

Mr Don Mitchell
Derbyshire County Council
Shand House Dale Road South
Matlock
Derbyshire
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Our ref: LT/2012/114220/01-L01
Your ref: SCOM/4/46
Date: 03 February 2012

Dear Mr Mitchell

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
- REGULATIONS 2011: REQUEST FOR A SCOPING OPINION - HILL TOP FARM
CLAY CROSS HILL TOP FARM CLAY CROSS**

Thank you for your scoping request which was received 3 February 2012.

Flood Risk

We will be particularly interested in the impacts the development proposals will have upon the local hydrology. There are a number of watercourses on site or in close proximity to the site area.

To that purpose a Flood Risk Assessment will be required in accordance with PPS25. The FRA will be required to demonstrate that there is no increase in flood risk to third parties as a result of the scheme. Impacts upon the local watercourses should be avoided or minimised wherever possible.

We will expect a detailed assessment upon the hydrological impacts which will include a comparison of the pre development scenario with during and post development arrangements.

Groundwater

The proposals must be supported by an hydrogeological impact assessment (you may wish to refer to the following document '*Environment Agency Guidance - Hydrogeological Impact Appraisal on Dewatering Abstractions*', 1 May 2007). The impact of the proposed mining on water features in the area, especially local water courses should be considered. This includes potential impacts on water quality and water flow. Where appropriate the assessment should establish appropriate mitigation measures to prevent derogation of water courses.

The proposals detail a new water treatment facility which includes construction of

lagoons and flow attenuation ponds, however at this early stage, no details are provided on how these ponds will be filled and / or maintained, therefore the applicant should be aware that if they intend to abstract water from a nearby watercourse or underground strata then a water resource permit may be required. If the lagoons and ponds are left to fill naturally to existing groundwater levels then no permits will be required.

Surface Water

The discharge of any surface water from this development will require the permission of the Environment Agency. Such permission will be given in the form of an Environment permit and we welcome early discussions concerning such a permit. All permit applications and information are available on the Environment Agency website.

Biodiversity

The applicant needs to assess the impact of the proposed works on any watercourses or other wetland habitats or freshwater species on or near the site.

The assessment should:

- Assess the importance of the wetland habitats or species at a local, regional and national level
- Identify the direct or indirect impacts of the scheme on those features, in particular diffuse pollution
- Propose mitigation for any adverse ecological impacts or compensation for loss
- Demonstrate how the development will avoid adverse impacts

Propose wildlife habitat enhancement measures

Yours sincerely

Mr Andrew Pitts

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