



The countryside charity
North Yorkshire

PO Box 189
York
YO7 9BL
www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk
Tel: 07983 088120
Email: info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk

Branch President
The Lord Crathorne KCVO
Branch Chair
Mr S White

Authority: North Yorkshire County Council

Type of consultation: EIA Screening Opinion

Full details of application/consultation: NY/2020/0034/SCO Request for an EIA Scoping Opinion regarding the proposed extraction of limestone

At land at: to the north of Gebdykes Quarry, Masham

Type of response: Comment

Date of Submission: 6th April 2020

All responses or queries relating to this submission should be directed to the Secretary for the Trustees at the contact details shown above on this frontispiece.

All CPRE North Yorkshire comments are prepared by the charity using professional planners whose research and recommendations form the basis of this response in line with national CPRE policies.

External planning consultant used in this response:



KVA Planning Consultancy
Katie Atkinson, BA (Hons), Dip TP, MA
MRTPI
www.kvaplaning.co.uk

Comment

CPRE North Yorkshire welcomes the opportunity to comment on the EIA screening request issued by the applicants Lightwater Quarries Limited for an extension of the Limestone Quarry at land north of Gebdykes Quarry, Masham.

Gebdykes Quarry is an active limestone quarry with an area of approximately 33.7ha. It is located to the north-east of Masham, North Yorkshire, approximately 10 km east of the A1(M). Access is currently taken from Halfpenny House Lane to the east. Limekiln Lane runs across the northern boundary of the existing operating area.

The applicant, is proposing to extend the quarry by 27ha to the north to secure circa 6,000,000 tonnes of saleable limestone, providing circa 18 years additional operational life for the quarry with an average annual output of 350,000 tonnes.

The extension area comprises a small extension to the northern boundary of the existing site to the south of Limekiln Lane but the majority in a new extraction area in the three arable fields to the north of the lane. It is proposed to connect the existing and proposed areas through creation of new junctions on either side of Limekiln Lane.

The North Yorkshire County Council, City of York and North York Moors National Park Authority Joint Minerals and Waste Joint Plan (MWJP) is currently undergoing examination by the Planning Inspectorate. The submitted Publication Draft (2016) identifies the site area as Site Allocation MPJ11. The whole site and the surrounding area are identified as safeguarding areas for magnesian limestone and building stone in the emerging plan.

The application does require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as the proposed extension is over 25ha and therefore is classed as 'Schedule 1 development' under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England) Regulations 2017. The areas to be considered within the EIA as proposed by the applicant include: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA); Ecology; Soils and agriculture; Water resource; Cultural heritage; Noise; Vibration; Air quality; Transport; and Climate change. The proposals would also include a revised restoration and management plan for the entire site including the extension.

CPRENY do not have any comments at this stage but believe that the proposed surveys and analysis should be undertaken as planned in order to determine the most accurate mitigation requirements going forward, should the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) be so inclined as to permit the application in a forthcoming application.

CPRENY reserve the right to comment at the appropriate time when the application, including an EIA, is submitted to the MPA.