

# **Wakerley Quarry Northamptonshire**

## **Planning Statement**

Application for Importation of  
engineering materials to  
provide a seal to the storm  
water storage lagoons

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**MICK GEORGE** 



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2015, planning was granted by Northamptonshire County Council for the extraction of approximately 11 million tonnes of limestone from land to the south-west of Wakerley village. The approved scheme extended over some 60ha of land and included the construction of an extended access road which by-passed the village of Wakerley and the roads leading to local villages off the A43.
- 1.2 Planning consent was subsequently granted in March 2017 for the construction of three lagoons at Wakerley Quarry, two of which are designed to hold water primarily for dust control along the extended quarry access road (and the third to serve as a storm water flow attenuation facility).
- 1.3 It was originally intended that each of the lagoons would be sealed using on-site clay overburden but to date no such material has proven to be present within the area that has been excavated. In the absence of any suitable on-site resources, it is therefore proposed that the lagoon seals will be constructed using imported material which is suitable for engineering purposes.
- 1.4 It is estimated that some 11,500 cubic metres of material will be required to undertake this engineering task and it is proposed that this material will be imported using HGVs that would otherwise arrive at the quarry empty to collect processed limestone. In other words, the proposal to import a limited volume of material for engineering purposes will not result in any additional HGV movements.
- 1.5 The proposed engineering material would be sourced from local construction projects and would be tested prior to its delivery to ensure that it meets the necessary standard for use as an engineered liner.
- 1.6 On arrival the material will be deposited within the temporary clay storage area before being moved by an excavator and dump trucks to the lagoons to then be levelled and compacted to provide an appropriate seal to the reservoirs thereby ensuring water collected from surface water run-off and/or borehole can be stored for use at the appropriate time.

## 2. PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 The **Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2017)** sets out the broad strategy for minerals and waste related developments in the County to 2031. The Local Plan is underpinned by a 'Vision' and 'Objectives' to realise the vision. The Plan contains a series of policies and proposals that reflect the Visions and Objectives.

### **Objective 2: Sustainable minerals and waste development in Northamptonshire.**

2.2 This objective is about optimising the use of resources by making sure that only those that are really needed are used and that sustainable alternatives are used instead. Resources in this context also include man-made resources.

2.3 In this respect, the development proposals at Wakerley Quarry aim to use materials that are surplus to a particular construction/development scheme, but which are nevertheless suitable for an engineering purpose and as such is an optimum use of a resource. The use of such material in this way also accords with the principle of sustainable development.

2.4 **Chapter 6 – Local Planning Considerations** of the MWLP concentrates on strategic development management matters relating to both minerals and waste related developments.

2.5 **Policy 18** deals with addressing the impact of proposed minerals and waste development and requires, that proposals for minerals and waste development must demonstrate that, inter alia, the following matters have been considered and addressed:

- *“avoiding and / or minimising potentially adverse impacts to an acceptable level, specifically addressing air emissions (including dust)..., and*
- *impacts on flood risk as well as the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater”*

2.6 With regard to the proposal to import suitable material for engineering purposes in order to facilitate construction of the lagoon seals, the use of such material is a fundamental requirement to providing the long-term water storage and storm water attenuation facility alongside the 2km long access road at the Wakerley Quarry site. The stored water will be used as part of the site's approved dust management scheme particularly in controlling dust emissions where the quarry access road approaches Wakerley village. Left unlined the proposed storage facility would not be able to function as intended and would not provide the same degree of attenuation as would otherwise be the case.

2.7 **Policy 19: Encouraging sustainable transport**, urges that minerals and waste related development should seek to minimise transport movements. Supporting paragraph 6.5 acknowledges that *“The impact on the local environment and amenity from traffic associated with minerals and waste development is a key matter for consideration in the planning process.”*

2.8 As stated above, the proposed importation of suitable engineering material is to be undertaken using HGVs that would otherwise arrive at the site empty to collect processed limestone. The use of vehicles in this way is entirely in accordance with the requirements of this policy and is a sustainable use of transport. Were the imported material to be delivered independently then both vehicle miles and associated CO2 emissions would be significantly increased.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 In line with the NPPF and the positive provision for development set out in the Local Plan, it is incumbent upon the County Council (as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority) to always seek to work proactively with applicants to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible (in line with the Local Plan and its policies) and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.
- 3.2 The proposal to import circa 11,500 cubic metres of suitable material for engineering purposes on site in order to facilitate the construction of the necessary basal and sidewall seals to the three lagoon areas is a logical solution in the absence of on-site clay resources. The proposals accord with national and extant local plan policies, and if approved will enable the approved dust management scheme (with its associated environmental benefits) to be implemented as proposed.