

**From:** Burlachka, Yana <Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 March 2021 15:53  
**To:** Aldridge, Steven  
**Subject:** Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM  
**Attachments:** NE Response 334675.pdf

Dear Steve,

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

Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached herewith.

Thank you very much for allowing us extra time to respond and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
Yana

Yana Burlachka

Lead Adviser,  
Planning for a Better Environment - West Midlands Area Team  
Natural England

**Direct dial:** 02082256013  
**Mobile:** 07887708065

[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england).

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**From:** Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2021 18:14  
**To:** Burlachka, Yana <Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Cc:** Sargent, Robert <Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk>; SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM  
**Importance:** High

Hi Yana,

**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 email below and previous consultation email (attached), I do not appear to have received any comments from you on the further information submission for the above proposal. I would be most grateful for Natural England's comments as soon as possible.

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@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:saldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk)



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**From:** Aldridge, Steven  
**Sent:** 13 January 2021 15:18  
**To:** Burlachka, Yana <[Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** Sargent, Robert <[Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk)>; 'consultations@naturalengland.org.uk'

[<consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

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

Hi Yana,

**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 our correspondence below regarding the above proposal. I have now received comments from the Action Group (see attached), which includes a section on "Biodiversity (Ecological, Agricultural and Trees)". In making your comments I would be grateful if you could take these comments into account. As agreed below, I would be grateful for your comments by **12 February 2021**.

All the best

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](mailto:saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk)



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**From:** Burlachka, Yana <[Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 11 January 2021 14:40

**To:** Aldridge, Steven <[SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Sargent, Robert <[Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk)>

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

Many thanks Steve,  
Much appreciated.

Yana

[Yana Burlachka](mailto:Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk)

Lead Adviser,  
Planning for a Better Environment - West Midlands Area Team  
Natural England

**Direct dial:** 02082256013

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**From:** Aldridge, Steven <[SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 04 January 2021 10:17  
**To:** Burlachka, Yana <[Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** Sargent, Robert <[Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Hi Yana,

Further to your email below regarding Lea Castle Farm Quarry proposal, thanks for letting me know, and I can confirm the extension of time until 12 February 2021 is acceptable, but I would be most grateful for your response no later than 12 February and soon as possible.

All the best and happy New Year.

Steve

**Steven Aldridge**  
Team Manager – Development Management  
Worcestershire County Council

County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

Tel: 01905 843510

Mob: 07985334367

Email: [saldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:saldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk)



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**From:** Burlachka, Yana <[Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 24 December 2020 13:54

**To:** Aldridge, Steven <[SAldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:SAldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Sargent, Robert <[Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Rob.J.Sargent@naturalengland.org.uk)>

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

Dear Steve,

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

Unfortunately, Natural England's planning consultation response team is significantly under resourced and therefore I should pre-warn you that a response to this consultation is likely to be delayed.

I will aim to respond by the Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 the latest. I hope this is acceptable and please let me know if this would create an issue with your timeframes.

Kind regards,  
Yana

Yana Burlachka

Lead Adviser,  
Planning for a Better Environment - West Midlands Area Team  
Natural England

**Direct dial:** 02082256013

**Mobile:** 07887708065

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**From:** Development Control team [<mailto:DevControlTeam@worcestershires.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 19 November 2020 13:02

**To:** SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <[consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)>

**Cc:** Burlachka, Yana <[Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Yana.Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk)>

**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](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**  
Team Manager – Development Management  
Worcestershire County Council  
County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP  
**Tel:** 01905 843510  
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Date: 09 March 2021  
Our ref: 334675  
Your ref: 19/000053/CM



Steven Aldridge  
Team Manager – Development Management  
Worcestershire County Council

Customer Services  
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Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk)

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Steve

**Planning consultation:** 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

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 19 November 2020 which was received by Natural England on the same day. Thank you for allowing us extra time to respond.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE**

**NO OBJECTION - SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE MITIGATION BEING SECURED**

We consider that without appropriate mitigation the application would:

- damage or destroy the interest features for which Hurcott and Podmoor Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Hurcott Pasture SSSI, Stourvale Marsh SSSI and Puxton Marshes SSSI have been notified.

In order to mitigate these adverse effects and make the development acceptable, the following mitigation measures are required / or the following mitigation options should be secured:

- *Monitoring scheme to ensure potential implications for the groundwater quality and groundwater levels are effectively mitigated*
- *The proposed soakaway systems which are to ensure the recharge patterns for the site stay unchanged, need to be maintained in perpetuity.*

We advise that an appropriate planning condition or obligation is attached to any planning permission to secure these measures.

Natural England's further advice on designated sites/landscapes and advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

## Further advice on mitigation

- *Natural England recommends that a monitoring and mitigation strategy is submitted to satisfy the competent authority that potential implications for the groundwater quality and groundwater levels are effectively mitigated. The details should be agreed prior to **any extraction at the site** and this should be appropriately secured with any planning permission. The strategy should set out what realistic and available mitigation options could be deployed if monitoring identifies issues of groundwater contamination or undesirable levels of disturbance to recharge patterns. The strategy should include information on who will be responsible for the production and appraisal of the data. Any issues should then be addressed by the operator and highlighted to the regulators.*
- *The proposed soakaway systems which are to ensure the recharge patterns for the site stay unchanged, need to be maintained in perpetuity. We recommend that consideration is given to funding, responsibilities and mechanisms to ensure that the soakaway system stays fit for purpose.*

Please note that if your authority is minded to grant planning permission contrary to the advice in this letter, you are required under Section 281 (6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to notify Natural England of the permission, the terms on which it is proposed to grant it and how, if at all, your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice. You must also allow a further period of 21 days before the operation can commence.

## Soils, Land Quality and Reclamation

All the matters raised by Natural England in our consultation response dated 01/05/2020 with regards to soils and land quality have been satisfactorily addressed.

## Other advice

Further general advice on consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A in our response dated 01/05/2020 ref 308334.

Should the developer wish to discuss the detail of measures to mitigate the effects described above with Natural England, we recommend that they seek advice through our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on [yana.burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:yana.burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk).

**We would be pleased to provide advice on the discharge of planning conditions or obligations attached to any planning permission to address the issues above.**

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Yana Burlachka  
Planning for a Better Environment Team – West Midlands