

Horsehay Quarry Middle Barton Road Duns Tew

14/00625/CM

Ward:The Astons and Heyford

District Councillor: Cllrs Macnamara & Kerford Brynes

Case Officer: Shona King

Recommendation: CDC raises no objections

Applicant: Smiths And Sons (Bletchington) Limited

Application Description: Proposed Northern and Eastern extension to Duns Tew Quarry (East) to extract approximately 415 000 tonnes of saleable sand and the continuation of importation of aggregate for blending and merchanting/onward sale for 16/17 years with restoration to a mix of woodland, geo-diversity benefits and nature conservation (OCC Ref MW.0036/14)

Committee Referral: Major application **Committee Date:** 19.06.14

1. Site Description and Proposed Development

- 1.1 Horsehay Quarry is situated to the south of Duns Tew, with sites on either side of the road running between Duns Tew and Middle Barton. This application relates to the East Quarry. There are some residential properties near to the site. The southern part of the site is a SSSI and it is located within 2km of the Middle Barton Fen and there are records of protected species at the site.
- 1.2 There has been a long history of quarrying at the site with records going back to the 1950's. Most recently the continuation of the use of the site was considered in 2009, 09/01106/CM, which sought to continue the development of sand extraction, restoration to agriculture and nature conservation, storage and sand importation for blending and sale under planning permission 07/0394/P/CM.
- 1.3 Consent is sought for an extension to East Quarry to the north and east for extraction of sand and the continuation of the importation of aggregate for 16/17 years. It is also proposed to restore the site to a mix of woodland, geo-diversity benefits and nature conservation. The application is a County Matter.

2. Application Publicity

- 2.1 As this matter is a County Matter, all publicity has been undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council.

3. Consultations

- 3.1 As this matter is a County Matter, all formal consultations have been undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council.

4. Relevant National and Local Policy and Guidance

- 4.1 Development Plan Policy

Adopted Cherwell Local Plan (Saved Policies)

C7: Landscape Conservation
C13: Area of High Landscape Value

4.2 Other Material Policy and Guidance

Submission Cherwell Local Plan – January 2014 (SLP)

The Submission Local Plan (January 2014) has now been through public consultation and was submitted for examination in January 2014, although this plan does not have Development Plan status, it is a material planning consideration. The plan sets out the Council's strategy for the District to 2031. The policies listed below are considered to be material to this case and are not replicated by saved Development Plan policy:

ESD10: Protection & Enhancement of Biodiversity & the Natural Environment
ESD13: Local Landscape Protection & Enhancement

National Planning Policy Framework

Planning Practice Guidance

5. Appraisal

5.1 The key issues for consideration in this application are:

- Visual amenity
- Ecology
- Highway safety

Visual amenity

5.2 The proposed extension to the quarry is proposed on 6.1 ha of intensively managed arable land and it is well integrated into the landscape. It is not considered that the proposed extension will result in any significant harm to the visual amenity of the area by reason of its location, surrounding topography and the existing planting in the area.

Ecology

5.3 The Council's Ecologist has not been consulted on this application. However the previous applications for the site have required mitigation and protection of habitat. It is expected that the County Council's Ecologist will be consulted and that these requirements will be repeated.

Highway safety

5.4 The proposal is not considered to result in any significant increase in any detriment to highway safety. It is recommended that the routing agreement is repeated for this application.

Engagement

5.5 With regard to the duty set out in paragraphs 186 and 187 of the Framework, no problems or issues have arisen during the application. It is considered that the duty to be positive and proactive has been discharged through the efficient and timely determination of the application.

Conclusion

5.6 Given the above the proposal is considered to be acceptable and will not result in any significant detriment to the visual amenities of the area, ecology of the site nor to highway safety.

6. Recommendation

That Cherwell District Council raise no objections to the proposal