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Department of Place

Planning, Transportation and Highways Development Services

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Ref:

Date: 10 February 2021

Dear Mr Smedley

Proposed quarry - Extraction of dimension stone with restoration - Horn Crag Quarry Off Fishbeck Lane Silsden West Yorkshire

Screening Opinion of the Council under the TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

I write with reference to the above requesting a screening opinion of the Planning Authority for the development as outlined in your letter of the 19 January 2021.

Proposed Development:

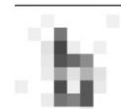
The description of the development is as set out below.

The proposed development is a dimension stone quarry at a historic quarry site ('The Site') near Silsden, West Yorkshire. The proposals would involve the extraction of high-quality dimension stone with restoration, using only site won materials, to achieve biodiversity net gains, and a final landform.

The total mineral to be processed is approximately 940,000 tonnes. This figure includes sandstone in the cores that was considered unsuitable for dimension stone known as 'interburden'. The approximate extraction rate is 20,000 tonnes per annum.

I can confirm that the Planning Authority is of the view that the above proposed development would be under category 2 Extractive Industry of Schedule 2 of the EIA regulations.

The site is not within a 'sensitive area' and the thresholds have been applied. The applicable thresholds and criteria for this type of development as outlined in Schedule 2 Extractive Industry under column 1 (a) quarries, open cast mining and peat extraction



(unless included in Schedule 1) and as set out in column 2, this is applicable to all quarry developments.

The proposed scheme therefore constitutes 'Schedule 2 development' for the purpose of the EIA regulations and the proposal needs to be screened to determine whether the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and hence whether an Environmental Assessment is required. The EIA regulations and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) requires the Planning Authority to take into account the selection criteria as set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA regulations when deciding whether a Schedule 2 development is an EIA development.

These include:-

1. Characteristics of development
2. Location of development
3. Characteristics of the potential impact.

To aid the Planning Authority in the determination as to whether the proposal is likely to have significant environmental effects, the Planning Authority has also had regard to indicative thresholds and criteria as set out in the EIA regulations and NPPG and has used a matrix for this purpose (attached).

1. Characteristics of development

(a) The size of development- The development would be approximately 6 ha extracting approx. 20,000tpa, which is less than the indicative criteria for EIA quarry development of 15 hectares and 30,000tpa .

(b) Cumulation with other development- It is not considered that there are other significant developments within proximity that would create a cumulative effect.

(c) Use of natural resources- Beyond the extraction of stone, no natural resources would be lost.

(d) Production of waste- the development would not produce any significant waste - reuse of quarry waste in restoration.

(e) Pollution and nuisances – Noise, vibration and dust expected from the extraction activities, however it is not considered to be significant or long term. Mitigation of any noise, dust, vibration can be achieved through the planning application/conditions.

(f) Risk of major accidents and or disasters, including those caused by climate change- The development would involve the standard risks associated with any such operation consistent with quarrying and ancillary processing practices. The risk of accidents should be low and standard Health & Safety procedures imposed by regimes outside of the planning remit should be adopted, implemented and adhered to at all times during the development.

There is no evidence that the proposal would have any significant impact upon climate change.

(g) Risk to human health - It is considered that there are not likely to be any significant effects to human health.

2. Location of Development

(a) Existing Land Use- The site is a 'greened over' former quarry. The potential for impact in terms of the location of the development is not significant.

(b) Relative abundance, quality, regenerative capacity of natural resources- The potential for impact is considered limited.

(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment- The proposal is not within any sensitive location and the impacts on natural resources, bar the extraction itself are limited. The proposal is not within or adjacent to any national environmental designation, but the site is part of the Bradford wide Ecological habitat network and is within 2.5km of the South Pennine Moors SPA, where use of the land by foraging birds from the SPA needs to be considered; there may be some impact, but it is not considered significant and it is considered that it can't be mitigated and/or controlled via planning conditions and/or obligations.

