

23/06/2026

*Re: Planning Application **DC/26/0756** – Demolition of existing shed and erection of a single storey detached outbuilding at Lakers Farm Cottage, Mill Road, West Chiltington RH20 2PZ*

Dear Halima Chowdhury,

I wish to submit a further objection and request clarification regarding the proposed installation of services to the garden office.

In response to previous concerns, it has been stated by the applicant that the electrical supply cable will be installed within a hand-dug trench approximately 300mm deep running very close to our property. However, based on our knowledge of the site, this description does not appear to accurately reflect the nature of the works required.

The area through which the cable route is proposed consists of substantial concrete hardstanding. In our view, it would not be possible to create the proposed trench simply by hand digging. The removal of the existing concrete surface would almost certainly require the use of power tools and mechanical breaking equipment before any excavation could take place.

This is a matter of particular concern because the proposed trench would be located in close proximity to our annexe, the lower floor of which extends approximately 1.6 metres below ground level. The annexe forms part of a Grade II listed property, and we are concerned that vibration generated by breaking out concrete and undertaking excavation works close to the structure could adversely affect its integrity. Potential consequences include disturbance of foundations, cracking, movement within the structure, damage to waterproofing systems, and an increased risk of water ingress.

At present, the application does not appear to contain sufficient technical information to properly assess these risks. The description of the works as a simple hand-dug trench does not adequately address the practical reality of excavating through existing concrete hardstanding or the potential impact of such works on neighbouring structures.

I therefore respectfully request that, before any approval is granted, the Council requires the applicant to provide detailed information regarding:

- The precise route of all service trenches and cables.
- The construction methods proposed for breaking through existing concrete surfaces.
- Any equipment or machinery required to undertake the works.
- A structural assessment of the potential impact on neighbouring buildings.
- Appropriate surveys demonstrating that the excavation and installation works will not adversely affect the foundations, waterproofing, stability or long-term condition of our annexe or the setting of either Grade II listed building.

Given the proximity of the proposed works to our property and the historic nature of the buildings involved, I believe it would be inappropriate for the application to be approved without a full understanding of the extent of the required excavation works and their potential consequences.

I respectfully ask that these matters be fully investigated and documented before any determination of the application is made.

Yours faithfully,



Old Lakers Farm, Mill Road, West Chilmington RH20 2PZ