



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Northamptonshire

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WNC/24/00032/MINFUL: Planning Application for a proposed extension to limestone quarry at Pury End, Towcester.

CPRE Northamptonshire has previously commented on this application and we wish to make the following additional comments following the publication of the regulation 25 reports.

We are still of the view that although classed as an extension, the proposal is of a significant size that will have a greater impact on the surrounding countryside and villages than the existing quarry and will be operated by a different company. We consider issues of impact should be treated as a new proposal.

In terms of our principal concerns relating to the site which essentially forms a break between the eastern boundary of Towcester and the villages of Pury End and Paulerspury. We do not feel that the landscape section of the regulation 25 response has fully addressed the importance as an area of landscape within or adjacent to a Green Infrastructure Corridor which acts as a transitional area between the expanding eastern limits of Towcester and the rural communities of the two villages. The response dismisses the proximity of the Green Infrastructure corridor as passing by the site. Whether or not it passes through or adjacent to the site its designation should be recognised and development limited to maintain the permanent separation by open countryside between communities. The definition of the corridor and the setting of the corridor should be fully recognised and the impact of several years of mineral working upon the appreciation of the corridor and its setting fully taken into account. Whilst it is accepted that restoration proposals should follow it is the view of CPRE Northamptonshire in this instance that the harm to this section of countryside over the planned excavation period (which in all probability could be extended) is not outweighed by the benefit of the mineral extraction and that the area should be excluded from the original designation within the minerals plan.

The impact upon heritage assets which is stated to be minimal has not been fully addressed in the regulation 25 response however. We previously expressed concern that impact upon the setting of the Grade I listed entrance to Easton Neston Park had been dismissed and this is still the case. Although the entrance screen and lodges may not be read in conjunction with the site, the whole of that part of Watling Street forms part of the original formal approach. In consequence, quarrying on the opposite side of the road - and the inevitable increase in heavy traffic servicing the quarry - will impact upon the setting of the grade I listed asset for a significant period of time which is not outweighed by the benefit of the minerals extraction in this case.

For the above reasons, CPRE Northamptonshire still considers that, in terms of the Planning balance, the harm caused by the proposals will not be outweighed in this instance by the mineral gains.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Mayes
Chairman, Planning Group
CPRE Northamptonshire