

From: Davies, Mark <Mark.t.davies@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 December 2020 18:23
To: Development Control team; Aldridge, Steven
Subject: RE: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM
Attachments: dps1.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Steve,

Hope you are keeping well. Please see attached response to the above consultation at Lea Castle Farm for your consideration.

Other matters:

I have got quite a few ongoing complex quarry consultations to look through within Shropshire and Worcestershire at the moment. With other work commitments and upcoming leave etc, I am going to have to respond to these towards the end of next month (in the new year) – Chadwich Lane re-consultation, Wilden; former motocross site.

I have asked my Biodiversity lead to look at the HRA for the Kepax bridge one. I am waiting to hear back from my colleague to see if we can provide some thoughts within your deadline.

All the best,
Mark

Mark Davies
Planning Specialist

Environment Agency
Sustainable Places – West Midlands Area

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From: Development Control team [mailto:DevControlTeam@worcestershire.gov.uk]
Sent: 19 November 2020 12:58

To: WestMidsPlanning <WestMidsPlanning@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Cc: Davies, Mark <Mark.t.davies@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re-Consultation on a Planning Application (County Matter)
Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings and Environmental Impact Assessment) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020**

Submission of Further Information in respect of the Environmental Statement relating to the following planning application

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

On 10 January 2020 NRS Aggregates Ltd applied to Worcestershire County Council for planning permission for the above proposal. You will recall I consulted you on the above application for planning permission in February 2020.

Following the consideration of the comments that were received on the application and Environmental Statement, the County Council wrote to the applicant in June 2020 requesting further information in respect of the Environmental Statement. On 27 October 2020 the applicant submitted the requested further information, and the County Council are now seeking comments on this further information in relation to a number of matters including: water environment, ecology and biodiversity, landscape, agricultural land classification and soils, cultural heritage, transport movement and access, rights of way, and restoration and aftercare.

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.

A copy of this further information together with the planning application, the plans, the Environmental Statement, the Non-Technical Summary and other documents submitted with the application can be inspected online at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/eplanning using the application reference 19/000053/CM until **4 January 2021**. When searching by application reference, please ensure that the full application reference number, including the suffix are entered into the search field. **Please note:** when viewing the County Council's Planning Application Website you may wish to use an internet search engine such as Google Chrome, Firefox or Microsoft Edge for improved performance and functionality compared to Microsoft Internet Explorer.

I would be grateful to receive any comments that you may wish to make on the further information / application by **4 January 2021** by email or by post to the address below. If this is not possible then please let me know.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic the majority of Council staff are working remotely. We have made arrangements for letters sent via the postal service to be distributed to the appropriate officer. Where possible, we encourage all comments / correspondence to be submitted by email or online using the above link.

Please note that all correspondence regarding any planning application will be available for inspection by the applicant and any interested third parties.

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

Kind regards

Steve

Steven Aldridge

Team Manager – Development Management
Worcestershire County Council
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Worcestershire County Council
Development Control
County Hall Spetchley Road
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR5 2NP

Our ref: SV/2020/110574/02-L01

Your ref: 19/000053/CM

Date: 15 December 2020

FAO: Steven Aldridge

Dear Sir

FURTHER INFORMATION - PROPOSED SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY WITH PROGRESSIVE RESTORATION USING SITE DERIVED AND IMPORTED INERT MATERIAL TO AGRICULTURAL PARKLAND, PUBLIC ACCESS AND NATURE ENHANCEMENT AT LAND AT LEA CASTLE FARM, WOLVERLEY ROAD, BROADWATERS, KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE

I refer to your consultation on further information submitted in support of the above application, including the BCL Hydro letter dated 18th September 2020.

We would refer you to comments in our previous letter of 31 March 2020, reference SV/2020/110574/01-L01.

We previously recommended a planning condition be imposed to secure a monitoring scheme for *groundwater, surface water - level and quality*. We suggested that the monitoring programme should establish the following parameters:

1. Mounding beneath the soakaway ponds is not occurring.
2. Water quality in and groundwater around the soakaway ponds is unpolluted.
3. Groundwater levels in and around the site are not reducing (as a result of this development/extraction).

We also advised that an Environmental Permit will be required, from us, for the storage, treatment and disposal of inert extractive wastes resulting from the extraction of mineral resources. A further Environmental Permit will be required, should waste be accepted and deposited on site for restoration purposes. No Permit application has been received/tracked with the planning application so we cannot give you any certainty on these matters.

To clarify, in relation to some of the latest comments, some groundwater monitoring will be required as part of any Inert Landfill Waste Permit. However, this will be targeted at looking at risks from the waste material and the other recommended planning condition also relates to monitoring the impact of the surface water drainage system and the implications of low permeability material being used as infill. It may be possible for the Environment Agency

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www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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two monitoring networks to be combined, as part of the two regulatory regimes, if the monitoring locations are in the right place, to ensure efficiencies.

The applicant should be getting baseline data as part of the Environmental Permit application on quality, levels, gradient etc. An inert site needs at least a year of data to form a representative baseline of the site setting. It is recommended that the applicant considers the following advice, for information relating to inert landfill permit monitoring requirements:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/landfill-operators-environmental-permits/landfills-for-inert-waste>

We note the suggestion to change the 'monitoring scheme' condition from '*No development shall take place until.....*' to '*prior to the placement of any infill material at the site...*'

Maybe it could say prior to any extraction, so a 'scheme' is developed to cover the monitoring for the extraction and before any placement of infill material. This is in consideration of the potential impacts previously discussed, including protection of the surface water ponds.

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Mark Davies
Planning Specialist

Direct dial 02030 251661