



Emma Bolster
Planning Officer
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

By email only to: emma.bolster@oxfordshire.gov.uk

20 March 2023

Dear Emma,

APPLICATION NO: MW.0152/22

DESCRIPTION: Section 73 application to continue development permitted at Rollright Quarry, under permission 20/01964/CM (MW.0063/20) to vary conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 28, 30, 31, 32 and 40 relating to completion dates for mineral extraction and restoration, scheme details for both mineral working and restoration, site layout, access and HGV movements

LOCATION: Rollright Quarry, Little Rollright, Chipping Norton Oxfordshire OX7 5QB

Thank you for consulting the Cotswolds National Landscape Board¹ ('the Board') on the additional information submitted in support of this proposed development, which would be located within the Cotswolds National Landscape².

The Board's previous response to this application dated 19 December 2022 did not raise an objection to the application but requested that the Minerals Planning Authority and the applicant consider some additional comments regarding the restoration proposals.

We understand that in their previous consultation responses, the MPA's Principal Biodiversity Officer and Landscape Officer also made comments and the applicant has been invited to address these through the submission of further information including an updated restoration plan. This shows a decrease in area of land reverting to agricultural grassland and exposed quarry faces and an increase in woodland and species rich calcareous grassland.

This is welcomed as species-rich limestone grasslands are one of the 'special qualities' of the Cotswolds National Landscape outlined within the Cotswold National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2035 ([link](#)) and is an important habitat at a national scale. As such, the application should seek to maximise the creation of this habitat and we would welcome further revision to increase the extent of species rich grassland above the 7% of the site area proposed by the revised restoration scheme.

Notwithstanding, the Board continues to **not object** to this application. As outlined in our previous response, we encourage the applicant to consider amending their proposals and use the restoration of the quarry as an opportunity to increase local renewable energy production. This quarry location could potentially be suitable for a small-scale solar PV array and we would encourage the applicant to consider this option. The solar array should be sensitively sited and designed to (i) avoid and (ii) minimise any adverse impacts. Consideration of the solar array should include an assessment of the potential visual impacts of the array and any associated infrastructure, particularly with regards to

Cotswolds Conservation Board

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The Cotswolds National Landscape is a designated
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB),
managed and looked after by the Cotswolds
Conservation Board.

cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Chairman:
Brendan McCarthy

Vice Chair:
Rebecca Charley

impacts on visual receptors on the public rights of way that run along three sides of the site boundary. The solar array should be delivered in a way that does not impinge on the proposed habitat creation, particularly the species-rich grassland habitat. In this regard, it may be appropriate to allow the new habitats to become well established before installing the solar array. The baseline, against which any potential impacts of the solar array should be assessed, should be the currently proposed restoration scheme.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this response further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Joyce', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Joyce

Planning Officer

simon.joyce@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk | 07808 391227

NOTES:

- 1) The name used for the organisation associated with the AONB designation is the Cotswolds National Landscape Board. At times this is abbreviated to National Landscape Board or The Board. The legal name of the organisation remains the Cotswolds Conservation Board but this name is no longer used in most circumstances.
- 2) Cotswolds National Landscape is the new name for the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The new name takes forward one of the proposals of the Government-commissioned 'Landscapes Review' to rename AONBs as 'National Landscapes'. This change reflects the national importance of AONBs and the fact that they are safeguarded, in the national interest, for nature, people, business and culture.
- 3) Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85
- 4) The documents referred to in our response can be located on the Cotswolds National Landscape website under the following sections
 - a. Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/management-plan
 - b. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lca
 - c. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lsg
 - d. Cotswolds AONB Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ldlc
 - e. Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statements
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps1
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps2