

Date: 14 June 2012
Our ref: 55060
Your ref: 10/05199/EFUL



Mr Chris Herbert
Bath and North East Somerset Council

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
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BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Herbert

Planning consultation: 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 letter dated 29 May 2012, which was received by Natural England on 29 May 2012. We understand your consultation to Natural England is because the applicant has provided more information in the "response to comments" document uploaded on your website since we submitted a no objection response to you on 12 April 2012.

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. Since I wrote to you I have contacted my colleagues and we can offer the following comments.

Protected sites

This application is approx 2-3 km from Chew Valley Lake SSSI and the lake is designated as a Special Protection Area for birds under the Birds Directive. The lake qualifies for this European designation because of the population of Shoveler which it supports. Nationally, the lake is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the large population of breeding Great Crested Grebes; aggregations of non-breeding Coot, Gadwall, Shoveler, Teal, Great Crested and Little Grebes which it supports, as well as for the species-rich lowland neutral grassland and reed beds around the lake. Having spoken to my colleague John Martin I can confirm that we are satisfied that the birds will not be disturbed by this proposal. It is for your Council to satisfy themselves that there will be no adverse impact on the water quality of Chew Valley Lake SPA/SSSI from leachate from the proposal either to surface or groundwater before granting planning permission. Natural England does not have the detailed information regarding the hydrology of the system to be able to make this judgement and we defer to the comments of the Environment Agency and in this case we note they have submitted an objection based on lack of information.

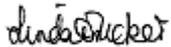
As I wrote to you on the 12 April the nearest designated nature conservation sites to the quarry are Folly Farm and Burlledge Sidelands and Meadows SSSIs both sites are notified for their species rich unimproved grasslands: Having spoken to Mark Wills my colleague about air pollution he has confirmed that is our opinion that the sites are too far away from the proposal to be adversely affected by dust generated by the HGV lorries that are accessing the quarry if this planning application is approved.

I can confirm that Natural England does not object to the application

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form with this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

For clarification of any points in this letter, please contact Linda Tucker on 0300 060 1941. For any new consultations or issues, please e-mail consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Land Use Operations Team
Exeter Team