

Emma Bolster
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
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By email only to: emma.bolster@oxfordshire.gov.uk

14 May 2021

Dear Emma

APPLICATION NO: MW.0042/21

DESCRIPTION: Section 73 application to continue development permitted at Rollright Quarry, under permission 20/01964/CM (MW.0063/20) without complying with condition 10, to enable a temporary increase in HGV movements from the phase 1 (C115 road) access until 31 December 2021

LOCATION: Rollright Quarry, Little Rollright, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

Thank you for consulting the Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') on planning application MW.0042/21, in relation to Rollright Quarry, which is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape.

From the information provided, the Board understands that this planning application represents a time-limited version of planning application MW.0105/20, which has been withdrawn, and is intended as an interim measure until a planning decision has been made regarding planning application MW.0149/18.

As you will be aware, the Board objected to planning application MW.0105/20 in a consultation response dated 10 December 2020. The Board has also previously objected to the related planning application, MW.0149/18, in consultation responses dated 11 June 2019 and 27 October 2020. For the reasons outlined below, the Board maintains its objection with regards to the current planning application as well.

The Board's objections to the previous planning applications primarily related to the proposed increase in HGV movements and the adverse impact that this would have on the tranquillity, historic environment, landscape character and recreational enjoyment of the Cotswolds National Landscape in this locality.

We acknowledge the time-limited nature of the current proposal (i.e. until 31 December 2021). However, as outlined in our previous responses, we consider this location to be highly sensitive, particularly given the close proximity of the quarry and associated HGV movements to the Rollright Stones. We also consider that the impacts of HGV movements (and other traffic) on the Rollright Stones is already very significant. These impacts are articulated very clearly in the consultation response provided by The Rollright Trust.

In addition, it is questionable whether highway C115, via which HGVs would access the quarry, is suitable for an increase in HGV movements. It is also questionable whether the improvements that would be required to make it suitable could be delivered without adversely affecting the rural character of the road and its locality.

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

Furthermore, increasing the permitted HGV movements for Rollright Quarry (in terms of both Phase 1 and the quarry complex as a whole) would set an unwelcome increase in the baseline of permitted HGV movements for future planning applications relating to Rollright Quarry.

For these reasons, we consider that any increase in permitted HGV movements from the Rollright Quarry complex, over and above the existing permitted HGV movements, would not be acceptable, even for a time-limited period.

We request that this response is read in conjunction with our previous consultation responses, which provide additional, relevant information.

If you have any queries regarding this response then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John Mills
Planning & Landscape Lead
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