

Mr G. P. Watson
Northamptonshire County Council
Planning Services
One Angel Square
4 Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1DE

22nd May 2020

Dear Mr Watson,

**Variation of Condition 5 (Consents EN.97.522C and 08/00026/MIN)
Extended operational hours
Wakerley Quarry**

1. In December 2015 two planning consents were granted at the Wakerley Quarry; one for modern conditions of an extant ROMP for the extraction of minerals (reference EN.97.522C); the other for an extension area granted in lieu of part of the original ROMP area being rescinded. (reference 08/00026/MIN). Condition 5 of both consents restrict mineral extraction operations at the quarry to the hours of 07.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday and 07.00 to 13.00 Saturdays with no works on Sundays, public or bank holidays.
2. The current wording of Condition 5 (of both consents) states
“Operations, excluding blasting and the construction of any soil screening mound, shall be confined to the hours of 07.00 to 18.00 Mondays to Fridays and 07.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays with no works on Sundays, public or bank holidays.”
3. This application seeks a formal variation to Condition 5 of both consents to marginally increase the operational hours within the weekdays and extend the hours in which essential maintenance to plant and machinery is undertaken both on weekdays and on Saturdays. It is therefore proposed to vary the condition to read: (**Bold** for amendments or insertion, a strikethrough for deletion).
*“Operations, excluding blasting, ~~and~~ the construction of any soil screening mound **and the maintenance of plant and machinery**, shall be confined to the*



hours of 07.00 to 19.00 Mondays to Fridays and 07.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays with no works on Sundays, public or bank holidays.

The maintenance of plant and machinery shall be confined to 07.00 to 21.00 Monday to Fridays and 07.00 to 16.00 Saturdays, with no works on Sundays, public or bank holidays.”

4. It should be noted there is no proposal to amend conditions 6 or 42e. regarding the working hours to construction soil screening mounds or timings of blasting activities.
5. Since producing graded aggregate from the quarry in 2018 there has been an increasing demand for the quality stone the quarry provides. In order to serve the established and developing markets it is proposed to extend the working day in line with operational hours that governmental advice documents in the form of Planning Practice Guidance have indicated are acceptable for quarry working (i.e. 07.00 to 19.00)
6. Additionally, the Company are seeking to extend the hours in which plant and machinery can be maintained outside of the operational hours to allow for planned or emergency maintenance and repairs to not unduly disrupt the mineral extraction operations throughout the working day.
7. The (Mineral) Planning Practice Guidance (ID 27-021-20140306) offers clear advice as to what constitutes “normal working hours” (i.e. 07.00 -19.00) and the Company are simply seeking to extend the period of mineral extraction operations at the quarry to reflect this conventional guidance.
8. There are no proposals to amend the noise limits imposed to protect the residential amenity of isolated properties that surround the site albeit such properties are at some significant distance from the quarry’s boundary. These properties are:
 - Oak Farm, Wakerley Village
 - Wakerley Church
 - Laxton Hall
 - Town Wood Farm
 - The Bungalows, Shotley
9. In respect of the period when maintenance of plant is proposed to be undertaken outside of the “normal working day” (i.e. 19.00 -21.00 weekdays and 13.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays) it is proposed that a lower noise limit is imposed for site related noise at the identified properties of 42dBA (1 hour).



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10. Given the circumstances an application for each consent has been submitted and payments processed via the planning portal (ref PP-08737813 and PP-08737717) and a hard copy will not be sent on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

John Gough

Planning Director

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Enc.

Application Pro-forma x2

