

REPLY TO 'RESPONSE FROM WOLVELEY AND COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL'

Dear Mr Aldridge

Re: Land at Lea Castle Farm

ApplicationRef:19/000053/CM

Grid Ref:383959, (N)78992

Applicant: NRS Aggregates Ltd

Proposal: Proposed sand and gravel quarry with progressive restoration using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and natural enhancement

Location:Land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

This document is a specific reply to the consultation

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"There are 5 schools, 2 Nurseries, Nursing Home, Caravan Park and Sports Ground within close proximity of the proposed Quarry".

RESPONSE: Within the local area, the school, nurseries, nursing home, caravan park and sports ground are set away from the proposed phased mineral extraction and proposed plant site. Intervening landform, vegetation structure, roads and distance minimizing the potential for adverse effects from

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consultation events, an Air Quality Survey was carried out by EnviroCentre. This report assessing the potential emissions generated by existing and additional traffic and the subsequent impact on the local ambient air quality at residential and public areas located within the vicinity of the main road network. Predicted models were produced based upon the proposals and it is assessed that no significant change in nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter concentrations, would occur at any sensitive receptors, on comparison of the 'with' and 'without' development scenarios.

"The scoping opinion clearly showed a proposed entrance only to be used from an easterly direction, the full planning application shows a new proposed entrance which allows vehicle movement from both directions which leads to great concern that additional traffic will come through Wolverley Village."

RESPONSE: Details of the proposed site access are contained within paragraph 3.15 of the Scoping Report. Access to the site is to be gained via the A4189 Wolverley Road to the south eastern area of the site.

"The Parish Council feel that this area of the network is already very busy at peak times, which will become busier as houses are developed on the Lea Castle Hospital site and therefore do not feel it could cope with the additional traffic a quarry would bring."

RESPONSE: A review of the existing highways and the proposed development was undertaken by The Hurlstone Partnership Limited. The assessment concluding that there is vehicle capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in movements associated with the proposed quarry development, and that access arrangements will comply with health and safety criteria. This includes the potential cumulative effect of the Lea Castle housing site development. The addition of a No Right Hand Turn for HGVs onto Wolverley Road, plus additional mitigation.

"The Parish Council are also concerned about the noise and disruption to local residents of both Wolverley and Cookley as the site borders a number of residential properties, schools, recreation facilities and tourist attractions. The independent noise assessment undertaken by the applicant's themselves shows that the calculated noise level in many locations is very close to the suggested Site

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With the implementation of mitigation measures, the assessment has found that the site can operate in accordance with national planning guidance.

"The Parish Council are extremely concerned about the Ecological Impact. The Ecological Impact Assessment included in the Planning Application states significant long term negative impact on Roosting Bats, Breeding Birds and Invertebrates and shorter term negative impact on other species. Also Significant negative impact on hedgerows and trees, including removal of TPOs T8, T9, T10, T22 and T26".

The assessment of ecological impacts, and related impacts have demonstrated that, providing that all mitigation and compensation measures detailed above are undertaken, impacts anticipated to ecological habitats and species will benefit to a greater extent than currently. All trees will be replaced as part of the restoration strategy to the same habitats or habitats of higher ecological importance. The habitats of the highest importance will be retained throughout the proposals (i.e. the external boundary woodland). All legally protected species recorded on the Site will be protected throughout the duration of the works and mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures will be undertaken wherever necessary.

In total, 4 No. trees are proposed for removal to facilitate the development proposals, comprising T8, T9, T10 and T26. It is now proposed to retain T22 (a veteran tree) with the implementation of a buffer zone in line with Natural England's standing advice on veteran trees.

To help provide mitigation for the trees proposed for removal, the proposed restoration strategy includes the creation of planting of ~9,750 broadleaved trees / shrubs and the planting of 170 parkland trees.

As part of the additional request for information from Worcestershire County Coc4-ra9,-0.6 (g l)-1.5 (B)-1.5

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RESPONSE Parts of the southern and eastern boundaries of the Site are bounded by a wall. Its structural integrity has been assessed and is considered safe. There are sections of the wall where upper brick courses have been removed. The landowner has confirmed that these sections will be repaired, separate to this application.

Within the application, it is proposed to provide additional / alternative multi use public access routes, providing access off and away from local adjacent roads. The majority of the routes being implemented prior to any mineral extraction.

"In addition, Wyre Forest District Council's own response to the Waste and Minerals Plan had concerns regarding the visual impact from various areas of the Parish and a detrimental impact on the setting of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area for the duration of the period of extraction. They state that a planning application for mineral extraction at this site would need to demonstrate how the proposals either "preserve" or "enhance" the Conservation Area which is a fundamental requirement of the P(LBCA)A 1990, irrespective of any other NPPF or Plan guidance and failure to do this should result in the application being refused.

RESPONSE Worcestershire Archaeology have reappraised their assessment of the proposed development on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area and confirm their original assessment that as a result of the topographical and landform differences, distance and vegetation structure, that the intrinsic character and the general amenity experience of being within the Conservation Area will be preserved during the temporary development period.

"The Parish Council also have concerns regarding restoration. The Restoration Scheme shows 3 million tonnes extraction and only 0.6 million inert fill which will have a significant impact on the landsc imeiie.9 (ic)2.g pie,edan5 (g)3.10.9 1 (f)-2 (b.6 (r)5.3 (e)2.2 (g)0.96 (nS5 (e)P (t(e)O(i)0-3.1 (e.9 (5.