3. Types and Characteristics of the Potential Impact

(a) Magnitude & Extent of impact- The magnitude and extent of the proposal on human health, population, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape are likely, however these impacts with appropriate mitigation measures are unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects

(b) Nature of Impact- The process will likely produce, dust/air pollution and noise. The application would be supported by a noise and dust assessment and with appropriate mitigation measures are unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects. The impacts on groundwater are not considered to be significant and a hydrological risk assessment is proposed to be submitted with the application to address private water supplies.

(c) Transboundary nature of impact- It is not considered any operational impacts are likely to carry significantly beyond the proposal site.

(d) Intensity and complexity of impact- The magnitude and complexity of any impacts are not considered to be substantial due to the size of the development and volume per annum to be extracted.

(e) Probability of Impact – Most of the operational impacts are likely to be relatively localised and could be controlled by planning conditions.

(f) Expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact - The majority of the impacts on human health, population, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape are temporary and of duration in line with a small scale dimension stone quarry. The majority of impacts associated with the quarrying can be controlled via planning conditions are not considered permanent.

(g) Cumulation with other existing/approved development - The proposal is unlikely to give rise to any significant additional impacts to the area, in isolation or cumulatively and any effects would be primarily localised.

(h) Possibility of reducing the impact- The majority of potential impacts are primarily localised and as such can be controlled via planning conditions.

Conclusion

Having completed the screening exercise, for the reasons given above and in the attached appendix, the Planning Authority considers that the proposed development is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment.

The proposed development as described therefore does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment to accompany any future planning application, under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

Decision: EIA Not Required

Date of Decision: 10 February 2021

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Yousuf', written in a cursive style.

Mohammed Yousuf
Area Planning Manager

APPENDIX 1

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 SCREENING MATRIX

1. ASE DETAILS			
Case Reference	21/00437/SCR	Brief description of the project / development	Proposed quarry - Extraction of dimension stone with restoration
Applicant	The Mineral Planning Group Ltd		
LPA	Bradford Council		
2. EIA DETAILS			
Is the project Schedule 1 development according to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?			No
If YES, which description of development (THEN GO TO Q4)			
Is the project Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations?			Yes
If YES, under which description of development in Column 1 and Column 2?			Column 1 (a) quarries, open cast mining and peat extraction (unless included in Schedule 1). Column 2, this is applicable to all quarry developments.
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?			No
If YES, which area?			Click here to enter text.
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded/met?			Yes
If yes, which applicable threshold/criteria?			Any development except construction of buildings or other ancillary structures where the new floorspace does not exceed 1,000 square metres.
3. LPA/SOS SCREENING			
Has the LPA or SoS issued a Screening Opinion (SO) or Screening Direction (SD)? (In the case of Enforcement appeals, has a Regulation 37 notice been issued)			No
If yes, is a copy of the SO/SD on the file?			
If yes, is the SO/SD positive?			
4. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT			
Has the applicant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?			N/A

Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?)) or N/A) Briefly explain answer to Part 2a and, if applicable and/or known, include name of feature and proximity to site (If answer in Part 2a / 2b is 'No', the answer to Part 3a / 3b is 'N/A')	(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?)) or N/A) Is a significant effect likely, having regard particularly to the magnitude and spatial extent (including population size affected), nature, intensity and complexity, probability, expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact and the possibility to effectively reduce the impact?
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1. NATURAL RESOURCES

1.1 Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	Yes	A void will be created by the extraction of stone	No	A comprehensive restoration and aftercare scheme would be required through the planning process and although the changes are permanent they are not considered to be significant having regard to the type & scale of development
1.2 Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes	Extraction of stone Some use of fossil fuels during excavation and transit of materials but not expected to be extraordinary.	No	Typical of a minerals operation which seeks to provide building stone to meet identified needs. No significant adverse effect anticipated.
1.3 Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	No		N/a	

