

Planning Application Response

Landscape

To: Mary Hudson

From: Haidrun Breith, Landscape Officer, Oxfordshire County Council

Site: White Cross Farm, Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

Detail: Additional Information - Extraction and processing of sand and gravel including the construction of new site access roads, landscaping and screening bunds, minerals washing plant and other associated infrastructure with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation areas, using inert fill

Application number: MW.0115/21

Date sent: 17th July 2024

Additional Information reviewed:

- Plan R25-9 v3 – Conceptual Restoration Plan v3 (April 2024)
- Plan R25-7 – Proposed Soil Strip Phasing Plan v5
- Root Protection Zones Plan dwg (dated 15/07/2022)

Landscape comments

In my previous consultation response I commented on the drawings in the Waste Recovery Plan, which includes previous versions of the Concept Restoration Plan (ref KD.WLF.D.010B in this document) and the Phasing Plan (ref KD.WLF.D.003 RevB), as well as other plans relating to phasing. I noted the limited information on levels (including the height of the straw bale barrier), the lack of information on internal access points/circulation areas between phases, and the concept restoration potentially delivering fewer ecological benefits. No further information has been provided on these points.

The latest revision of the Conceptual Restoration Plan v3 includes less agricultural land, which is an improvement to the previous version (V2).

The latest revisions of the plans don't change my previous advice and my previous comments still apply. It is important that the comments of the Council's ecological officer are also taken into account.