STAFFORDSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

Historic England Statement

1.0 Overview

1.1 Historic England made representations to the Staffordshire Minerals Local Plan consultation stage and, in particular, raised objection to the Barton (Wychnor) sand and gravel allocation (Inset Map 5).

1.2 Historic England has not been invited to the examination hearings by The Planning Inspectorate but has continued to discuss possible ways forward with Staffordshire County Council.

1.3 Additional information in the form of a geophysics report for the site was submitted to HE for consideration on 1 February 2016. Unfortunately, the method of survey and resulting information did not provide any further insight into the potential significance of the site or otherwise.

2.0 HE Current position

2.1 Following discussions with Staffordshire County Council at a meeting on 10 March 2016 HE can confirm that it objects to the Barton (Wychnor) allocation within the local plan in its current form. However, if mitigation measures can be made more robust through revised and additional wording HE would not wish to object to the allocation. The revised wording, as discussed with Staffordshire County Council and emailed on Friday 11 March 2016 is as follows (additional text in red font (revised first point and new last point) with a track change for deletion in green font):

Barton (Wychnor) General Information

Historic England, 8th Floor, The Axis, 10 Holliday Street, Birmingham B1 1TG
Telephone 0121 625 6870 HistoricEngland.org.uk
Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.
Parish

Wychnor

Barton under Needwood

Area (hectares)

87

Developer

Hanson Aggregates

Mineral development details

Mineral type(s)

Sand and Gravel

Geological association

River Gravels

Indicated resources (million tonnes)

7

Anticipated annual output (tonnes)

550,000

Anticipated duration of mineral extraction (years)

13

Intended extension to existing quarry

Yes

Cessation date for existing mineral working.

31/12/2030 (refer to condition 5 of ES.12/04/502 M dated 2/6/14).

Development Considerations

- There is a risk of adverse impacts on a scheduled barrow cemetery within the site, and previously unrecorded outlying burials may also be found. English Heritage Historic England must be consulted at an early stage and it is clear that Scheduled Monument Consent will be required for any extraction or associated works. PROPOSED TRACK CHANGE NOW PROPOSED TO DELETE: It is anticipated that the feature would be preserved in situ but further mitigation of impacts on the historic environment is also likely to be required. The site contains many features of archaeological significance and further investigation will be required to inform the process of mitigation of impact. The Scheduled Monument will be preserved in situ subject to an agreed Management Plan.
- The site is close to River Mease SAC. Experience from existing mineral sites in the vicinity suggests that adverse impacts are unlikely, but Appropriate Assessment will be required before any permission could be granted.
- Proximity to sensitive properties at Wychnor Bridge and Catholme Farm needs to be considered as well as the adjacent railway.
- There is a high risk of best & most versatile land being present, so this land should be considered in the restoration of the site.
- Potential to contribute significantly to enhancement of ecological networks and resilience to climate change through restoration to BAP priority habitats including wet woodland, wet grassland and reedbed.
- Part of the site is located within the floodplain of the River Trent (Flood Zones 2 & 3). It must be ensured that there is no net loss of floodplain storage as a result of the excavations. Any excavated material should be stored outside of the extent of the 1 in 100 year (with climate change) floodplain. Any extraction or restoration works should not increase flood risk upstream or downstream of the site. Any ancillary development should be located in areas of lowest risk.
- Opportunities to contribute to the Central Rivers Initiative, Trent and Tame Futurescapes project and objectives of the National Forest should be considered.
- Restoration should include enhancement of the river channel and seek to improve the connectivity between the river and the floodplain. Habitat complexity could be improved which would support a greater number of species. These works would help bring the site in line with WFD objectives.
- Restoration should include enhancement of heritage assets and their setting, and interpretation of their context within the wider historic environment.

2.2 I can confirm that all other HE representations have been addressed within the proposed
modifications to the local plan and there are no other concerns.

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