
From: Mindykowski, Adam
Sent: 20 March 2020 19:43
To: Development Control team
Cc: Aldridge, Steven
Subject: RE: Seeking Comments - Proposed Quarry at Land at Lea Castle Farm - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Steve,

Thank you for consulting me with details of the above application.

Having reviewed the submitted application I can confirm I have no objection to the development. I do, however, wish to submit the following comments for your consideration when determining the application.

I welcome that comments submitted for landscape as part WCC representations submitted for the scoping opinion (2018) have been addressed in the LVIA and restoration plan. The intention to plant around 200 trees as part of parkland-style restoration along with a network of acidic grassland (historically a habitat type that was associated with areas of heathland in this landscape) is also welcomed.

I am concerned that much of the internal site restoration planting is planned for the main post-extraction restoration. I understand that the proposed tree avenue and some boundary planting will be part of initial mitigation. I also understand that operational requirements will place some constraints upon advanced restoration works. It appears from the submitted plans that soft landscaping that will form the 'new' eastern boundary will not be in place until after the completion of Phase 5. I apologise if I have misunderstood the proposed phasing or missed details elsewhere. However, I would recommend a review of the landscaping strategy in order to give greater priority to tree and hedge planting in those areas not constrained by extraction works. The eastern side of the site is particularly open and while I accept the mitigation proposed for screening of the later phases of extraction, it would be prudent to establish as many trees and hedging as possible so that contribution to screening will begin to take effect as the operation progresses.

I note in the Planning Statement (6.41) the applicant has stated there will be a period of 5 years aftercare at the conclusion of which management will be handed back to the landowner. While it is a matter for the site operator and landowner to arrange management periods, I recommend that post-restoration landscape management planning is enshrined within a period greater than 5 years, given the scale of restoration aims. This need not be onerous to either the operator or landowner, but will set a framework within which the best possible outcome for establishment of the significant landscape enhancements proposed. I am reluctant to set a period range, but would recommend a minimum period of 10 years for aftercare and monitoring.

I recommend, therefore, that the landscape mitigation, restoration and management proposals should be secured via an appropriately worded condition focused on the production of a Landscape Management Plan or (perhaps more appropriately) a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. I offer the following wording for your consideration, but will defer to ecology colleagues and their advice on any requirement for additional wording in order to deliver a LEMP.

Landscape Management Plan

No development shall take place until a landscape plan and schedule of landscape maintenance, to cover a minimum period of 10 years post-restoration, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The schedule shall include details of the arrangements for its implementation, species mix and measures for monitoring and replacement of any trees, hedging or herbaceous species that fail within the stated period. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved schedule.

Notwithstanding the submitted details, within 3 months of commencement of the development hereby approved, method statements detailing creation of semi-natural habitats, and tree, hedgerow and scrub planting and

establishment shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The method statements shall include:

- a. purpose and objectives for the proposed works;
- b. detailed designs and working methods necessary to achieve the stated objectives;
- c. extent and location of proposed works shown on appropriate scale maps;
- d. timetable for implementation;
- e. persons responsible for implementing the works; and
- f. initial aftercare and long-term maintenance.

Thereafter the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and implemented within the first available planting season (the period between 31 October in any one year and 31 March in the following year) on completion of the development. Any new trees or shrubs, which within a period of five years from the completion of the planting die, are removed, or become damaged or diseased, shall be replaced on an annual basis, in the next planting season with others of a similar size and species

Reason: to inform and secure the delivery of detailed restoration, aftercare and management for the benefit of landscape and ecological net gain, and amenity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Adam

Adam Mindykowski

Landscape Advisor

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From: Development Control team

Sent: 06 February 2020 09:29

To: Mindykowski, Adam

Subject: Seeking Comments - Proposed Quarry at Land at Lea Castle Farm - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Adam,

**Consultation on a Planning Application (County Matter)
Town & Country Planning Act 1990**

The Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Application Ref: 19/000053/CM **Grid Ref:** (E) 383959, (N) 278992

Applicant: NRS Aggregates Ltd

Proposal: Proposed sand and gravel quarry with progressive restoration using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and nature enhancement

Location: Land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

NRS Aggregates Ltd is applying to Worcestershire County Council for planning permission for the above proposal. The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

The applicant is seeking planning permission to extract approximately 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel over a total of 6 phases. The land would be progressively restored using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and nature enhancement. The applicant estimates the development would take approximately 11 years to complete.

The planning application, the plans, the Environmental Statement, Non-Technical Summary and relevant documents are available to view on <http://e-planning.worcestershire.gov.uk> using application reference: 19/000053/CM. When searching by application reference, please ensure that the full application reference number, including the suffix are entered into the search field.

I would be grateful for any comments you may have on the above application by **19 March 2020**. If this is not possible please let me know.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Steve

Steven Aldridge

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