
From: Joseph Geesin
Sent: 27 February 2020 13:45
To: Aldridge, Steven
Cc: Development Control team
Subject: RE: Seeking Comments - Proposed Quarry at Land at Lea Castle Farm - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Steve

Our ref 20/01248/PLAN
Your ref Ref: 19/000053/CM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application in respect of noise and dust.

Worcestershire regulatory Services (WRS) have been consulted by the local planning authority seeking its advice and consideration of the environmental impacts associated with the generation of noise and dust from the above proposed development.

The development proposed is that of a sand and gravel quarry located adjacent (on the North side) of the B4189 Wolverley Road, on the Eastern side, between Wolverley village and the A449 Wolverhampton road. It is anticipated that the development will consist of minerals extraction and simultaneous restoration works across several delineated sectors. It is anticipated that the life of the quarry is approximately 10 years.

With regard to exposure to pollution it is considered that the following locations are sensitive due to being residential in setting or educational. These are Heathfield Knoll School, St Oswald's CofE Primary School, Lee Castle Equestrian Centre, South Lodges, Broom Cottage, Keepers Cottage, Wolverley Camping and Caravanning Club Site and Castle Barnes. The applicant has pre-empted these concerns and submitted assessments for the aforementioned along with proposed methods of noise and dust control. The following is WRS appraisal of these reports.

Noise report

WRS are satisfied that the methodology implemented in the report agrees with impact assessment techniques set out by MPS2 (Mineral Planning guidance annex2). And that measured noise levels and calculated predictions are robust.

The quarrying process has 2 distinct noise generating phase of working. These are site preparation the second being sand and gravel extraction/restoration. Noise is also generated by vehicle movements.

Initial phase of site preparation will involve top soil stripping and the formation of acoustic bunds some of which are in close proximity to residents. The impact of this work will be similar to what would be expected from the preparation of a normal construction site for housing development and is short in duration when considering the Quarry life expectancy (no more than 8 weeks in duration). It is also acknowledged that MPS2 makes allowances for this. Following this phase it is expected that noise impact will reduce to levels not dissimilar to the existing climate with the occasional identifiable noise being heard from use of machinery associated with the extraction.

WRS are therefore satisfied that there is no adverse noise impacts associated with these proposed workings provided that the quarry operator adheres to good industry practices and maintains all plant and machinery to a high standard.

Notwithstanding the above WRS do have some concern with regard to the overall amenity in the area and recommends that a balance is required to provide the local residents with the necessary assurance that they can use their gardens and space without the presence of residual quarrying activity during certain times of the week. This will also reduce the noise impact from the volume of vehicles entering and exiting the site, given the proximity to some of the receptors.

For this reason WRS would advise that the operational hours for the quarry should be curtailed to the following operating times : -

Site preparation

Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm
No work at weekends or Bank Holidays

It is also recommended that these works should be undertaken preferably during inclement months between October and March. As the majority of the noise impact concerns the outdoor amenity of gardens which have minimised use during these months.

Mineral extraction and restoration Work

Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm
Saturdays 8am to 1pm (October – March)
Saturdays No working (April – September)
No working at any time on Sundays or Bank Holidays

Reason

To secure the local noise amenity of the area.

Dust Impact Assessment

WRS are satisfied with the methodology and conclusions of the dust impact assessment. With this in mind we would therefore recommend that the prevention strategies recommended are made conditional should the application be granted planning consent. In addition to the consultants recommendations WRS would advise the planning authority of the need for the following steps to be undertaken : -

Formation of Bunds and restored areas

Material stockpiled for bund formation or restoration should be seeded as soon as reasonably practicable. This would be to ensure that material on the bunds are bound by vegetation as soon as practicable to prevent the likelihood of dust entrainment from strong winds during dry periods of the year.

Mineral extraction and handling

Any materials transferred mechanically to vehicles for export should be subject to water suppression as required. In addition to this, drop heights for material transfer (between plant, ground and transport) should be minimised.

Stockpiles

Levels of stockpiling to be monitored and logged daily, with water suppression and road sweeper to be utilised during dry conditions, as required or as requested by the LPA.

Transportation

Vehicles to make use of wheel and base washing facilities, especially before leaving the site.

All loads leaving or entering the site should be covered.

All routes to be regularly maintained by grading.

On-site speed controls to be enforced on all haul routes to 15mph, or 10mph in particularly dry conditions.

Plant

All on-site dust generating machinery should be maintained in good order, including dust suppression that includes (but not limited to) water suppression.

Reason

To control the movement of quarried and imported material so as to reduce dust both on and off site, and to prevent airborne entrainment.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter or information provided in support of the application requiring comment by the Land and Air Quality Team, please do not hesitate to contact us via enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk or 01905 822799 quoting the above reference number.

Kind regards

Joseph Geesin

Technical Officer

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