

Development Control Committee
Meeting to be held on 24 April 2024

Electoral Division affected:
Skelmersdale East

West Lancashire Borough: LCC/2023/0043

Restoration of Ravenhead Quarry through the importation of non-hazardous material. Ravenhead Quarry, Chequer Lane, Up Holland

Contact for further information:
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Brief Summary

Restoration of Ravenhead Quarry through the importation of non-hazardous material. Ravenhead Quarry, Chequer Lane, Up Holland.

Recommendation – Summary

That the Committee visit the site before considering the planning application.

Applicant's Proposal

The planning application is for the restoration of the existing quarry through the importation on non-hazardous materials. An existing restoration scheme approved under planning permission LCC/2022/0016 is no longer considered desirable by the applicant, due to the inclusion of sheer rock faces and a deep waterbody.

The main features of the proposed development are:

- Importation of approximately 1,060,000 cubic metres of restoration material. The restoration material would comprise construction and excavation material (soils and clays) with low polluting potential.
- Importation would take place over a seven year period.
- The scheme is forecast to result in 94 two-way heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements per weekday.
- The proposal is that upon completion of quarrying, the base and sides of the void will be engineered, and the quarry void infilled with suitable restoration material to a level coincident with surrounding ground level and shaped to facilitate drainage. To the south and southeast, on the higher elevation “uphill” side of the quarry, the



outcrop of a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will be left exposed (where possible) above the level of the infill.

- The proposed final restoration would be principally to grassland with woodland planting, with geological exposure features pertaining to the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to be retained and a small waterbody created in the western part of the Site. No public access is proposed.
- Vehicular access to the site will be provided via the central junction of the three existing Ravenhead Quarry/Brickworks site access junctions off Chequer Lane.

A full description of the proposed development will be provided when the application is reported for determination.

The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Description and Location of Site

Ravenhead Quarry is located in Up Holland to the east of Skelmersdale. The site is accessed off the A577 via Chequer Lane. The site has an area of approximately 15 hectares. The site is comprised of the existing quarry which has been worked to a maximum depth of 105-110 metres above ordnance datum (AOD). Large areas of the existing quarry are used for the stockpiling of imported clay and shale materials that are used as feed stock for the brickworks. Planning permission was granted in 2022 for an extension to the quarry immediately to the south of the existing quarry to excavate a further 130,025 cubic metres of material. Excavation has recently commenced in this extension area.

The quarry is bounded to the west by Ravenhead brickworks which has recently ceased operating and is also accessed from Chequer Lane. To the north and east of the brick making factory and part of the quarry are residential areas accessed off Ormskirk Road (the A577): Fieldview, Highmeadow and Broadacre. There have also been a number of new residential developments within the area in recent years, with new developments to the west of the site, off Chequer Lane (Miners Way) and more recently to the south (Mason Drive). To the south east of the site are agricultural fields, which are within the Green Belt.

Much of the existing quarry is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological interest as it displays several important sections through the Lower Carboniferous Coal Measures.

A full description of the site and surrounding area will be provided when the application is reported to the Committee for determination.

Advice

This planning application which was received in December 2023 proposes the restoration of an existing quarry through the importation of non-hazardous materials, comprising construction and excavation materials. The scheme would involve infilling



the existing quarry void to levels corresponding to adjacent ground levels. This would amend the previously approved restoration scheme for the site.

The planning application has attracted 12 representations from members of the public and objections from Up Holland Parish Council. Due to the large scale of the development, it is considered that members of the Committee should visit the site and the surrounding area before they determine the application.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
LCC/2023/0043	March 2023	Helen Ashworth Planning and Environment 01772 530084

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

