

Dickens' Country Protection Society



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Gravesham Borough Council
Planning Department
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27th October 2025

Dear Mrs Webster

Re Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend Kent DA13 0XE
Retention/installation of 59 wine tanks and grape presses
Planning Application **GR/2025/0840**

Thank you for your letter of 8th October concerning the above. Further to the Society's letter of 14th September 2025, the Society notes that under ref GR/2023/0454 the first 44 tanks were granted temporary consent. A further 9 tanks were deemed permitted development. The Society would question if the manufacturing of wine can be considered agriculture. Clearly the growing of grapes is agriculture and the gathering of grapes is together with the extracting and storage of the juice. The Society would question if the manufacture of wine on this scale could be considered agriculture. It does not have to take place where the grapes are grown. What is going on in Luddesdown is not a cottage industry.

Green Belt and National Landscape Policies are not irrelevant; neither is the impact of heavy goods vehicles on narrow country roads with the resultant damage to banks and verges. The proposal to build a large Winery in Medway (planning application MC/21/2328) was refused and the subsequent appeal dismissed. Something similar should not happen in Luddesdown by stealth.

Considering application GR/2025/0840, the tanks in question are masked on one side by existing farm buildings and on relatively low ground, following the grant of temporary planning consent; the Society would not oppose this being made permanent subject to conditions for the introduction of additional landscaping to provide adequate screening. Any extension to the tankage or further industrial plant should be subject to planning consent.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs P Lippiatt
Hon. Secretary