

# **Report on Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Laxton Village Hall**

## **The Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group**

### Attendees

Northants CC Planning  
North East Northants DC  
Burghley House Trust  
Mick George Ltd (Quarry Operators)  
Harringworth PC  
Wakerley PM  
Barrowden PC  
Laxton PM

The meeting was updated on the preparations for commencement of work on site.

### **Alterations to the phasing of extraction.**

As this is a non material variation to the Planning Permission there is no requirement for public consultation on the proposed change. The extraction will commence from the west of the old Aerodrome heading towards Wakerley Wood.

Following the exhibition at Laxton in April and comments by Barrowden Parish Council, a number of amendments have been submitted by MGL on the application these include, increasing the soil bund to meet the existing tree line, retention of a triangular plot of trees to the east of the current footpath, clarification that the hedgerow planting to screen traffic will be on the north side of the access road. Northants CC expect to agree to the proposed variations by the end of May.

### **Importation of Inert Restoration Materials**

MGL held an Exhibition at Laxton in April to provide information on their proposals to use the returning vehicles to site to import inert material for the restoration of each of the extraction phases back to agricultural land. It was explained that this material would be typically be clays and sub-soils from the preparation of foundations on building sites. A new Planning Application will be submitted for this work which will come out for consultation, however no timescale has currently been proposed for the Application.

### **Highways Alterations**

The operator MGL will be entering into a Section 278 Agreement with Northants CC to make alterations to the Wakerley/Fineshades Road crossing, access onto the Duddington Road and also the A43. A highway safety audit has been carried out on the three junctions which has resulted in changes to the original plans as follows

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### Wakerley/Fineshades Road Crossing

The safety audit demonstrated that a straightforward crossroads with give way by quarry traffic was deemed safer than the proposed mini roundabout and plans are being amended accordingly. There are no material changes to the plan for hedgerow removal and replanting to achieve the required visibility plays.

### Duddington Road Access

The safety audit demonstrated a need to move the access road entrance 100 metres closer to the A43 making it only some 50 metres from the A43 junction. This change will reduce the amount of the Duddington Road which will require to be upgraded to 7.3 metres wide. Since the new entrance will be outside the previously agreed planning consent area, a new planning application will be made by MGL once Northants CC Highways Dept have agreed the terms of the Section 278 Agreement. This will also significantly reduce the amount of verge which will have to be altered with resulting benefits for wildlife.

### A43 Junction

MGL will widen the A43 at its junction with the Duddington Road creating a Ghost Island for right turning southbound traffic.

It is expected that it will be a few weeks before the final draft of the Sect 278 Agreement can be finalised and thereafter the new Planning Application will be submitted which in itself will take between 8 to 13 weeks to be determined. It is therefore unlikely that these approvals will be in place before early September and no extraction can commence on site until the access road and all three junctions have been completed.

### Access Road

MGL are seeking to use on site extracted limestone for the 2.5km access road rather than to bring it onto site from other sources thus avoiding the resultant heavy goods vehicle traffic around Wakerley.

### **Pre-commencement Planning Conditions**

In addition to the Highways work, there are a number of planning conditions which must be met before extraction may commence, these include:-

Groundwater protection – 4 pairs of boreholes have been drilled for monitoring purposes and the Groundwater Management submission is currently being considered by Northants CC and Environment Agency.

Ecology Survey – An ecological mitigation plan is being prepared for approval by Northants CC in respect of notable and protected species.

Rights of Way Alterations – These alterations have been approved as part of the planning approval last December and will be implemented prior to commencement. A Barrowden resident's request for the right of way to be across the access road close to the existing

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footpath was put to MGL. They had considered this but for reasons primarily of health and safety but also security they could not have the path crossing the access road and hence the route has been approved around the workings. This will be a permissive path and will not require a Definitive Map Modification Order.

### **Monitoring data**

A request was made to MGL for the monitoring data of noise, dust, groundwater, etc., to be placed on their website but they stated that they would prefer to provide the data to the Liaison Meeting.

GRSB  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2016