

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Steven Aldridge  
Team Manager – Development Management  
Worcestershire County Council  
County Hall  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP



By email only to [SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Dear Steve

### **Broadway Quarry – discharge of aftercare conditions**

Thank you for consulting the Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') on the discharge of aftercare conditions at Broadway Quarry, which is located in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The internationally important flower-rich grasslands of the Cotswolds AONB are one of the AONB's 'special qualities'. In addition, calcareous grassland is identified as a priority habitat for the AONB in the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023. Unfortunately, this wildflower-rich grassland, which covered approximately 40% of the AONB in the 1930s, now covers less than 1.5%. The creation of several hectares of calcareous grassland at Broadway Quarry will make a significant contribution to halting and reversing this decline in biodiversity.

For these reasons, the Board strongly supports the proposed restoration of Broadway Quarry to calcareous grassland habitat. Overall, we are also supportive of the proposed Aftercare Plan.

The Board supports the comments and modifications that have been suggested by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and by Worcestershire County Council's Ecology Team Leader:

1. Amending Monitoring Prescription 5 (p5 of the Aftercare Plan) so that invertebrate surveys are required in all years rather than just depending on what's found in year one. (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust).
2. Sharing the monitoring survey reports (as per Section 1.4 of the Aftercare Plan) with the County Planning Authority as and when these become available. (Worcestershire County Council Ecology Team Leader).

In addition we have the following recommendations:

#### Grassland restoration – seed sources

We note that the Aftercare Plan is looking principally to Worcestershire for sources of suitable brush harvested seed or green hay. However, Broadway Quarry lies within the Cotswolds AONB – which extends into Gloucestershire and beyond - which has over 3,000ha of unimproved limestone grassland (including over half the country's CG5 grassland) and provides a rich resource of suitable seed donor sites including high quality, arable reversion grasslands. We recommend contacting the Board's Glorious Cotswold Grasslands Project to discuss seed source and brush harvested seed supply suitable for the

Conserving, enhancing, understanding and enjoying the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cotswolds Conservation Board Fosse Way Northleach Gloucestershire GL54 3JH

Tel: 01451 862000 Fax: 01451 862001 Email: [info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

Website: [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

restoration work. Any gaps in the species content of locally collected seed can be filled by further targeted collection or purchase of commercially grown seed if required. In addition, the skeletal soils and the areas of loose material that will form below steep ground and the rock faces would be ideal for Cotswold pennycress, fine leaved sandwort and basil thyme.

#### Proposed re-profiling

The Board has no objection to the proposed re-profiling. However, as part of this re-profiling, we recommend that more habitat should be created for invertebrates, for example, by creating low banks, hollows and / or very shallow benches. There should be scope to achieve this without adversely impacting on the establishment and management of the grassland.

#### Longer term management

Establishment of good quality limestone grassland takes time. The Aftercare Plan recognises that the timescale for achieving this is likely to go beyond the obligatory five year aftercare period. It is important to ensure that, by the end of this aftercare period, ongoing, long term management is in place to ensure the successful establishment of the limestone grassland habitat and to build on the investment made in creating this grassland. We therefore seek reassurance that appropriate management, including grazing, will be put in place, both during and after the five year aftercare period.

Assuming that these points are taken on board, we would be satisfied with the discharging of condition 20 of planning permission ref: 08/000024/CM and condition 22 of planning permission 08/000025/CM.

If you have any queries regarding the Board's response, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

John Mills MRTPI  
Planning and Landscape Officer