

KIRKLEES COUNCIL INVESTMENT AND REGENERATION SERVICE

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

SCREENING OPINION

CASE DETAILS

Applicant Reference: N/A

Planning Application:

2019/92075

2019/92618

2019/92617

Site Address: Hillhouse Edge Quarries Cartworth Moor Road Holmfirth

Proposed Development: Planning application 2019/92075 seeks planning permission for an extension to the existing quarry to extract blockstone and when required to produce aggregates in the form of walling stone and gabion stone.

Planning applications 2019/92617 and 2019/92618 seek to amend the existing working programme and restoration scheme to facilitate working the proposed extension area.

Area of Development / Works / New Floor space (as appropriate): The Existing quarry occupies an area of approximately 3.5ha and includes the current extractive area, previously worked and restored areas, saw sheds, ancillary buildings and site access. The proposed extension area is a green field and lies to the north and immediately adjacent to the existing quarry and occupies an area of approximately 0.6ha.

EIA DETAILS

Schedule 1

Is the proposed development Schedule 1 development as described in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?

No

<i>If yes, under which description of development, i.e. No's 1-21</i> N/A
Schedule 2 <i>Is the proposed development Schedule 2 development as described in Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA regulations?</i> Yes
<i>If yes, under which description of development in Column 1, i.e. No's 1-13?</i> 2(a)
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations? The site does not fall within a sensitive area but is approximately 1.7km north of the South Pennine Moor Special Protection Area.
If yes, which area N/A
Are the applicable thresholds / criteria in Column 2 exceeded /met? Yes
If yes, which applicable threshold / criteria? All minerals development must be screened unless it involves a building of less than 1000 square metres

SCREENING OPINION

Characteristics of Development
SIZE The Existing quarry area occupies an area of approximately 3.5ha and includes the current extractive area, previously worked and restored areas, saw sheds, ancillary buildings and site access. The proposed extension area is a green field and lies to the north and immediately adjacent to the existing quarry and occupies an area of approximately 0.6ha.

CUMULATIVE

This site is one of 3 operational quarries located in the immediate vicinity, the others being Windy Ridge Quarry to the south and Woodhouse quarry to the west. However, all three quarries are relatively modest in scale and it is considered that this proposal would not add significantly to the cumulative impact which already exists.

USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This proposal would involve the continued extraction of sandstone. The applicant has indicated that, this would be beyond the period currently approved in relation to the existing quarry.

THE PRODUCTION OF WASTE

Extractive operations would produce significant quantities of quarry waste. However, much of this material would be used in site restoration and would not therefore be exported from the site. Filter cake would be produced as a result of the stone sawing operation. The applicant has indicated that once dried this would be used as backfill material on site.

POLLUTION AND NUISANCES

It is considered that there are four potential sources of pollution or nuisances associated with this proposal:

Noise

The extraction of mineral would involve the use heavy machinery including mechanical excavators and dump trucks. Noise would therefore be generated by the vehicles themselves and during extractive operations and when heavy vehicles are loaded and unloaded. However, the site is relatively remote and following initial development work such operations primarily take place below ground level. There are very few residential properties in the area. The nearest being approximately 40m from the site. Whilst it is accepted that noise from the quarry will be heard at the nearest noise sensitive properties, it is likely that a combination of the mitigating affects created by the quarry void, the distance to noise sensitive properties and local topography will be such that noise levels reaching residential properties in the area will be reduced significantly.

Dust

The main sources of dust generation are likely to result from the movement of mineral during dry conditions and vehicle movements within the site. As previously outlined the quarry has already operated for many years and this has not resulted in any significant complaints relating to dust generation. Any future approval of planning permission would require the site operator to take appropriate dust suppression measures and it is therefore considered that dust emissions are unlikely to cause significant nuisance to nearby properties in this instance.

Water pollution

There have been problems in the past with a local aquifer being contaminated with quarry fines from this site. However, measures have been put in place to try and

alleviate such problems. The applicant has provided a hydrological assessment in support of the application to extend the quarry which will be considered with the assessment of planning application 2019/92075.

