



Northamptonshire County Council

Mrs Booth
GP Planning Limited
The Stables
Long Lane
East Haddon
Northampton
NN6 8DU

Please ask for: Mark Laurenson
Tel: (01604) 237197
Our ref: 11/00004/SCO
Your ref: p002-03/NM/PW
Date: 4th August 2011

Dear Lucy,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1999: REGULATION 10 SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED QUARRY (TO BE RESTORED WITH INERT FILL) AT HARLEY WAY, CHURCHFIELD, OUNDLE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

I refer to your letter dated 30th June 2011 (received 4th July 2011) 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.

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. 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:

Access, Highway Safety and Traffic Routing

As discussed in the scoping report a full transport assessment would be expected to accompany any application for this proposal. Discussions have highlighted that traffic routing is an important issue to be addressed at the site. You are aware that South Bridge on Mill Road is closed for structural repairs and it is unclear when the bridge will be reopened, particularly to HGVs. Given the 7.5 tonne weight restriction imposed on the A427 through Oundle it would seem the only option currently open to vehicles leaving the site is left from Harley Way onto the A427 and through Weldon to the A43. An application would be required to address the potential impacts of this arrangement.

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The Highway Authority has drawn particular attention to the need for clarification of the number of vehicle movements and has requested layout plans showing HGV access arrangements to the site and signage to ensure that all vehicles turn right from the site onto Harley Way. Further detail of information required by the Highway Authority was given in the previous consultation response by the Highway Authority to planning application 09/00040/WAS for the restoration of the old quarry adjacent to the north-east. These comments have also been attached for your information.

Public Rights of Way

The site is located in close proximity to several Rights of Way. Please have regard to potential enhancements to the Rights of Way network in association with this proposed development.

Biodiversity

Detailed comments regarding ecological surveys and information have been provided by the Wildlife Trust. Any application should address the Wildlife Trust's comments regarding incorporation of Green Infrastructure and alternative restoration proposals. The potential for significant biodiversity enhancement at the site is also picked up in the response from Natural England and the Council's Senior Environmental Planner. Please refer to these responses directly for further guidance.

Soils

Both Natural England and the Senior Environmental Planner at the Council have questioned the intention to scope out soils from the Environmental Statement. Please address the detailed comments of these consultees regarding soils in any subsequent application.

Slope Stability and Geology

It is noted that the proposed excavations extend close to the south-eastern edge of Harley Way. On this basis it is considered that the excavations have the potential to impact on the stability of Harley Way and the adjacent hedgerow. Any forthcoming application would need to address how these potential issues would be mitigated.

The response from the Wildlife Trust has raised concerns regarding potential impacts on the adjacent RIGS site. I recommend discussing a management plan for the RIGS site with the Northamptonshire RIGS Group prior to submission of any application.

Landscape and Amenity

Please refer to the comments of the Council's Senior Environmental Planner on this matter. In particular I note that the assessment of visual amenity should take into account impacts on visual amenity during the winter months when existing screening will be limited.

The Environmental Protection Officer at East Northamptonshire Council has commented on the importance of an assessment of potential noise and dust impacts from the proposed operations and additional traffic movements. Please address these matters should an application come forward.

Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The Environment Agency has provided detailed guidance on information expected with regard to hydrology and hydrogeology. Please refer to these comments directly.

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

Yours sincerely



Mark Laurenson
Principal Development Control Officer

- Encl: Responses from
- 1) Highway Authority
 - 2) Natural England
 - 3) Environmental Protection at ENC
 - 4) Environment Agency
 - 5) Planning at ENC
 - 6) Wildlife Trust
 - 7) NCC Senior Environmental Planner