

By email only to: planning@npt.gov.uk

Our ref: Gwrhyd Quarry s73 – EIA Screening

31st August 2023

Dear Sir, Madam

MARSHALLS MONO LIMITED – GWRHYD QUARRY EIA SCREENING REQUEST

Further to a call with Thomas Boothroyd, Development Management Officer Minerals and Waste, Carmarthenshire County Council, I write on behalf of Marshalls Mono Limited (Marshalls) to request a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regs), in connection with a proposal to seek changes to a planning consent for Gwrhyd Quarry, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, SA9 2SB. The extent of the Quarry and adjacent land in control of the Applicant and landowner, Marshalls, is shown on enclosed Drawing No. A1.2 (Revised, April 2010).

The Quarry is operating under several planning consents, the principal permission being planning application reference (PA ref.) P2017/0036, approved February 2018, for a change to the transport related planning conditions, which allowed for a temporary increase in outputs from the Site. The mineral planning authority (mpa) confirmed at the time that the proposed changes did not constitute EIA development.

The Applicant now proposes to apply for minor changes to the transport conditions to allow greater flexibility in the type of saleable products and the HGVs serving the Site. In conjunction with this, the Proposed Development would seek an extension to the life of the Quarry. This would allow additional time for the remaining mineral waste tip material to be moved, so that the permitted reserves can be fully accessed and extracted and for more of the waste material generated to be processed and exported as a high-quality saleable aggregate, rather than for these resources to be put back into the void and consequently sterilised. It is important to clarify that the Proposed Development would not alter the permitted tonnage output from the Quarry, operational hours, maximum payload or HGV routeing. There is sufficient headroom within the weekly maximum output of 750 tonnes to accommodate the aggregate products as well as the primary blockstone and masonry products. The proposals would not deviate from the approved lateral extent or depth of working, the number of phases, or the extraction direction from south to north. Fundamentally, the phasing and restoration would be the same apart from minor changes to take account of the remaining tip material, which is to be moved as it is partially constraining access to the reserves, and the opportunity to achieve a more sympathetic restoration profile on completion of Quarry operations. Extraction has already occurred up to the lateral limit of the consented working area and now the focus is on achieving the approved depths, so confining any impacts within the quarry void. The regulation and monitoring of any impacts would continue to be controlled by planning conditions.

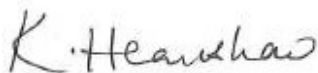
Given the wording of the description of development it is uncertain how consent PP ref. P2017/0036 could be taken forward and used as the basis for proposing changes to the relevant planning conditions. Therefore, it is proposed to vary the 'original' consent PP ref. P2010/0026, approved August 2011, for '*Proposed Restoration, quarry lateral extension and erection of new saw shed*' to secure the changes to the transport and timescale related conditions attached to it. The forthcoming application to be made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act ('s73') would take account of and be informed by the most recent permissions, notably P2017/0036.

Planning application P2010/0026 was deemed to be EIA Development and was accompanied by an Environmental Statement. Under the EIA Regs, Description of Development 13 - *Changes and Extensions*, the Proposed Development would constitute a change to Schedule 2 development (paragraph 2 – quarries and open cast mining and peat extraction (unless included in Schedule 1)). Based on the applicable thresholds and criteria which apply to this category of development the s73 proposals are subject to Screening to determine whether the planning application would constitute EIA Development.

The same checklist which was completed by the mpa to screen PP ref. P2017/0036 has been used as a starting point to consider any likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development in accordance with Part 6 and Schedule 3 of the EIA Regs. The Quarry is not located in a 'sensitive area' as defined in the EIA Regs. Based on the completed checklist for the Proposed Development it is considered that the changes to the permitted Quarry operations, when considered with the existing development as a whole, would be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects on the environment. The two checklists are enclosed with this letter.

I trust this submission provides sufficient information for you to conclude the EIA Screening, however, please contact me should you require any further details of the Proposed Development.

Yours faithfully



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Enc.

- Dwg. No A1.2 (Revised), dated April 2010
- EIA Screening Template completed by mineral planning authority for PA ref. P2017/0036, for a temporary increase in output from the Quarry.
- EIA Screening Template completed on behalf of Marshalls Mono Limited in connection with proposed application for changes to PA ref. P2010/0026, to allow greater flexibility in product and vehicle types without change to the permitted outputs, and extension to the life of the Quarry.

Cc. Marshalls Mono Limited
Carter Jonas