

27.6.2016

16/0048/CWMAJM. Variation of conditions 4 (Method of Working amended), 7 (Method of Working amended), 43 (Restoration and Aftercare amended) and 46 (Restoration and Aftercare) of planning consent 13/0090/CWMAJM dated 28/04/2014. Huntsmans Quarry Kineton Thorns Naunton Gloucestershire GL54 3BA.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board wish to make the following comments in respect of this application:

The history of this site and approved methods of restoration are noted.

However the Board is concerned that this proposal represents a new waste operation in its own right that goes beyond the original restoration requirement.

357,000 tonnes of inert waste being dumped in a nationally protected landscape is a significant figure, particularly if its being brought into the AONB from outside.

This proposal represents potentially significant levels of traffic movement, again particularly if waste is being brought into the site from a wide catchment area.

This proposal is therefore contrary to the Board's attached Position Statement on Minerals and Waste and would impact on the landscape during processing, but also on the wider environment in respect of impact on tranquillity and traffic movements.

Particular care would also have to be taken over the future maintenance and access to the SSSI which is unclear from the application.

The Board therefore recommends to the Council that Paragraph 116 of the NPPF is relevant in this case in that this proposal represents "major development" within an AONB. Accordingly the Council should consider whether this development fulfils the tests of Paragraph 116 in terms of "exceptional circumstances" whilst also considering that Paragraph 115 of the NPPF affords the conservation of landscape and scenic beauty in AONBs "great weight" in the decision making process.