

LANGFORD QUARRY, Collingham, Nottinghamshire

Proposed extension of sand and gravel workings on land south of the River Trent, west of the existing quarry

1 Introduction

This briefing note summarises some of the key elements of the proposed extension of the sand and gravel extraction area at Langford Quarry. Not all the details have been finalised – this will only happen after the feedback from the public consultation exhibitions has been evaluated.

The Operator

Langford Quarry is operated by Tarmac

Tarmac, a CRH company is the UK's leading sustainable building materials and construction solutions business. Our innovative products and solutions not only deliver the infrastructure needed to grow the UK economy today, but also help to create a more sustainable built environment for the country's long term future. We have contributed to some of the UK's biggest construction projects, including Wembley Stadium, Heathrow Terminal 5, The Shard and London 2012.

The company has over 150 years of experience and directly employs around 6,900 people across a nationwide network of over 400 sites. Our solutions span aggregates, asphalt, cement, lime, readymix concrete, road contracting services, building products and recycling services. This unique combination of people, technology and assets enables us to offer customers unrivalled choice, innovation and flexibility.

2 Background

Planning permission for the extraction and processing of sand and gravel from Langford Quarry was first granted in 1988, permitting:

- phased extraction of sand and gravel from around 150 hectares/370 acres of land
- construction and operation of a sand and gravel processing plant
- construction of a crossing over the railway line and new access to the A1133 Newark Road
- progressive restoration to wetland reedbed conservation areas and agriculture, by using materials already on the site.

A planning agreement restricts site traffic from turning left through Collingham village.

In March 2015, a new planning permission to extend workings to the east and south of the Slough Dyke was approved. This required the site to be fully worked by 31st December 2017 – and fully restored by 31st December 2018.

A property management agreement for the site allows the RSPB to manage and warden the wetland conservation areas being created by the quarry restoration scheme, which are progressively being made accessible to the public.

3 Current Operations

The current planning permission for sand and gravel extraction at Langford Quarry is for land within the parish of Langford.

The mineral is extracted in phases by a long reach hydraulic excavator and delivered to the processing facility by a field conveyor system.

The processing plant washes and grades the sand and gravel into different sizes.

The processed mineral is then taken off site by sheeted lorries, via the main access road to the A1133 Newark Road.

Fine material from the washing plant (silt) is piped to lagoons – where the silt settles out and clean water is recycled back to the processing facility.

The processed mineral is placed into stockpiles next to the processing plant.

Stores of stripped soils (bunds) are set aside for use in the final site restoration.

A bailey bridge has recently been built to allow access to the operational area south of Slough Dyke and soils have been stripped so mineral extraction can start.

In partnership with the RSPB, some 60 hectares/148 acres of the currently permitted area have already been restored to a significant wetland habitat.

Although planning permission to extend workings south of Slough Dyke has only recently been approved, it only extends the permitted reserves by 3 years.

Discussions with local communities about further extensions are ongoing, to allow enough lead in time for Tarmac to prepare and submit an application (including appropriate environmental assessments/studies) – and for Nottinghamshire County Council to consider and determine it – before reserves at the site are exhausted.

Operational elements which would remain unchanged, would include:

- phased extraction of sand and gravel and progressive restoration to wetland and agriculture
- use of a hydraulic excavator to excavate the sand and gravel
- use of a field conveyor system and the existing processing facility
- operating hours 7am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am - 1pm on Saturdays
- vehicle access point on the A1133 Newark Road, with right turn only
- internal crossing point for vehicles and field conveyor over the Slough Dyke to link the extension area to the processing facility
- environmental management, monitoring and control systems to minimise disturbance
- continued employment of 9 direct and around 24 indirect employees (hauliers and contractors).

Proposed operations

Parts of the proposed western extension are close to the River Trent and may be subject to periodic flooding, so dump trucks would transport sand and gravel to the field conveyor system – which would be extended into this area. To extend the conveyor, a further crossing would need to be installed over a drainage ditch that feeds the Slough Dyke.

4 Local materials for local markets

Langford Quarry produces 3 types of aggregate, including a range of gravel sizes (40/20/10 and 5 millimetre) as well as coarse and fine sands. These building materials supply local construction and manufacturing markets in and around Nottinghamshire.

Materials are supplied to the local construction markets to meet a range of uses including:

- readymixed and precast concrete products
- builders' merchants supply
- drainage, footings and general groundworks
- civil engineering projects – like roads, airports, schools and hospitals.

Sand and gravel won locally from Langford Quarry is an environmentally sustainable way of meeting local demand for aggregates.

