



Written Statement of Northampton Borough Council

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

MATTER 2 – Does the Plan make appropriate provision for the steady and adequate supply of aggregates?

Issue

5. Is the Plan effective in terms of being able to control any potential highway safety impacts at Site Allocation M10 Harlestone Quarry Extension?

1. Introduction

1.1 In the Borough Council's responses to the Issues and Options consultation in July 2015, the Draft Plan consultation in February 2016 and the Final Draft Plan consultation in July 2016 the Council requested further information regarding the expected phases of working of the proposed Harlestone Quarry Extension in relation to the committed site and the expected access and haul routes in order to consider any potential impacts of this Extension. It was emphasised in the Council's response that this information is particularly important in the light of concerns that the Council has that there needs to be appropriate enforcement of the existing operations at Harlestone Quarry in relation to highway cleaning/ wheel washing, highway repair and turning movements.

1.2 No information was provided to the Borough Council and no reference was made in the Final Draft Plan to the specific issues raised in these representations. The only reference included in the Submission Plan to these matters is the following statement headed Development

requirements for Site M10 in Appendix 1: Boundaries and Profiles of the Allocated Sites for Minerals Development (Page 109) [Ref 300]:

“Site not to be worked until the existing operations are close to completion”

2. Soundness Test - Consistent with National Policy

2.1 Northampton Borough Council considers that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update is inconsistent with Paragraph 143 of the National Planning Policy Framework [Ref 100] that requires that in preparing local plans the local planning authority should set out environmental criteria against which planning applications will be assessed so as to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health including from traffic. The NPPF also requires that the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/ or a number of sites in a locality should be taken into account.

2.2 Paragraph 013 of the National Planning Practice Guidance [Ref 102] states that traffic is one of the principal environmental issues of minerals working that should be addressed by the mineral planning authority.

2.3 The Borough Council considers that it is unclear what assessment has been undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council of the potential impacts on the natural and historic environment and human health of the traffic that will be generated by the proposed Extension to Harlestone Quarry. The Site Assessment for Site M10 Harlestone Quarry Extension in the Technical Annex to the Draft Plan Update (December 2015) (Page 103) [Ref 402] states that there are potential impacts related to increased traffic movements within the area of the Extension, however in the Site Assessment it is stated that no detailed assessment is required.

- 2.4 In October 2014 a Form for Registering a Potential Waste Site for inclusion in the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update was submitted for Harlestone Quarry/ Landfill Extension – Phase 2 on behalf of the potential operator Barton Plant [Ref 455]. Paragraphs 3.1.11, 3.2.8, 3.2.15, 3.2.16 and 3.2.17 of the Supporting Statement that was submitted with the Form address the following issues:
- Working Arrangements;
 - Dust and Mud on the Highway; and
 - Highway and Traffic Impacts.
- 2.5 The Supporting Statement outlines that the proposed Extension would be a continuation of the existing operations in terms of site infrastructure (including access, wheelwash, road sweeper), numbers of heavy goods vehicle and car movements, and access routes to and from the site.
- 2.6 The Supporting Statement acknowledges that there has been a recurring problem with mud on the highway resulting from the working and restoration of Phase 1 (Paragraph 3.2.8).
- 2.7 In relation to the routeing of the heavy goods vehicle movements associated with the site use the Supporting Statement states the majority of movements use the southern section of the A428 Harlestone Road out of Northampton providing access to the M1 at Junctions 16 or 15a and the A45 south of Northampton. It is stated that some lorries travel north for access to local delivery and collection sites. (Paragraph 3.2.17).
- 2.8 It is clear from the Form and Supporting Statement submitted by the potential operator in October 2014 that their intention is that the extension to the Harlestone Quarry will be a continuation of the existing operations at the Quarry in terms of the site infrastructure and the scale and nature of traffic generated by the proposal.

2.9 However, no evidence appears to have been produced as part of the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update of an up to date traffic assessment and resulting travel plan for the proposed Quarry extension. This is particularly important in the light of the recently constructed new residential development at Harlestone Manor on the A428 and the Sustainable Urban Extensions allocated in the Adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 (December 2014) (Pages 37 and 314) [Ref 203] at the following locations which are all close to the proposed Harlestone Quarry Extension site and which are currently progressing through the planning application process with construction expected to commence within the next five years:

- Policy N7 - Northampton Kings Heath Sustainable Urban Extension;
- Policy N4 - Northampton West Sustainable Urban Extension; and
- Policy N9A – Northampton Norwood Farm/ Upton Lodge Sustainable Urban Extension.

2.10 In addition, outline planning permission has recently been granted for 165,600 sq m of buildings for B2, B8 and ancillary B1 and provision of a lorry park at Northampton Junction 16 Midway Park.

2.11 These strategic allocations and permissions are within the context of considerable residential development over the last ten years in the western area of Northampton at Upton, St Crispins and Duston which will all, to varying degrees, use the A428, A45 and M1 – all the routes identified for the heavy goods vehicles from the Harlestone Quarry extension in the potential operator's Supporting Statement.

2.12 Without this evidence of consideration of the traffic impact of this extension it is considered by the Borough Council that the County Council has not met the soundness test of consistency with national policy.

3. Modification to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update

3.1 If it is determined that the proposed Harlestone Quarry extension allocation should be retained in Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update, the Borough Council considers that it is important that modifications are made to the Local Plan Update to ensure that traffic impact of this specific allocation is adequately assessed and measures identified to address the impact.

3.2 The Borough Council suggests that each site allocated in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update should be the subject of a specific policy setting out the requirements that should be met by each site. In the case of the Harlestone Quarry extension the policy could be worded as follows in relation to the traffic impact, with other requirements added as necessary:

Land at Harlestone Quarry Extension is allocated for 0.81 million tonnes of crushed rock (limestone) and 0.4 million tonnes of building stone subject to the following requirements:

- The proposed access arrangements would be safe and appropriate to the proposed development and the impact of the traffic generated would not be detrimental to road safety to an unacceptable degree

- The highway network is able to accommodate the traffic that would be generated and the impact of the traffic generated would not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or local residents

3.3 The Borough Council considers that the addition of this proposed wording would address its objection to the allocation of the Harlestone Quarry extension.

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Northampton Borough Council.

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