

Summary of Proof of Evidence on water issues

Planning permission has been sought for extraction of sandstone at Horn Crag Quarry.

Assessments were undertaken of the water environment in the vicinity of the site, including consideration of impacts which could potentially arise from the proposed development. The investigations were undertaken by consultants Hafren Water Limited and the findings were presented within a Hydrogeological Impact Assessment (HIA) in January 2020.

The geology of the site and its environs is taken from published British Geological Survey mapping, borehole records and site visits. The bedrock comprises sandstone of the Millstone Grit Group.

Without mitigation, a potential Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) linkage may exist from the site to the aquifer. This means that, without mitigation, there is a risk of pollutants entering the aquifer. Potential sources of pollutants during working would principally comprise mobilised suspended solids in surface water, hydrocarbons, due to their storage and use in mobile plant and from foul drainage from site facilities. The receptor is groundwater in the sandstone and in particular a spring collector for private water supply.

Mitigation measures include the careful scheduling of mineral extraction and conforming to best practice in material handling, including compliance with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001.

To mitigate against suspended solids being mobilised and entering the sandstone aquifer, unworked rock will be retained below the quarry floor, above the watertable. This is a widely accepted practice in the quarrying industry, where similar conditions pertain. The proposed mitigation measures will minimise the likelihood of a pollution incident and therefore the potential for contamination of the sandstone aquifer.

Three issues were identified by the Environment Agency in their response to the planning application. These have been addressed fully within an updated HIA report (September 2023), which has been submitted to the Council.

Based upon the updated report the Council have confirmed that they will not be progressing the hydrogeological reason for refusal, as it is agreed that the issue can be dealt with by way of conditions. The proposed planning conditions relating to water issues are considered to be appropriate and proportionate to the water issues at the site.

The proposed scheme addresses issues reportedly occurring at the site in the 1980s. Specifically, a) all foul effluent from welfare facilities will be stored and tankered off-site for

subsequent treatment, b) robust monitoring, safeguarding and spill response measures will be in place and c) as-dug material will be exported for subsequent processing elsewhere.