



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Place Directorate
David Shepherd
Economic Regeneration, Development Management
PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9FE
Head of Service: Joe Jenkinson

Chris Lowden
SLR Consulting Limited
Aspect House
Aspect Business Park
Bennerley Road
Nottingham NG6 8WR

My Ref: 2019/ENQ/00813
Your Ref:
Date: 3rd January 2020
Enquiries to: Hannah Andrew
Direct Dial: 01226 775752
E-Mail: hannahandrew@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Mr Lowden,

**Request under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning
(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for a Scoping Opinion**

Proposed Extension to Quarry Workings

I refer to the scoping report received in connection with the above proposed development and your request for a "scoping opinion" for an Environmental Statement which is scheduled to accompany the application. This follows the screening opinion issued 16th September 2019 which determined that the proposal does constitute EIA development.

I must firstly apologise for the delay in issuing this response to you and thank you for your detailed scoping report which has been helpful. The Council agrees the majority of the topics listed in the scoping report would provide sufficient coverage for the Environmental Statement which is scheduled to accompany the planning application. However, as the site is a geological SSSI it is the Council's view, and that of the Sheffield Area Geology Trust that a detailed assessment of this and the impact of the proposed on it will be required. This can be either as a standalone chapter or included with the hydrology assessment. Further information regarding the scope to be covered is included below.

Therefore, for the avoidance of doubt we would expect the following chapters to be in the ES:

- Introduction
- Setting and Description
- Proposed working Scheme and Alternatives
- Summary of Planning Policy
- Ecology
- Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE**



PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

- Cumulative Impact

It is accepted that Air Quality, Noise, Transport, Cultural Heritage, Climate Change, Accidents, Natural Disasters and Hazards and Population and Health can be scoped out. However, these issues should be covered in the wider supporting information provided with the planning application.

CONSULTATIONS

The following internal and external consultees were contacted in order to seek their views on the scope of the ES:-

Internal:-

Air Quality Pollution Control Officer – Chris Shields
 Biodiversity Officer – Trevor Mayne
 Pollution Control – James Gardham
 Drainage – Ian Grayson

External:-

Natural England – Liam O'Reilly
 Sheffield Area Geology Trust – Rick Ramsdale

Below is a summary of the responses provided:-

Air Quality – Reviewed the scoping request and comfortable with the conclusions that a detailed air quality assessment is not required.

Biodiversity Officer –

- The LPA/MPA does not have its own in-house geological expertise: we rely on advice/ support from Sheffield Area Geology Trust and hence I recommend that they are also consulted for their opinion.
- Regarding the Scoping Opinion report by SLR (October 2019, Final) – at s2.7.2 West Haigh Wood Local Nature Reserve is not described, which is an oversight. The statutory Dearne Valley 'Nature Improvement Area' is not mentioned – this needs to be evaluated in the ES.
- No attempt seems to have been made to gain data on non-statutory Ancient Woodlands or Local Sites – i.e. Local Wildlife Sites and RIGS/ Local Geology Sites – this should be done.
- Regarding restoration s3.5 I would request that woodland plantation is not recreated and that this proposal is replaced with additional wildflower grassland creation: it is the grassland which currently offers the best habitat on the nature reserve/ country park – particularly with respect to protected ground-nesting birds such as skylark. The wetland feature is welcomed as it adds value to the nature reserve. I would request that the wetland feature is designed so as to allow translocation of white-clawed crayfish into it (by myself, with an NE licence to do so) to act as an 'ark site' as this Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan species is under threat of extinction in the borough and minerals restoration schemes offer the best chance to conserve the species locally.
- Regarding table 4-1 Environmental Topics – with respect to ecology, I am not satisfied that the report has gained and interpreted Local Site information so this needs to be added. I disagree that no targeted reports other than a phase 1 habitat survey are needed: I think that ground-nesting bird, amphibian and reptile surveys are appropriate.

- Regarding the format of the ES in s5.1 – I think a chapter on geology should be included.

Drainage – Reviewed the scoping request and comfortable with the scope of the assessment as described.

Pollution Control – The proposed methodology to inform the noise assessment within the noise and vibration chapter are considered acceptable by the relevant officer.

Natural England – detailed advice has been provided by Natural England which is appended to this letter.

Sheffield Area Geology Trust – given the sensitivity of the geological environment and the presence of the SSSI the geological chapter needs to be robust and should include:

- a detailed geology map
- clear reference to the target clay horizon they are planning to excavate.
- an impact assessment on the marine band, not only in the existing section (where we are assured there will be no effect) but also in the new section (where the depth of excavation is not clarified) if the target horizon lies close to or below the marine band.

Further discussion with SAGT may be helpful to fully agree the scope of this aspect of the EIA.

A Non-Technical Summary

It is a statutory requirement to prepare a non-technical summary to sit alongside the ES to enable non-experts to understand its findings

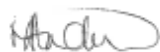
RECOMMENDATION

This letter represents the Council's "scoping opinion". The contents of this letter, including the comments from consultees, should be taken into account when preparing the version of the Environmental Statement to accompany the planning application.

Any additional comments from consultees subsequently received will be forwarded on to you and should be taken into account when preparing the planning application and Environmental Statement.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully



Hannah Andrew, Senior Planner

For and on behalf of
Development Management
Joe Jenkinson BA (Hons) MSc
Head of Planning and Building Control
www.barnsley.gov.uk/developmentmanagement