

**Planning application for a change of use to an aggregates recovery facility at
Heron Farm, Besthorpe**

**Response to Norfolk County Council's request for supplementary comments
in respect of ground level operations and landscape concerns set out in the
email of 5th September 2023**

Background:

The following is relevant - planning application FUL/2020/0062 and submissions dated 11/5/217

Planning application 3/2015/3016. The appeal decision paragraph 39 states:

'...The Appellant considers this condition to be impracticable and would result in adverse operational and health and safety implications, as it would require an excavator operator to lift and place material into an elevated hopper which he could not see from his position on the ground. In those circumstances, it would be unreasonable to impose such a condition.'

HSE guidance on loading crushers etc, HSE - Quarries - Safe operation and use of mobile jaw crushers – this guidance is noted.

Position Statement:

You will appreciate the application site area of this application is completely different from that on planning application 3/2015/3016. In this application, space was very tight which led to the inability to practically have an excavator placed on the ground and feeding the hopper.

The application before the County Council is a larger site and therefore has more operable space in which the excavator can manoeuvre. This means in practical terms it is safe to load the hopper from the ground, preventing the need to have an excavator positioned at an elevated height. To further aid this process video cameras or a banksman will be fitted/used to enable safe operations.

The following drawings submitted as part of the 2023 submission and previously completed landscape assessment detail the how the machinery and loading thereof would sit within the local landscape. The drawings demonstrate the position and impact of the excavator in relation to the existing bund.

Of particular relevance are Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (pages 15-17) - Landscape and Visual Assessment dated March 2023.