2. WASTE

2.1 Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	It is expected that some solid wastes will arise	No	The amounts of solid waste are expected to be relatively small and used in restoration.
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Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)		(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)	
3. POLLUTION AND NUISANCES				
3.1 Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	No		N/A	
3.2 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes	Noise, dust and vibration expected from the excavation/restoration activities	No	Mitigation by means of planning conditions. Not expected to be significant, permanent or very long term
3.3 Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes	Possibly by means of private water supplies	No	Small number of private water supplies could be impacted upon. A hydrological assessment to be submitted. Mitigation by means of planning conditions. Not expected to be significant, permanent or very long term
3.4 Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No		N/a	
4. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH				
4.1 Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Limited likelihood associated with use of plant and machinery. Plant typical of excavation activities and associated transport.	No	No significant effects anticipated. Quarry operations are controlled by HSE.
4.2 Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or	No		N/a	

Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?)) or N/A)		(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?)) or N/A)	
decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)				
5. WATER RESOURCES				
5.1 Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?	Yes	Due to size of the site a Flood Risk Assessment required	No	Unlikely that flooding, water quality or the groundwater flow regime will be affected or contaminated. No significant effects anticipated
6. BIODIVERSITY (SPECIES AND HABITATS)				
6.1 Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, or any non-designated / non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local))).	Yes	The proposal is not in or effecting nationally designated sites The site is part of the Bradford wide Ecological habitat network and is within 2.5km of the South Pennine Moors SPA, where use of the land by foraging birds from the SPA needs to be considered	No	There may be some impact, but it is not anticipated that it will be significant. The proposal includes restoration and will include net biodiversity
6.2 Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?	Yes	Possible foraging, nesting and breeding for birds related to SPA	No	As part of planning application an assessment required as to whether the land may be functionally connected to the SPA and if so a Habitats Regulation Assessment would be required. Due to the size of the

Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)		(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)	
				site and distance from the SPA the it is not anticipated that it will be significant
7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL				
7.1 Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? ¹ Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	Yes	The site lies within the Rombalds Ridge Landscape Character Area as defined within the Bradford SPD. It is designated as within an area of Upland Pasture.	No	Potential for some visual impact within the immediate landscape. However, such impacts are not considered significant within the meaning of the regulations – small scale quarry
7.2 Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?)	No	Footpath through and around the site – but not understood to be in high use and few residential properties nearby	N/A	
8. CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY				
8.1 Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	No	There are no known listed buildings or structures in the redline of the project, or in the direct vicinity that would be affected by the project.	N/a	

Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)		(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)	
9. TRANSPORT AND ACCESS				
9.1 Are there any routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	Public footpaths	No	Any footpaths directly impacted to be diverted and any crossing points to be controlled by planning conditions. No significant effects anticipated
9.2 Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	Possibly some issues	No	Traffic generation will very small 5 HGV movements on any one working day - maximum of 20 HGV movements per week. No significant effects anticipated
10. LAND USE				
10.1 Are there existing land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure /sports / recreation.	Yes	Public footpaths	No	Any footpaths directly impacted to be diverted and any crossing points to be controlled by planning conditions. No significant effects anticipated
10.2 Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No		N/a	
11. LAND STABILITY AND CLIMATE				
11.1 Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g. temperature inversions,	No		N/A	

Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?)) or N/A		(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?)) or N/A	
fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?				
12. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS				
12.1 Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	No		N/a	
13. TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS				
13.1 Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects? ²	No		N/a	

5. CONCLUSIONS – ACCORDING TO EIA REGULATIONS SCHEDULE 3

In accordance with Schedule 3 of the regulations, it is considered likely that the development by way of its characteristics, size and design, has the potential to have a significant effect on the environment due to the complex interactions between the proposed development, mining legacy, geological and hydrological factors.

Is an ES required?	No	
6. ASSESSMENT (EIA REGS SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT)	OUTCOME	
Likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES NOT Required	

NAME	Carole Howarth
DATE	10 February 2021