Langford Quarry currently produces about 30 - 35% of the 1.5 million tonnes a year of sand and gravel output in Nottinghamshire. It is therefore a very important county site, which helps maintain a sustainable supply of quality construction materials to meet local demand.

5 Proposed quarry extension

Introduction

In 2008, Nottinghamshire County Council requested information from mineral operators to help them decide on land allocations for future sand and gravel workings in the county. This was part of its statutory obligation to produce mineral development policies and identify future supplies of sand and gravel, as set out in an adopted Minerals Development Framework.

In response, Tarmac identified future potential, working areas adjacent to Langford Quarry.

In May 2014, the county council published its Minerals Local Plan Preferred Approach. Both the proposed extensions are allocated in the Plan for future mineral extraction

This document has yet to be formally adopted. In the meantime, the county council has a continuing obligation to make sure there is a steady and adequate supply of aggregates at a county level – to meet overall regional and national needs – including at least 7 years supply of sand and gravel in Nottinghamshire at any one time.

Why is this proposal being brought forward now?

There are relatively few sites producing sand and gravel in Nottinghamshire – and Langford Quarry is the largest one left in the county. Several long standing sites – in the Idle Valley north of Retford and in the Trent Valley east of Nottingham – have been exhausted and others have been closed because of the recession.

Langford Quarry is currently producing about 30 - 35% of the sand and gravel output in Nottinghamshire.

It is therefore a very important site for providing continuity of supply. Closed sites – and other permitted sites which have yet to be started (which may not open because they are not economically viable) – are unlikely to be able to replace production from Langford Quarry.

The existing, permitted reserves at Langford are likely to be exhausted by mid 2018. To safeguard continuity of production at the site, development work – including soil stripping in new, permitted, extended extraction areas – is ideally needed by December 2016.

The lead-in time to prepare, submit and determine planning applications for quarry extensions means the process needs to start now.

This is why Tarmac intends to submit a planning application to Nottinghamshire County Council for 2 extension schemes to Langford Quarry during spring 2016.

When would operations commence in the extension areas?

Operations would not start until a planning permission has been issued and any conditional schemes submitted and approved. The existing planning agreement on traffic routing – which prevents lorries turning left through Collingham village – would continue to apply to the proposed new working areas.

How long would operations take to complete?

The reserves (approximately 3.75 million tonnes) released through this proposed scheme would be fully worked out over 8 - 9 years. With no additional reserves to work beyond that, the remaining reserves under and around the processing plant would be finally worked out – and the processing facility removed.

How would the site be restored?

The southern extension area would be restored – as an extension to the water body already approved under the recent permission – for nature conservation. The western extension area would be restored to low lying wet grassland, with a sinuous water feature similar to an ox-bow lake. The plant site would be restored using the best of the available soils to create a dry grassland. The long term management of the 2 areas would continue through the existing partnership arrangement between Tarmac and the RSPB.

Are there any further future areas for extraction at Langford Quarry?

There may be further sand and gravel deposits south of Holme Lane, but these have not yet been proven.

There are proven reserves north of the existing Langford Quarry, which are also allocated in the MLP Preferred Approach document. These would provide longer term workable areas.

The potential future working of all these reserves will be considered by the county council through the policies and strategies to be adopted in the Nottinghamshire Mineral Local Plan. This is going through the final stages of consultation and the council hopes to adopt it formally during 2016.

6 What happens next

Community feedback

We hope to receive feedback from the local community and other interested parties during and following the public consultation exhibitions.

You can provide feedback by:

- completing your exhibition questionnaire
- telephoning the Tarmac Planning Information Line (24 hour answerphone)
[0116 264 8551](tel:01162648551)
- contacting the Tarmac Estates Manager, Tim Deal – 0116 264 8508 or at
langford.information@tarmac.com

Tarmac will:

- evaluate the feedback from the exhibitions
- review and finalise all planning documents, including the Environmental Statement
- produce a Non Technical Summary to accompany the planning application
- submit a full application to Nottinghamshire County Council, in spring 2016
- place key documents on Parish Council and Tarmac websites www.tarmac.com/langford-quarry and circulate hard copies of planning documents as requested.

Nottinghamshire County Council will:

- validate and publicise the planning application
- place the submitted information on its website
- send copies to statutory consultees and other interested parties – and seek their opinions
- evaluate all consultation responses and – if necessary – ask Tarmac for further information
- consult on that information with the appropriate bodies
- produce a report with recommendations from the Planning Officer
- determine the application at committee
- issue a decision notice to Tarmac, including a set of new planning conditions if the application is approved.

This document was published in November 2015 as part of a public consultation programme by Tarmac Land and Natural Resources Department, Midlands Area Office, Granite House, Watermead Business Park, Syston, Leicestershire, LE7 1PL.