

**From:** Mindykowski, Adam  
**Sent:** 02 February 2021 20:09  
**To:** Development Control team  
**Subject:** RE: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Steve,

Thank you for reconsulting me on this scheme and for granting an extension for return of comments.

### **Planting mitigation and phasing**

I welcome the applicant's confirmation that planting along the eastern boundary will be prioritised (post-consent), and note that a native woodland block will also be planted along the western boundary of Phases 2 and 3. While this is welcomed, it appears that the bulk of restoration planting will be undertaken post-extraction. I remained concerned that the opportunity to restore progressively following completion of each phase has not been addressed or explored. I acknowledge there may be operational constraints that apply some limitations to restoration during the lifecycle of the site (if that is the case these should be set out). Phase-by-phase restoration is recommended in order to begin the establishment of new planting at the earliest opportunity. This would benefit the aims of the scheme to create new parkland planting, and with native trees forming such an important part of the overall site assemblage. The site sections submitted by the applicant have proven helpful in understanding the site topography following restoration. What it demonstrates very clearly is that (despite the grading of the proposed finished level) how significant the reduction in level will be compared with the current baseline. With that in mind, I would suggest the applicant revisits the scope of mitigation proposed for the eastern boundary with a view towards providing additional planting to soften the visual impact from receptors to the east. In time, this will also contribute towards the overall landscape framework of the new parkland.

### **The Avenue**

The Avenue is one such example that should be prioritised for restoration at the commencement or early in the operational lifecycle of the site. I agree with comments submitted by Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust (HWGT) concerning the intention to restore the feature with mixed native species. Species diversity may be preferable in the context of hedgerow and woodland restoration, but in the case of a parkland avenue, single species planting should be applied in order to ensure the uniformity typical of this feature type is restored. The Avenue should also be afforded an appropriate buffer to secure its protection during the lifecycle of the quarry. I note the matter of the bund raised by (HWGT), and recommend this is addressed by the applicant.

### **Existing trees**

I welcome measures aimed at ensuring the retention and protection of trees: T4 T5, T19, T22 and T25. These trees will need to be secured within the context of an adequate RPZ/buffer. I support the comments submitted by my Ecology colleague, Cody Levine, and his recommendations for appropriate measures to be included with a CEMP. I also support my colleague's suggested amendments to the LEMP in order to secure targets of success as set out in his response.

### **Management planning and aftercare**

I previously raised the matter that post-restoration establishment and aftercare should be secured over a plan period covering a minimum of 10 years. The submitted plans, by contrast, are set within a 5 year time-frame. I recommend this is revisited by the applicant, not least given the restoration aims of the scheme are focused on the delivery of significant landscape, habitat and amenity enhancements centred on the creation of a parkland landscape. These are long-term ambitions that would be secured more effectively within the context of an extended management plan period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning the points raised above.

Kind regards,

Adam

**Adam Mindykowski**

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**From:** Development Control team <DevControlTeam@worcestershire.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 19 November 2020 13:11

**To:** Mindykowski, Adam <AMindykowski@worcestershire.gov.uk>

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

Dear Adam,

**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](http://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**

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