

PLANNING REF : 260789
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Winton Lodge
: Dunt Lane, Hurst, Berkshire
: RG10 0TA
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Mary Say
DATE SUBMITTED : 04/05/2026

COMMENTS:

We have lived adjacent to Hatch Gate Farm since 2020, and have lived in the village of Hurst since 2000. My family live in Winton Lodge (which is marked on the site map) and my elderly father lives in Homewood Barn (within Winton Lodge boundaries). The Belcher family are lovely excellent neighbours, incredibly helpful, and we have absolutely no objection to the barn at Hatch Gate Farm being used appropriately to generate income, or for agricultural purposes. I grew up on a farm in Ireland, come from a farming background, and we understand well that times are hard for the farming community.

However, I'm very sorry to say that the nature and number of the lorries now using this distribution centre is causing significant disturbance:

1. Number of vehicles - at any given time there are up to 12 HGVs using/parked in the yard, causing significant visual obstruction both from rural Dunt Lane, and from our house and garden.
2. Light pollution - the lorries are entering and exiting the property any time between 6am and 11pm (we have been woken up by them entering/exiting at 1am). During the winter (when there is less leaf coverage), and late at night, the lights from the lorries and the movement spotlights on the barn itself are very intrusive, often shining directly into our rooms.
3. Noise pollution - the lorries all reverse into their spaces, which means that their reversing sensors are beeping loudly and frequently as they move around the yard. This seems to happen frequently - even yesterday Sunday 3/5 there was the noise of "beeping" lorries for most of the afternoon. It is worse for my father who lives right beside the yard. And, as per point 3, when they are entering/exiting early in the morning, or late at night, this is particularly intrusive. The site management is busy, and additionally noisy with people shouting instructions, and power tools being used.
4. Security arrangements - the combination of floodlights, security fencing and guard-dogs does not seem to sit well with the original agricultural use of the buildings, or the semi-rural nature of Dunt Lane.
5. Privacy - the drivers often gather in the yard with direct line of sight straight into our property, and my fathers. In itself not a problem, other than it does remove any sense of privacy when we are in the garden.

To reiterate, we are very supportive of the Belcher family, and all they do for the local area. I'm sorry to be raising this objection; it is not personal. It may be that they are not even aware of how busy this yard has become, as they live at the other end of the farm.

We know that agriculture is noisy, messy and has anti-social hours and we don't have a problem with that. So, we welcome the barn being

used for agricultural use (or rented out for other agricultural/farming purposes). But the current usage as a distribution centre feels, looks and sounds more like light industry, not appropriate to a rural access-only lane, with residential neighbours. At the very least, perhaps the current users could exercise some limits as per the points above.