

## **14/0101/CWMAJM for Oathill Quarry extension.**

Thank you for consulting the Cotswolds Conservation Board\* on this proposal.

In summary the Board raises no comments in this case, subject to the Council being satisfied that the tests of Para.116 of the NPPF have been satisfied and that detailed planning conditions are attached to reflect the previous permissions on the site and ensure full restoration as proposed.

Reasons:

The Board recognises that this is a long established quarry and that existing and proposed landscaping and restoration works do help to mitigate the harm from this development. The proposal is to continue to operate the quarry at a similar level of operation as already controlled by planning condition.

The Council is however recommended (as the “relevant decision taker” – see NPPG 6.3.2014 Natural Environment Para.005) to engage Paragraph 116 of the NPPF as the Board does consider this 3.7 ha extension to an existing quarry to be a form of “major development” in an AONB. The Council should therefore be satisfied in making its decision that there are “exceptional circumstances” to grant permission in this case and accordingly that the assessment tests of Paragraph 116 have been met.

With thanks

Andrew Lord  
Planning & Landscape Officer  
Cotswolds Conservation Board

*\*The Cotswolds Conservation Board (‘the Board’) was established by Parliament in 2004. The Board has two statutory purposes:*

- a) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); and*
- b) To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.*

*In fulfilling these roles, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of people living in the AONB.*

*The Council, as a public authority, is required by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of designation of the AONB in exercising its functions with respect to the area.*

*Planning Practice Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in March 2014 makes clear that the duty of public bodies to have regard to the purpose of the designation of AONBs is relevant in considering development proposals that are situated outside Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundaries, but which might have an impact on the setting of, and implementation of, the statutory purposes of these protected areas.*

*The Guidance also states that National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty management plans may also be material considerations in making decisions on individual planning applications, where they raise relevant issues*