

From: Margie Hoffnung <margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org>
Sent: 18 January 2021 18:17
To: Aldridge, Steven
Cc: Consult, The Gardens Trust
Subject: RE: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM
Attachments: sand & gravel extraction at Lea Castle. Further comment Dec 2020.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Aldridge,

Our colleagues in the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Gardens Trust have responded to this on our behalf so we have no further comments to make.

Margie Hoffnung
Conservation Officer
The Gardens Trust
70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ
Tel: 07596 656574
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www.thegardenstrust.org



The Gardens Trust needs your help more than ever to continue our vital work protecting historic parks and gardens. Please consider joining or donating: <http://thegardenstrust.org/support-us/>

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From: Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 January 2021 17:08
To: Consult, The Gardens Trust <consult@thegardenstrust.org>
Cc: Margie Hoffnung <margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org>
Subject: RE: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Further to my consultation emails below regarding the above proposal, the deadline for comments has now passed and do not appear to have received any comments from you on the second consultation on the submitted further environmental information (known as Regulation 25). I would be most grateful for any comments you may wish to make on the proposal by **27 January 2021**. If this is not possible, please let me know. If I do not receive any comments from you by this date, I will assume your original comments (attached) on the application remain unchanged.

Kind regards

Steve

Steven Aldridge

Team Manager – Development Management

Worcestershire County Council

County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

Tel: 01905 843510

Mob: 07985334367

Email: saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk



From: Development Control team

Sent: 19 November 2020 13:14

To: 'consult@thegardenstrust.org' <consult@thegardenstrust.org>

Cc: 'margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org' <margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org>

Subject: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Sir/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
County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP
Tel: 01905 843510

Mob: 07985334367

Email: saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk





**Worcestershire County Council, Directorate of Economy & Infrastructure
Application 19/000053/CM.**

**Proposed sand and gravel extraction at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley
On behalf of NRS Aggregates Ltd**

December 2020

Additional Response from Hereford & Worcester Gardens Trust (HWGT)

This comment, as the previous comment has been prepared by Jane Patton on behalf of HWGT. Jane Patton is a retired chartered landscape architect and previous member of the Landscape Institute and has practised for many years in Worcestershire both in the private and public sectors. Latterly, for Worcestershire County Council assessing the landscape impact of planning applications. She is also editor of the *Survey of Historic Parks & Gardens in Worcestershire*.

General

The Application Site extends over roughly half the area of the 19th century park at Lea Castle, Wolverley. Lea Castle appears in Lockett's *Survey of Historic Parks & Gardens in Worcestershire*, published by HWGT. It is not a Registered park or garden, a designation that relates to national or international interest. It is, however, of considerable local interest and contributes to the landscape character and cultural and historical understanding of the parish of Wolverley.

Overall Concerns

The Applicant has provided further information that, on one hand addresses some of our previous concerns but, on the other hand raises new concerns, particularly with regard to planting.

Impact on Visual Amenity

The Application Site is elevated land, readily viewed from surrounding roads and footpaths. We still believe that the visual impact of extraction will be far greater than that stated in the Application documents. We acknowledge that this will be for a limited period and that the site will be returned to a rural character. We note that some limited additional hedgerow planting is

now shown along the eastern boundary but this will not be planted until the end of the final extraction phase. We would suggest that further consideration be given to screening of the works using advanced planting on the boundaries at the beginning of the site's life.

Impact on the Avenue

We note the revised landscape sections that indicate that the retained and replanted avenue will not, as initially feared be seen as a strip of elevated land across the site. However, the topsoil bund shown on drawing entitled Phase 5 Working and Restoration appears to lie very close to the line of the avenue. This should be pulled away from the avenue to prevent soil compaction or damage to new planting.

We also recommend that the avenue is replanted at the beginning of the site's life, preferably as part of the enabling works. This will allow the trees to establish during the extraction period.

Planting Proposals

- It still appears from the drawings that the intention is to carry out all the restoration planting at the end of the extraction life. We recommend that each phase should be restored, including all associated planting at the end of that phase's extraction. This will allow the planting to establish during the working life of the site and to provide some maturity at the end.
- It appears that the intention is to plant the avenue with mixed species. We strongly advise against this as it will result in an uneven formation. Avenues, by their very nature are a single entity made up of individual identical trees. We recommend that the avenue be planted with either native beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) or common lime (*Tilia europaea*), depending on the number and condition of the surviving trees.
- We note that the hedgerow planting notes mention oak but it is not in the planting specification. We recommend that it is added to the hedgerow trees mix.
- Beating up and restocking failures should be undertaken each year, not as shown.
- We recommend that the Applicant is required to produce a 25 year management plan to ensure the ongoing maintenance and development of the site.
- We would recommend a few more parkland trees.