

12 April 2012

Our ref: 49216

Your ref: 10/05199/FUL



Mr Chris Herbert
Bath and North East Somerset Council

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 1941

Dear Mr Herbert

Proposal: Restoration of Stowey Quarry, by Land filling with Stable Non Reactive Hazardous Waste (SNRHW) including asbestos and inert wastes

Location: Stowey Quarry, Stowey Road, Stowey, Bristol, BS39 5UJ

Thank you for your consultation dated 22 March 2012 seeking the views from Natural England on the proposal detailed above.

This reply comprises our statutory consultation response under the provisions of Article 10 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We can offer the following comments.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

The nearest designated nature conservation sites to this proposal are Folly Farm and Burlledge Sidelands and Meadows Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) notified for their species rich unimproved grasslands: From the information given this application should not impact upon them.

Landscape

The application is close to the protected landscape Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Natural England considers that all landscapes matter and we advise that any comments submitted by the Mendip Hills AONB's planning officer should be taken into consideration when you are determining this application.

Biodiversity/Protected species.

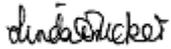
The Environmental Statement submitted has evaluated that there are no impacts by the proposal on ecology, including European protected species. Although we could not open all the ES documents on your website. We understand no evidence of bats was found in previous bat surveys. However, we support the provision of an Ecology and Landscape Management Plan if this application is approved.

We expect local planning authorities to maximise opportunities from developments such as this one to enhance the natural environment as part of good design in accordance with their duty under section 40(1) of the *Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006* to have regard to biodiversity in exercising their functions. We would expect the after use of this site to have a gain for biodiversity and we support the recommendations detailed by the Avon Wildlife Trust in their response.

In accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England expects to be consulted on any additional matters, as determined by B&NES that may arise as a result of, or are related to, the present proposal. This includes alterations to the application that could affect its impact on the natural environment. Natural England retains its statutory discretion to modify its present advice or opinion in view of any and all such additional matters or any additional information related to this consultation that may come to our attention.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Linda Tucker
Land Use Operations
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Natural England's Standing Advice on protected species will be offline for a short period in the week beginning 9th April 2012 to allow amendments in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In the interim, for the purposes of local authority decision making the principles and provisions of the extant advice still apply.