



Northamptonshire County Council

Mr D Walker
dan@dlwalker.net

Please ask for: Claire Spokes
Tel: 01604 366119
Our ref: 14/00003/SCO
Your ref:
Date: 19 September 2014

Dear Dan,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1999: REGULATION 10 SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED 21 HECTARE EXTENSION TO PASSENHAM QUARRY WITH RESTORATION TO AGRICULTURE USING IMPORTED INERT MATERIALS

I refer to your email dated 24 July 2014 and the accompanying scoping report. The scoping report has been the subject of consultation in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations and copies of the responses received are attached for your information.

Topics proposed to be scoped into Environmental Statement

- Soils and Agricultural Land Quality
- Ecology
- Landscape Setting
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

Overall I can confirm that the approach that you are advocating in the scoping report is considered to be generally acceptable and appropriate and this is reflected in the nature of the consultation responses. There are however some items which were proposed for exclusion, which are required, as set out later in this Scoping Opinion. You will note the specific points which have been made by the consultation bodies and you are required to have regard to these. In particular I would draw your attention to the following:

Flood Risk

As identified in the Scoping Report, the Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed the requirement of a Flood Risk Assessment. While supporting the intended restoration to agriculture the EA requires assurance that the final site levels will be no higher than

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existing. Information required would include a site topographic survey and a commitment to restoring ground to these levels. Please refer to the EA's letter for further guidance.

Surface Water and Land Contamination

The EA has provided detailed guidance on information expected with regard to surface water management and land contamination. Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) would also encourage the consideration of sustainable drainage systems in the restoration phase. Please refer to these comments directly.

Landscape and Visual Impact

BCC strongly recommends that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is carried out with the use of the *Aylesbury Vale District Landscape Character Assessment 2008* as the principal baseline study to properly assess the impact on the Buckinghamshire landscape. Further information is provided in their response which is attached for your information. NCC's Senior Environmental Planner (SEP) and Natural England have also provided some guidance on preparing this information which can be found in the attached responses.

Ecological Impact

NCC's SEP feels that the scope for the Ecological Impact Assessment outlined in the Scoping Report is appropriate and provided further guidance. Natural England (NE) has also provided guidance regarding ecology. Both responses are attached for further information.

Other topics to be scoped in to the Environmental Statement

Access, Traffic and Highway Safety

The scoping report states that the site benefits from an existing well-established access and as there are no proposals to increase rates of output, the impacts are known and no further assessment works required. Owing to the age of the data previously submitted and the addition of the Inert Waste Recycling Facility granted under permission 14/00011/WASCOU the Local Highway Authority (LHA) require an updated Transport Assessment (TA) to accompany the submission of any new planning application at the site. The scope of the TA would need to be agreed with the LHA prior to submission. The LHA's full comments are attached for your information.

Noise and Dust

The scoping report proposes the issues of noise and dust are scoped out of the Environmental Statement as the existing mitigation plans on site will ensure no impacts on the Kingfisher Country Park. South Northamptonshire District Council (SNDC) have require that in light of the potential for significant environmental effects arising from noise and dust these should be required as part of the Environmental Statement. This will allow the assessment of impacts and any necessary mitigation identified and included in any

subsequent programme of works. Further guidance is included in SNDC's Environmental Health response, attached.

Cumulative Impacts

NCC's SEP and NE have both highlighted the importance of providing information on the cumulative impacts of the development. This should consider the cumulative impacts in relation in particular to any previous, ongoing or permitted mineral extraction and waste disposal activities and any other development projects planned and permitted close to the site.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Claire Spokes
Development Control Officer

Encl: Responses from

1. Buckinghamshire County Council
2. Environment Agency
3. NCC Senior Environmental Planner
4. Natural England
5. NCC Highways
6. NCC Archaeological Advisor
7. South Northamptonshire District Council Planning (Environmental Health comments appended)
8. Redacted Representation Response