



Northamptonshire County Council

C. P. D'Oyley
Head of Planning Estates
Breedon Aggregates
Breedon Quarry
Breedon-on-the-Hill
Derbyshire
DE73 8AP

Please ask for: Phil Watson
Tel: (01604) 366638
Our ref: 13.00002.SCO
Your ref:
Date: 24 May 2013

Dear Mr D'Oyley

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2011: REGULATION 13 SCOPING OPINION

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: PLANNING APPLICATION TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNING PERMISSION REFERENCE 10/00066/EXT. SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION, EARLS BARTON SPINNEY.

I refer to your letter dated 10th April 2013 requesting a Scoping Opinion under the above Regulations. 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 to this Scoping Opinion. To avoid unnecessary repetition, broad guidance and detailed comments provided by consultees have not been duplicated in this letter. You will note the specific points which have been made in the responses and you are required to have regard to these.

The original planning application for this proposed development was submitted in 2007 and was subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. You are not proposing substantial changes to the original Environmental Statement (ES), but to provide updated information where this is necessary in a supplementary ES. This approach is considered acceptable and following the consultation exercise it is considered that the following should be included in a supplementary ES:

Ecology

An updated ecological assessment will be required taking into account the comments made by Natural England, the Wildlife Trust, the Northamptonshire County Council's Senior Environmental Planner (NCC SEP) (Tina Cuss) and the Natural Development Officer for the Nene Valley Improvement Area (Heather Webb).

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I would particularly draw your attention to the need to include an updated assessment in relation to any impacts on the designated Special Protection Area (SPA) located nearby in the Nene Valley, and to update the protected species surveys. The Nene Valley Improvement Area (NIA) was designated by Defra in March 2012 and extends from Daventry to Peterborough and habitat connectivity in respect of restoration and the public access infrastructure are particularly to be taken into account, as referred to in the attached consultation response.

The Wildlife Trust also refer to the SPA and the NIA and the Green Infrastructure Corridors which are within and adjacent to the site, and also to revised Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan, the Water Framework Directive. These should be considered as part of the ES.

The responses from Natural England and Tina Cuss (NCC SEP) also refer to the 'cumulative and in-combination' effects. As well as this project there is an existing extant permission for sand and gravel extraction immediately to the south and other sites allocated to the east and west in the MWDF Locations for Minerals Development, Development Plan Document (Adopted March 2011). This document has been adopted since the original EIA and therefore its site mineral site allocations need to be taken into account in the ecological assessment.

The updated assessment in relation to ecology should also consider the any impacts of the workings on air quality on biodiversity habitats and species (see comments by NCC SEP).

Landscape and Visual Assessment

The ES should include a review of the landscape and visual assessment previously undertaken in the light of the new guidance set out in the '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual assessment*' Third Edition (Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment, 2013). Further advice on this is provided in the comments by the Tina Cuss (NCC SEP) attached.

Cultural Heritage-Archaeology

I have attached the comments of Lesley Ann Mather NCC's Archaeology Advisor. You will note her advice that further works now would assist in minimising future risk and costs in relation to the requirements in the written Scheme of Investigation approved in 2010.

Other Matters

Please ensure that your application takes account of the changes to the Development Plan since your original application and to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Should you wish to seek further clarification and assistance on the contents of this opinion please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Phil Watson
Development Control Manager

Enc.

Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council Response
Heather Webb NIA Response
South Northants District Council Response
EA Response
NCC Archaeologist Response
The Wildlife Trust Response
Highways Agency Response
Natural England Response
NCC Senior Environmental Planner Response