

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 April 2019 15:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Digger at work on the lower slopes of Rocklands - do Rocklands have permission for these works?

Dear all – see response below. [REDACTED] has also emailed me to say this is what is going on up there so it is all authorised by us under the caravan site licence.

[REDACTED]

Hastings Borough Council
Operational Services Directorate
Muriel Matters House
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TN34 3UY

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 April 2019 15:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Digger at work on the lower slopes of Rocklands - do Rocklands have permission for these works?

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your reply. It is very helpful in clarifying the matter and I will update SEG members accordingly.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 April 2019 15:33
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Digger at work on the lower slopes of Rocklands - do Rocklands have permission for these works?

Dea [REDACTED]

The lower slopes are included in the caravan site licence. This is how we have some control over the use of the land in addition to basic development control. One of the caravan site conditions requires the lower area to be fenced. The site operators have been liaising with our Licensing Manager to ensure that the boundary posts are installed as close as possible to the accurate boundary between their land and ours.

Our colleagues in planning are aware of this as they were involved in the development of the caravan site conditions, and the installation of the fence doesn't require additional planning approval.

Regards

[REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 April 2019 15:00
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Digger at work on the lower slopes of Rocklands - do Rocklands have permission for these works?

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to establish whether Rocklands have planning permission for works currently being carried out on the lower slopes of the caravan park.

Several members of the public have reported works on the lower slopes of Rocklands.

A digger is being used on the unstable lower slopes. It appears that vegetation is being cleared. The digger is being used to pile drive posts into the unstable landslip area.

It seems that these works may be connected with marking and fencing the boundary of Rocklands. However it seems a bit reckless to be pile driving and using heavy plant in an area of known slope instability.

Rocklands previously carried out unauthorised works on these slopes to install up to 16 unauthorised caravans in the period 2008 to 2013. The previous works were stopped due to the disastrous landslide that closed the glen.

The lower slopes are outside the licenced part of the caravan park and are protected from development by planning conditions. The slopes are unstable and according to a Coffey geotechnical report no works should be carried out on them.

A member of the public who witnessed this states:

"I went to have a look and the good news is that the white object is just several caravan verandas.

The bad news is that as I walked around the southern corner of The Bunker I heard loud thumping sounds with the thumps repeating every couple of seconds. When I crossed the barrier closing off the footpaths

(junction of Footpaths 379a and 364) I spotted a yellow mini-digger being operated by a man in an orange high-vis vest.

I crossed the top of the landslide along Footpath 379a at 11:43am and when I was spotted by the mini-digger driver he quickly swung the mini-digger westwards, turned off the engine, and jumped out of the cab. He then approached a gap in the Heras fencing and said to me that I was on private land, that I was not allowed to take photos, that I was not on a public footpath, and threatened to call the police. I said nothing.

I observed from a distance and the man was joined by a second man in a high-vis vest and they faffed about for a while without restarting the mini-digger.

After about 15 minutes the mini-digger operator replaced the Heras fencing to fill the gap. I took some photos (posted below)

There are what I think are newly driven substantial posts next to the white markers and I surmise that the the thumping noise was these being driven in to the ground by the mini-digger."

I would be grateful if you could investigate this matter and let me know whether permission has been obtained under the terms of their **site licence** to carry out these works.

I will also be contacting HBC Planning to establish whether Rocklands have sought and obtained **planning permission** for these works.

Please see a few selected photos of the works below.

Thanks in advance

Best regards











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