

Andrew Sierakowski,
Planning Services,
Norfolk County Council
County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich
NR1 2SG

3rd April 2024

Dear Mr Sierakowski,

**Carbrooke Quarry – MIN 200
EIA Scoping opinion**

1. In light of the recent Screening Opinion of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, which broadly reflected the formal opinion of your authority last December, can you kindly provide a Scoping Opinion to identify the matters required to be addressed within the Environmental Statement.
2. A Location Plan is enclosed (Drg No. C27B/1/SCOP/01) which identifies the provisional site boundary which includes the MIN200 site as identified within the latest version of the County's Mineral and Waste Local Plan Review: Preferred Options consultation, along with the land to the south where restoration contours will be modified. The existing plant site, stockpile areas and existing site infrastructure are also included within the provisional site boundary.
3. The estimated mineral reserve within the MIN200 area is some 400,000 tonnes which will be extracted following the recovery of the consented mineral to the south. Extraction and sales of the mineral are proposed to be 100,000 tonnes annually. Infilling the void formed through the extraction within the MIN200 area along with the permitted airspace in land to the south will take approximately 8 years to complete. Allowing for time to complete the final restoration including soil replacement, the period of consent sought will be in the region of 9 years.
4. All HGVs will use the existing site entrance onto Summer Lane and travel the short distance to the B1108 Norwich Road. In order to minimise vehicles arriving and departing empty, vehicles exiting the site carrying inert materials and in turn vehicles arriving with inert materials will exit carrying mineral. In this "back-hauling" manner, it is estimated that only some 25% of vehicles will arrive or depart empty.
5. Soil resources will be handled in accordance with the Institute of Quarrying Guidelines for Handling Soils on Mineral Sites (2021). The workings will not require dewatering,



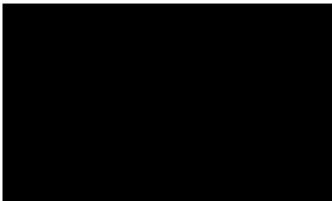
as previous exploratory boreholes demonstrate that the mineral horizon lies above the local water table. Extraction will take place in the MIN200 extension in phases working in a general east to west direction commencing close to Cuckoo Lane. Dump trucks which will transport the mineral on internal haul routes using the existing Mill Lane crossing point to the existing Operational Area for processing and stockpiling. Thereafter mineral will leave the Quarry via the established site entrance onto Summer Lane.

6. In terms of inert material, those capable of being reused will be segregated close to the point of disposal and then processed by crushing and/or screening within the Operational Area. Those materials incapable of reuse will be disposed of within the void formed by quarrying either by being tipped directly via HGV in which they arrive or from dump trucks, with the tipped material graded and levelled out within the void using a bulldozer. As with the extraction, infilling within the MIN200 extension will commence once infilling of the adjoining land to the south has largely been completed.
7. The entire MIN200 area is part of two larger fields in arable use with an intermittent intervening hedgerow with occasional trees and thicker hedgerows along Mill Lane and Cuckoo Lane on the western and eastern boundaries respectively with the latter containing occasional trees.
8. The most likely effects of the development are considered to be as a result of noise and dust emissions caused by the use of mobile plant on the application area including the use of the internal haul routes and Mill Lane crossing, to the site entrance on Summer Lane. Without mitigation such emissions will arise during the course of the site preparation works, including stripping soils and the placing of stripped soils into bunds; the extraction of the sand and gravel, infilling the void with inert material and the final regarding and shaping of the land ready for restoration using and re-spreading the stored soils. To that end, a Dust Action Plan will be submitted as part of the application.
9. The operations will generally be screened from viewpoints by strategically located landscaped mounds formed around the perimeter of the area to be extracted. In respect of noise there are existing noise limits established for the closest residential property to the area in question (i.e. Mill House), and it is therefore considered that a noise assessment is not required in this instance, as long as the same mitigation and controls are imposed. Similarly, a Heritage Assessment was undertaken for the infill application immediately to the south and no material harm was identified, and it is therefore considered that a further Heritage Assessment is not required in this instance.



10. For your information, in respect of archaeology a discussion has already taken place with your authority's Historic Environment Team, who have confirmed the acceptance of a full monitored strip and as such a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for this will be prepared and submitted with the application.
11. There will be a loss of a few trees positioned centrally within the MIN200 area as well as the intermittent hedgerow within which they exist. It will be necessary to safeguard trees along part of the northern boundary and the boundary hedgerows on Mill Lane and Cuckoo Lane will need to be protected by suitable stand-offs from the effects of the development. An ecological assessment will be required to consider the presence or otherwise of protected species on the MIN200 area itself as well in the vicinity and any mitigation measures proposed by the assessment will be adopted.
12. In so far as ecology a Preliminary Ecological Assessment and a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculation will be instructed along with a Landscape Appraisal and Soils Assessment. Given the scale of the operation a Flood Risk Assessment will also be undertaken in any event.
13. I trust the above information is now sufficient to complete your Scoping Opinion but should you require further detail then please advise.

Yours sincerely



John Gough
Planning Director

Drg No. C27B/1/SCOP/01