



The countryside charity  
Northamptonshire

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2025

by email to peter.moor@westnorthants.gov.uk

Dear Mr Moor,

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

1. The above minerals application has been brought to the attention of CPRE Northamptonshire. Although this is an extension to an existing quarry we wish to raise the following concerns:
2. 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; therefore, issues of impact should be treated as a new proposal.
3. The proposals are on land which essentially forms a break between the eastern boundary of Towcester and the villages of Pury End and Paulerspury. This is an important area of landscape and within 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. We therefore consider this area to be a valued landscape area as defined in section 180 of the NPPF and therefore one which should be protected from development. It is accepted that restoration proposals should follow however 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.
4. Various studies and references to viewpoints are included in the justification. However, it is the view of CPRE that the cumulative overall impact on the appreciation of the landscape in this area will be significant, including the impact on the setting of the village at Pury End. Again, this will outweigh the benefit of the minerals extracted.
5. The proximity of this proposal to the village of Pury End also gives concern to the impact of noise and dust pollution for the residents such that it would contravene section 1108e of the NPPF. Also, since this site allocation was made in the Minerals Local Plan, the Towcester SUE has been implemented with a large number of new dwellings upon which such pollution could have an impact.

6. The impact upon heritage assets is stated to be minimal however, a full archaeological assessment of the site has not been included. We are also concerned that any impact upon the setting of the Grade I listed entrance to Easton Neston Park has been dismissed. 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 and therefore 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.

7. We would also contest that the impact of traffic from the site has not been adequately addressed, and that the proposal would increase heavy lorries significantly on the A5 such that they will impact on an already busy road which passes close to new and existing residential areas of Towcester. The combined impact of the AL sites should also be taken into consideration as part of the transport assessment for this site as this will add significantly to an already overstretched highway system.

8. For the above reasons, CPRE Northamptonshire 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**