

# Silkstone

## Environmental Ltd

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Mineral Planning Dept  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AH

Dear Sirs

**The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Regulation 6 (1) – Request for an EIA Screening Opinion for a proposed extension to the existing quarry for the extraction of high quality silica sand to supply the foundry industry at Burythorpe Quarry, Burythorpe, Malton, YO17 9LY**

### **Introduction**

On behalf of the Yorkshire Mineral Company Ltd, this is a formal request for an EIA screening opinion in accordance with Regulation 6 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017 EIA Regulations) for a proposed 3.3 Hectare extension to Burythorpe Quarry, Burythorpe, Malton.

The proposed development falls within Category 2(a) of Schedule 2 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. A Screening Opinion is required to confirm whether or not the development should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Regulations state that a screening opinion request under paragraph (1) must include:

- (i) a plan sufficient to identify the land;
- (ii) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development, including its location and technical capacity;
- (iii) an explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and
- (iv) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make

The following information included in this letter meets the requirements of Paragraph (1) above.

### **Introduction**

Burythorpe Quarry is an operational Silica Sand Quarry, located approximately 6km south of Malton, Grid Reference SE 7815 6570. The site is accessed from the Norton to Leavening Road, 1km to the northwest of Burythorpe Village.

The silica sand, some of which is manufactured on site for high quality resin coated sands for foundry and moulding use to produced dried silica sand. Some raw material is exported straight off site.

Burythorpe Quarry provides a large proportion of the UK market share of resin coated sand, as well as supplying markets outside the UK.'

### **Current Operations & Proposed Extension Area**

Burythorpe Quarry is permitted under Planning Ref 97/01603/CPO/MR, granted on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1988 until 2042.

There are currently 2 working areas at the quarry as shown on the enclosed topographical survey, Ref 16053/100. The full site within the planning permitted red line boundary is 20.5 hectares.

Transport within the quarry is by 30 tonne articulated dump truck. Stocking of materials is by loading shovel. Material sales are by tanker, articulated and rigid tippers or flatbed trucks. Exports off site are on average 30 loads per week.

The sand is excavated by back hoe excavator from shallow benched lifts working across the floor of the quarry. The sand is loosely cemented and requires no blasting or crushing to break it up. It is then transported by dumper to a holding stockpile from which it is fed to the washing plant by a loading shovel.

The reserves within the quarry permitted under planning permissions 97/01603/CPO/MR are coarsening and finer deposits will soon be required to blend in with the existing reserves. It is therefore proposed to submit a planning application for a 3.3 hectare extension as shown on drawing Ref: 20314/100.

The proposed extension area is to be fully drilled for a geological reserve assessment but based on the adjacent workings, at an approximate depth of 12 metres, equates to approximately 400,000 cubic metres of reserves which equates to 720,000 tonnes at 1.8 tonnes per cubic metre.

Soil cover is generally thin at approximately 500m depth and these would be stripped and used for perimeter screening. Screening bunds are proposed along the northern and eastern boundary for visual impact purposes.

No changes to the existing operations would be proposed. It will simply be a continuation of the current operations for extraction and processing of the sand within the buildings on site.

Existing mobile plant would be utilised consisting of 1 x loading shovel, 2 x 20 tonne excavators and 1 x 30 tonne dump truck.

Recent rates of extraction have been approximately 35,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) and this figure will be maintained.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### Ecology

There are no sites protected by statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations that would be directly or indirectly affected by the development proposals.

The extension area is in arable agricultural use with no trees or hedgerows present so no loss of habitat would occur.

An updated ecological extended phase 1 assessment will be provided which will identify if any further surveys are required.

#### Landscape and Visual Impact

Potential landscape and visual impacts, both adverse and beneficial of the proposed development will be identified taking mitigation into account to reduce or eliminate adverse effects where possible.

The extension area will be screened by soil bunds which will then be seeded to grass.

A landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be provided with the application.

#### Traffic

HGV movements are approximately 30 per week and will not increase. Due to these low numbers, a traffic statement is not considered necessary unless the Planning Authority considers necessary.

#### Noise

The operations associated with quarrying at Burythorpe Quarry has the potential to generate noise which could cause nuisance without mitigation measures in place.

Extractive operations will involve the use of heavy machinery, such as a 360° hydraulic excavator and HGV's. However, there will be no increase in the existing fleet size.

A full noise impact assessment using noise modelling software will be included in the planning application.

#### Dust and Air Quality

The site is not within a designated Air Quality Management Area.

The emissions of potential concern to public health are the release of particulate dust from quarrying and backfill restoration activities. The site is remote from residential receptors.

A Dust Assessment will be provided to propose control measures to suitably mitigate emissions to air and off-site dust deposition.

#### Restoration

Any restoration and afteruse proposals must take into account of the fact there is not sufficient material to infill the workings to a high level restoration profile. Therefore, only a low level scheme would be possible by placing waste material against the quarry faces and regrading of the quarry floor.

A full restoration plan and aftercare scheme will be included with the application.

#### Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

A Hydrogeological and Flood Risk Assessment report will be included with the planning application.

#### Archaeology

Due to a Roman villa in close proximity to the proposed extension area, a full archaeological investigation will be undertaken and included with the planning application.

#### **EIA Regulations**

The need for an Environmental Assessment is considered under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

For a quarrying activity to be considered Schedule 1 development the following criteria should apply;

- Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares, or peat extraction where the surface of the site exceeds 150 hectares'.

The proposal is not Schedule 1 development.

The proposal predominantly falls within the description of Category 2(a) of Column 1 of Schedule 2. The development will consequently only be EIA development where it will have significant effects on the environment by reason of factors such as its nature, size or location.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) advises on the judgment for requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken for a Schedule 2 development.

For quarry proposals, EIA is more likely to be required if they would cover more than 15 hectares or involve extraction of more than 30,000 tonnes of mineral per year.'

Therefore, in terms of extraction operations, the proposed extension area falls considerably under the 15 hectare limit but slightly exceeds the 30,000 tonnes per annum limit with a maximum of 35,000 tonnes per annum.

The site is not in a particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable location or a development with unusually complex environmental effects. It is in an area where mineral extraction has taken place historically for many years. It is not in a sensitive area close to any SSSI's, AONB's or conservation areas.

In consideration of the EIA Regulations and likely environmental effects of the proposed development, it is considered that an Environmental Impact Assessment will not be necessary to support a planning application for the extension to Burythorpe Quarry.

Notwithstanding the above, this is a formal request for the Council to establish whether the proposal is considered EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and whether an Environmental Statement is required, and I trust that the information provided in this letter together with the enclosed plans is sufficient for you to formulate an opinion.

However, should you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

***P. Sharland***

Philip Sharland  
Senior Planning Consultant