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INTRODUCTION

This document comprises an Environmental Statement ('ES') and has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited ('SLR') on behalf of Michelmersh Brick Holdings PLC ('the applicant'). The ES forms part of a package of documents being formally submitted to Barnsley Council (as mineral planning authority, 'MPA') in support of two planning applications relating to land at Carlton Main Brickworks, Grimethorpe, Barnsley.

- 1.1 The applicant is firstly submitting a planning application for a small lateral extension to the clay workings at the Carlton Main Brickworks. Concurrent with this, a second planning application is being submitted to amend the restoration scheme for the mineral workings to remove the requirement to infill the quarry void with non-hazardous biodegradable wastes and create a lower level restoration scheme using quarry (mineral) wastes along with imported inert wastes.
- 1.2 This ES aims to provide an objective account of the possible significant environmental effects of the proposed development by setting out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') which has been undertaken. It is intended to provide the MPA with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole. The ES has been prepared in line with the framework provided in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 with cognisance of the guidance set out in the online National Planning Practice Guidance and The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's "*Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*".

Application Submission Package

- 1.3 This ES comprises the second of two volumes submitted to Barnsley Council to accompany the planning submission. In addition to the formal planning application forms and certificates, the full submission comprises:
 - Volume 1 - Planning Statement;
 - Volume 2 - Environmental Statement;
 - Volume 2A – ES Text;
 - Volume 2B – ES Technical Appendices; and
 - Volume 2C – A Non-Technical Summary of the ES.
- 1.4 The Planning Statement supports the planning submission and considers the proposals in the context of relevant planning policies, and other material considerations, such as national planning policy.

- 1.5 The Non Technical Summary (NTS) has been produced as a separate, standalone document in line with best practice prescribed by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) to accompany the planning submission, being a mandatory part of the ES. The purpose of the NTS is to provide, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the likely significant effects that the proposed development would have on the environment.

The Site

- 1.6 The Carlton Main Brickworks and its associated quarry are located¹ approximately 7km to the east of Barnsley and 4.4km to the south west of South Kirkby, with Wakefield lying 15.5km to the north northwest. More specifically, it is located immediately to the south of Grimethorpe, in the eastern side of the A6195 Park Spring Road.
- 1.7 The brickworks comprises a brick manufacturing plant and associated stockyards within the western part of the applicant's land holding along with a quarry which provides the raw materials for the plant. The Southern Extension is located at the south-eastern corner of the quarry workings and extends southwards for around 250m.
- 1.8 For identification purposes the extent of the Quarry is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SE 41319 08218.

The Proposed Development

- 1.9 As noted above the applicant is submitting two planning applications at Carlton Main Brickworks.
- 1.10 The first planning application is for a small lateral extension to the quarry workings to facilitate the extraction of around 500,000m³ of mudstone/siltstone (gross, not allowing for mineral waste²) for use in the brickworks. The extension would encompass around 3.5 hectares (ha) of land, which despite being in the ownership of the applicant, comprises part of the neighbouring country park. Clay would be extracted in the same fashion as elsewhere in the Quarry using a back hoe hydraulic excavator³, which loads the mineral into articulated dump trucks for transfer to the stockpiling area (which is located on the eastern side of the brickworks building). In view of the variable nature of the deposit, it is necessary to work several faces at once to ensure that a suitable 'blend' of raw material is available for the brickworks; in this respect, a series of 3m to 5m high faces have been excavated and progressively advanced in an easterly direction, advancing up the eastern slope. Each face is separated from the next by an access 'bench' upon which the excavator sits.
- 1.11 The applicant currently extracts mudstones and siltstones from the Quarry on a campaign basis (i.e. the mineral is extracted over a period of around 12 weeks per year, as opposed to continuously throughout the year). Campaigns are principally undertaken during the drier summer months, as the weak and friable nature of the rocks forming the quarry benches (see below) can lead to

¹ All distances measured from the centre of the site to centre of the settlement using Google Earth

² Mineral waste accounts for between 15% and 25% of the gross volume meaning useable reserve for brickmaking ranges between 375,000m³ and 425,000m³

³ sandstone seams are pre-crushed adjacent to the face using mobile crushing plant

problems in maintaining the integrity of haulage routes within the Quarry during periods of wet weather. As such, there are periods of activity and periods when there are no operations within the quarry workings.

