Highway Development Control Consultation Response

Planning Application Ref: PL/2023/07537

Site Address: Dairy Farm Quarry, Ashton Road, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, SN6 6PA

Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of 19/06818/WCM to retain the aggregate recycling operation for a further two year period to 31 December 2026

Date of Consultation Response: 26th September 2023

I refer to the above planning application received on 13th September 2023 regarding the variation of condition 1 of the permission for 19/06818/WCM to extend the time period for aggregate recycling by two years, with an end date of 31st December 2026.

The supporting Planning Statement explains the reasoning for the requested extension in the operations stating *"Progress with the working and restoration of Dairy Farm Quarry has been severely hampered both directly and indirectly by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Owing to the pandemic, operations at Dairy Farm Quarry were heavily restricted as a result of lockdowns forcing site closure, resultant labour shortages and a lack of available infill material. Indeed, the applicant maintains that it is only in the latter half of 2022 that site operations have recovered to a level typical of pre-pandemic working. The pandemic effectively delayed progress of site restoration operations by two years."*

An extension to the mineral extraction operations on the site (under application PL/2023/07536) seeks to extend the period for mineral extraction by 31st December 2026, with a further year being required for the restoration of the site.

The supporting statement with this current application states that *"The applications to retain on a temporary basis the concrete batching plant and aggregate recycling facility, parallel to the mineral operation, would ensure that the site operation remains viable and sustains employment at the site for a further two year period."*

The Condition 1 of 19/06818/WCM states:

"1 The activities authorised by this permission and all associated plant, machinery and stockpiles of processed or unprocessed material on the site shall be removed and the site restored in accordance with the restoration scheme approved under permission no. 19/06811/WCM on or before 31 October 2024."

The applicant proposes the following variation to the condition:

"The activities authorised by this permission and all associated plant, machinery and stockpiles of processed or unprocessed material on the site shall be removed and the site restored in accordance with the restoration scheme approved under planning permission [insert application reference] on or before 31 December 2026."

The level of traffic movements associated with these operations are limited, by condition, with the facility being restricted to operate no more than 33 days per year, with recyclable materials stockpiled on site and processed over periods of 10 days at a time. Therefore the facility is stated as being used less than 10% of the year.

On the basis that the traffic generation will not change, albeit extended for further two years beyond the expected cessation date, I would not raise any highway objections to the proposed variation of the condition.

If you have any queries regarding the above advice, please contact Amanda Hall on 01225 713323, amanda.hall@wiltshire.gov.uk