



Naomi Woodcock
Planning Officer
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
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By email only to: naomi.woodcock@oxfordshire.gov.uk

26 January 2022

Dear Naomi,

APPLICATION NO: MW.0150/21

DESCRIPTION: Importation, levelling and compacting of 10,470m³ of inert waste soils for the construction of 7 bunds (varying between 186m³ and 7,797m³) for use by Brize Norton Gun Club

LOCATION: Old Worsham (Asthall) Quarry, Near Worsham

Thank you for consulting the Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') on this proposed development, which would be located within the Cotswolds National Landscape.¹

In reaching its planning decision, the local planning authority (LPA) has a statutory duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.² The Board recommends that, in fulfilling this 'duty of regard', the LPA should: (i) ensure that planning decisions are consistent with relevant national and local planning policy and guidance; and (ii) take into account the following Board publications:

- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023 ([link](#));
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to Landscape Character Type (LCT) 9 High Wold Dip Slope which the site is located within and 16 Broad Floodplain Valley which the site is located adjacent to;
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to LCT 9 ([link](#)), including Section 9.7 and LCT 16 ([link](#));
- Cotswolds AONB Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change ([link](#)); and
- Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statements ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to Tranquillity ([link](#)).

This application is a repeat of that previously approved under MW.0147/18 granted in December 2019 and seeks permission for the same consent in order to prolong the time that the permission will remain extant for.

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (OMWCS) 2017 Policy C8 seeks to conserve and enhance the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB. Development within AONBs shall normally only be small-scale, to meet local needs and should be sensitively located and designed. WOLP 2031 policy EH1 states that when determining development proposals within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and proposals which would affect its setting, great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing the area's natural beauty, landscape and countryside, including its

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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

wildlife and heritage. Policy EH1 further states the Board's AONB Management Plan and guidance documents are material considerations in decisions relevant to the AONB.

Section 9.7 of the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCT 9 referred to above identifies licensed waste disposal as a 'local force for change' which may lead to potential adverse landscape implications. The Board's landscape strategies and guidelines in respect of such proposals advise:

- Avoiding strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB;
- Avoiding importation of waste into the AONB;
- Ensuring that small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact; and
- Supporting proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled.

Bearing the above in mind and noting that the amount of inert waste soil to be imported is relatively small-scale and will come from a short distance away within the AONB, the Board does not object to this application, subject to appropriate mitigation being secured:

- The previous condition relating to Construction Traffic Management Plan should be retained, in particular to control HGV routing and movements within the AONB;
- The bunds should be kept sufficiently low as to be screened by existing vegetation and should not exceed the heights specified in the conditions attached to the previous permission; and
- Given the tranquillity of the local area, there should be no significant increase in the use of the facilities by the Gun Club that might impact on the levels of tranquillity or dark skies.

We advise that appropriate planning conditions or obligations are attached to any planning permission to secure these measures and works are monitored to ensure compliance with conditions, in particular that the imported waste soil does come from within the AONB.

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

Yours sincerely,



Simon Joyce

Planning Officer

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NOTES:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85
- 3) 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