- 1.12 During annual excavation campaigns, approximately 50,000m³ to 60,000m³ of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone are excavated and transferred to the stocking area adjacent to the brickworks. This material weathers (break down) in the stockpile over the year; the material is blended during the load out process prior to feeding into factory for crushing and mixing.
- 1.13 The second planning application is being made pursuant to section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to 'vary' the approved restoration scheme for the wider quarry workings, as authorised by planning permission ref. 2007/1784 (dated 4 January 2008). The approved restoration scheme envisaged that the void would be filled with biodegradable (non-hazardous) wastes; typically being sourced from household, commercial and industrial premises within the South Yorkshire area. However, in view of European and national policy drivers to divert such waste from landfill (in line with the 'Waste Hierarchy') landfill of non-hazardous wastes is no longer seen as a viable or sustainable means of restoring the site. In view of this, the second aspect of the scheme seeks to amend the restoration scheme, moving away from infilling with non-hazardous wastes and using inert construction and demolition wastes instead to create the restored landform. Moreover, it is proposed to amend the final profile of the restored landform; due to the change in waste type, it is no longer necessary to create a domed profile and so a lower level restoration scheme is being proposed. In so doing the timescale for achieving final restoration is greatly reduced.
- 1.14 The planning applications do not make any changes to the existing brickworks, which are located to the west of the Quarry and subject to separate planning permissions.

The Applicant

- 1.15 Established in 1997, Michelmersh Brick Holdings PLC has grown through acquisition and organic growth, producing over 125 million clay bricks and pavers annually. The Group currently owns five production units across the UK; Michelmersh, Blockleys, Carlton, Charnwood and Freshfield Lane. Using modernised production methods that emphasise sustainable building solutions and adhere to the most stringent production requirements, Michelmersh is able to produce high quality product standards with a low ecological footprint. The Group remains at the forefront of industry innovation and was the first clay product manufacturer in the UK to offer intuitive Building Information Modelling files, hosted on its dedicated platform bimbricks.com.
- 1.16 Michelmersh strives to be a well invested, long term, sustainable and environmentally responsible business which has evolved from brands that enjoy rich heritages, becoming one of the most trusted names behind today's prestigious built environments.
- 1.17 With over 130 years' experience, Carlton has fine-tuned the production of a broad spectrum of high quality, durable bricks. Carlton boasts the ability to manufacture monotone colour blends in rustic, dragwire, smooth and sand faced textures, which are widely used for contemporary brickwork detailing in commercial, retail and residential developments. The Company produces durable, versatile blends that are renowned for their ability to seamlessly match 20th century brickwork and

excel in sensitive conservational specifications for specialised restoration or refurbishment projects. Our collections are ideal for new housing, commercial developments and individual self-build projects, complementing a vast array of vernacular architecture.

- 1.18 Products are currently manufactured in accordance with the requirements of British Standards: BS EN 771-1. In compliance with independently verified ISO 14001 Environmental Management systems.
- 1.19 Michelmersh Brick is the UK's largest producer of traditionally handmade bricks and specials, and produces approximately 38 million bricks each year from the Carlton Main brickworks in South Yorkshire. The works provides employs 63 people on a full time equivalent basis and is a significant user of local goods and services.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 1.20 Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') is an important procedure for ensuring that the likely effects of a new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before the development is allowed to proceed. The term EIA describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are given "*development consent*", which in the UK includes the grant of a planning permission. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects.
- 1.21 An ES is a report of an EIA that is required to be submitted with a planning application for major and other developments that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment. It evaluates the likely environmental impacts of the development, together with an assessment of how the severity of the impacts could be reduced.
- 1.22 Chapter 4 within this volume provides further information on the legislative requirements regarding EIA and in particular, how the scope of the EIA has been derived.

THE SUBMISSION AND ITS STRUCTURE

- 1.23 The first section of this ES provides an overview of the submission and the regulatory framework in which it sits. Subsequent sections of the ES provide a description of the application site; set out its planning history; describe the development proposals and alternatives considered; set out the relevant planning policy considerations; and then provide individual and cumulative analysis and evaluation of the likely significant effects of the development on the human and natural environment. Where potential environmental effects are identified, mitigation strategies are secured against the impact and residual effects are assessed. As such, the ES is intended to provide the LPA with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of local amenity and the environment as a whole.
- 1.24 This document is organised and presented in the following way:

Background Information (Chapters 1-5) – This part of the ES provides the reader with an overview of the application site and its surrounding environs (Chapter 2) alongside a description

of the development for which planning permission is being sought and alternatives to the proposed development are considered (Chapter 3). It also provides an overview of the legislative requirements relating to EIA (Chapter 4). Finally the planning policies relevant to the EIA at both a local and national level are outlined (Chapter 5).

Environmental Assessments (Chapters 6-11) – For each environmental topic, a package of relevant background information and data is provided and the potential effects are considered. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are suggested and any residual effects are considered. Taking into consideration the results of the scoping exercise, the following environmental assessments have been undertaken:

Chapter 6	Landscape and Visual Impact
Chapter 7	Ecology
Chapter 8	Water Environment
Chapter 9	Geology
Chapter 10	Topics Scoped Out of EIA
Chapter 11	Cumulative Impacts

Project Team

- 1.25 SLR is a multi-disciplinary environmental consultancy to *inter alia* the minerals, energy and waste management industries, and also provides advice to local authorities and the Environment Agency on strategic issues. SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and has secured the EIA Quality Mark awarded by IEMA.
- 1.26 In preparing this submission package, SLR has drawn upon the expertise of an in-house team of specialists comprising planners, landscape architects and environmental scientists for all of the technical assessments. SLR has also worked with the management teams and technical staff of Michelmersh Brick Holdings PLC, as part of an iterative process, to ensure that the proposed development is practical, feasible and optimises environmental protection.

Publication

- 1.27 Paper copies of the ES can be obtained from SLR Consulting Ltd at the following address:
- 15 Middle Pavement (Floors 2 and 3)
Nottingham
NG1 7DX
- 1.28 The ES is available in both paper and CD-ROM format, for which charges of £150 and £25 are applicable respectively. A copy of the NTS is available free of charge on request subject to the

provision of a valid email address. In addition, the application documents will be available to download from the Barnsley Council website.

DEFINITIONS

1.29 The following references are used in this ES:

Term	Definition
The ‘applicant’.	Michelmersh Brick Holdings PLC (MBH for short). This is the company making the planning application and who will undertake the development
Southern Extension	the proposed 3.5ha extension to the existing quarry workings. This is also the ‘application site’ for the main (first) planning application.
The Quarry	The quarry area to the north of the Southern Extension and New Park Springs Country Park; east of the Brickworks, south of Charles Street/Taylor Crescent and west of a cemetery and open ground, occupying an area of around 19ha (be it the planning permission extends to around 28ha). This is also the ‘application site’ for the second planning application.
The Brickworks	An area of land adjacent to the Quarry which the brick manufacturing plant (factory) and associated ancillary infrastructure is located. This area is not covered by the planning permission for the quarry, but has a combination of individual planning permissions for buildings and authorisations under Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order), including preceding orders.
Mineral Planning Authority (MPA for short)	A function of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, who will determine the planning application.
Existing Planning Permission	Planning permission ref. 2007/1784 dated 04/01/2008 and extends to around 28ha.

STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

1.30 The EIA Regulations introduces a new requirement for the “*developer to ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts*”, with the environmental statement to be “*accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant experience and qualifications of such experts*” [refer to Regulation 18(5) (a) and (b)].

1.31 The ES has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd which has a specialist capability in mineral and waste planning. SLR is a member of the ‘Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’ (IEMA) with an awarded EIA ‘Quality Mark’. The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by IEMA through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:

- EIA Management
- EIA Team Capabilities
- EIA Regulatory Compliance

- EIA Context & Influence
- EIA Content
- EIA Presentation
- Improving EIA practice

1.32 The ES has been prepared by professional consultants with appropriate skills and experience to be considered to be 'competent experts' as defined by the EIA regulations.