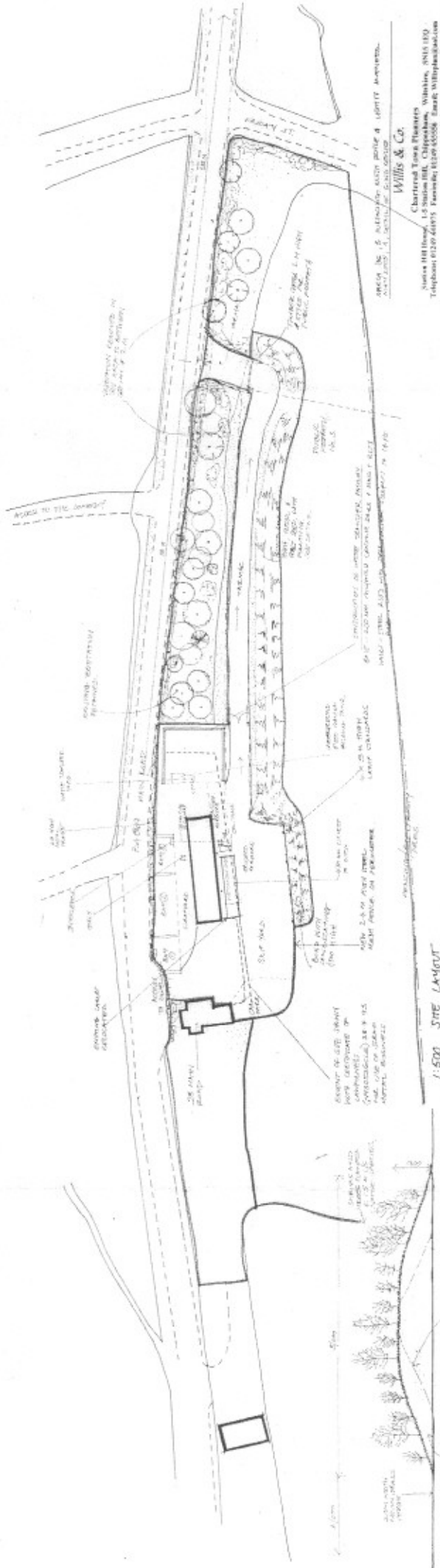
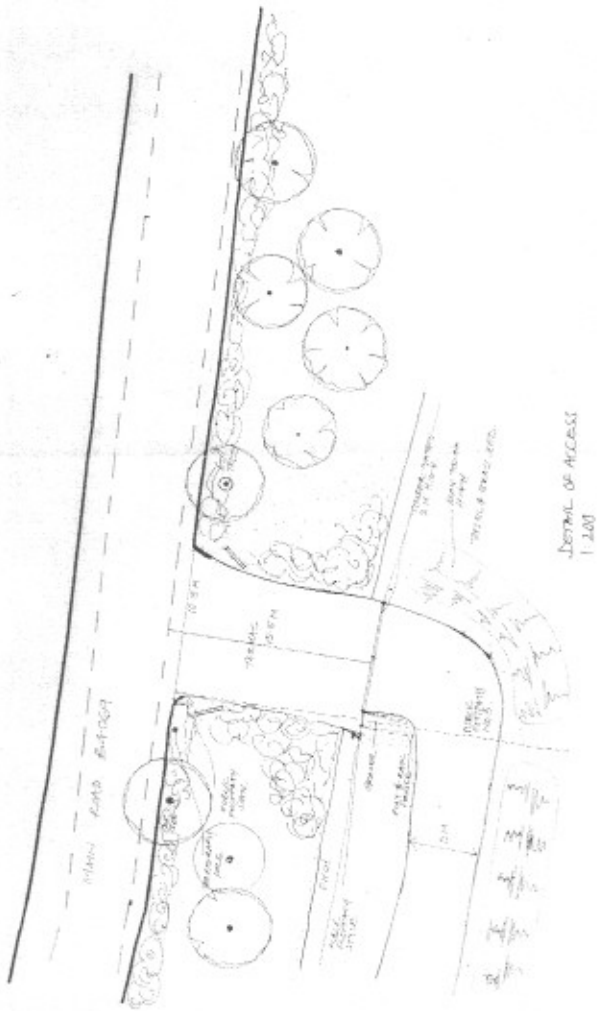
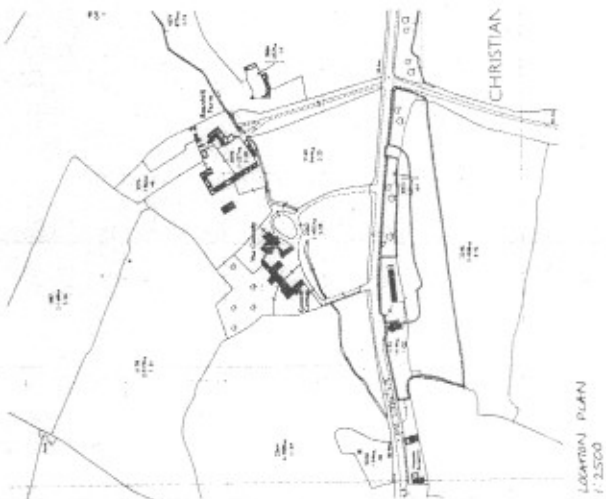
I understand that you are now going to re-consult the neighbours and the Parish Council. I would be grateful if you could make a copy of this letter available to the Parish Council.

I understand that you intend to put this matter before the Regulatory Committee at its meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Yours sincerely,



Marc D. Willis BTP MRTPI MBIAC



Our Ref: WK/200601129 DSB/fw

Your Ref: MW/23

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**Community & Environment  
North Wiltshire District Council**  
Monkton Park  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire SN15 1ER  
DX 34208 CHIPPENHAM

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006

Dear Mr Willis,

**Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**  
**Porters Metals & Skip Hire, 28 Main Road, Christian Malford**

Further to your letter dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, I can confirm that the Environmental Health Department are satisfied with the methodology and recommendations of the noise report undertaken by Hylton Dawson in July 2005. Environmental Health Officer Christine Auckland informed Jason Day of Wiltshire County Council that she had no adverse comments to make about the report in August 2005.

This Department has received four complaints about Porters Metals & Skip Hire. They are:

On the 22/07/04, 27/07/04 and 11/08/05 complaints were received about noise. On the 26/08/05 a complaint was received relating to both noise and smoke.

I can confirm that when each complaint was investigated there was no evidence of a noise severe enough to be classed as a statutory nuisance. Although a report of regular bonfires at the scrap yard was received, Officers visiting the site witnessed no bonfires.

Yours sincerely

*Damaris Broad*

**Damaris Broad**  
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