HGV movements

The site would be served by an existing quarry access which adjoins Cartworth Moor Road. The access road is hard surfaced and runs for approximately 230m to the operational area of the quarry. It has been constructed to a good standard and provides safe entry to and egress from the site. The tracking of mud and debris on to the public highway has not been a significant problem in the past and at present the current operative planning permission for the adjacent quarry limits the number of HGVs exporting mineral from the site to 8 per day. The supporting information provided with the planning application indicates that this proposal would not result in this limit being exceeded. Consequently it is not considered that the operator's current proposals would create any additional nuisance or increase risks to highway safety as a result of vehicle movements to and from the site.

THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS

Any accidents associated with this proposal are likely to occur on site during the extraction of mineral or during loading operations. As the site is remote and would be secured it is unlikely that members of the general public would be directly affected by the proposal. It is therefore considered that no additional risk of accidents would result.

Location of the Development

EXISTING LAND USE

The site is an operational quarry which includes restored areas, mineral processing areas and the extractive area and an extension area which is currently used as pasture. The footprint of the quarry would be extended as a result of this proposal by approximately 0.6ha.

IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES

This proposal would result in the use of natural resources in the form of extracted mineral. This would reduce the district's mineral blockstone reserve. However, the mineral extracted from this site is a high quality blockstone which cannot be readily substituted using other materials

IMPACT ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Whilst the site is not located within a specific designated environmentally sensitive area, it is close to the South Pennine Moor Special Protection Area. However, this proposal would be temporary, albeit for a period of several years, and measures could be introduced as part of site restoration to enhance biodiversity in the area. It is therefore considered that this proposal would not pose a direct long-term threat to the ecology of the surrounding area. As a consequence it is considered that the greatest impact on the natural environment would be in terms of its effect on the visual amenity of the area during quarrying and infilling operations, which, due to the nature of the proposal would be temporary in nature.

Characteristics of the Potential Impact

EXTENT OF IMPACT

The area immediately surrounding the site is allocated as Green Belt in the Council's adopted Local Plan and it is therefore important that the character of the landscape is not detrimentally affected. Although the site is on high ground, it is considered that it is not prominent within the local landscape and is not easily overlooked from the surrounding countryside. The existing quarry is screened by soil mounds which restrict close quarter views of the site and the proposed extension area would be similarly screened. Much of the adjacent land has already been worked and the additional impact this proposal would create would therefore be limited and would be for a temporary period only.

MAGNITUDE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE IMPACT

This issue must be considered in the context of the existing operations in the vicinity of the site and the effect these already has on the local environment. An operational quarry (Windy Ridge Quarry) is situated on land adjacent to the south of the site and Woodhouse Quarry is located approximately 300m to the south west. Consequently, it is considered that the magnitude of the impact associated with this proposal would be low and primarily associated with visual amenity and the potential nuisances outlined above.

THE PROBABILITY OF IMPACT

Whilst the continuation of mineral extraction in this area as a result of this proposed extension would undoubtedly affect the area, the impact caused is unlikely to be significantly different from that already created by the operation of the existing quarry

DURATION, FREQUENCY AND REVERSIBILITY OF IMPACT The existing quarry has planning permission to continue extracting mineral until the end of 2028. However, should planning permission be granted for the proposed extension area extractive operations are likely to take longer. The site is being progressively restored and the disturbed footprint is therefore being reduced. Whilst mineral extraction usually occurs over a timeframe of decades the operations are nevertheless considered to be temporary in nature and the development is therefore reversible.

SCREENING DECISION

By its very nature this type of development has the potential to cause a number of detrimental effects to the nearby environment. However, bearing in mind the existing and historic use of adjacent land and guidance contained in the above mentioned Environmental Impact Regulations, it is considered that the impact associated with this proposal would be limited in magnitude and, due to the site's remote location combined with local topography and existing/proposed screening, would only affect a

limited number of properties. It is therefore the opinion of the Council that the environmental affects which are likely to result from this proposal are limited and local in nature and, as a consequence confirms that an Environmental Statement would not be required with respect to the above proposal.

Schedule 2 development – Not likely to have significant effects on the environment. EIA not required

Recommendation and Authorisation Box

Officer Signature	<i>Glenn Wakefield</i>	Date:	20.08.2019
Team Leader Signature	<i>David Wordsworth</i>	Date:	22.08.2019