

Hydrock Report on Environmental Measurements relating to the Cluster of Quarries in the North part of the Cotswold National Landscape

Background

Residents from Local Parishes across the area are concerned about the increased number of HGV movements accessing the cluster of quarries in this part of the Cotswold National Landscape. They are concerned about loss of amenity, safety and the potential impact on health from dust, noise and vibration.

In the absence of detailed measurements submitted as part of recent Quarry Planning Applications, Temple Guiting Parish Council engaged Hydrock to take measurements to understand the current impacts that HGVs from quarrying operations have on local residents.

The work, jointly funded by Local Parish Councils, GCC Councillors, CPRE and individual donors, was carried out to understand the impacts from HGVs using the B4077 to access the cluster of quarries in the North Part of the Cotswold National Landscape. The work commenced in May 2023 and the final report was issued in October 2023.

The Hydrock Report

The Report, prepared by Hydrock, is issued in two parts covering measurement of noise, vibration and air quality at Ford and Upper Coscombe on the B4077 in 2023.

Cluster of Quarries in the Cotswold AONB:

- **Environmental Noise, Vibration and Dust: 20 Oct 2023**
Ref 26427-HYD-GRZ-Y-RP-ACEN-2802
- **Environmental Dust and Air Quality Measurements: 5 Oct 2023**
Ref 26427-HYD-GRZ-Y-RP-AAIQ-2001-P02

Both the scope of work and the results were reviewed with the Environmental Health Officers in Cotswold District Council. The Hydrock Report was formally shared with the GCC Planning Authority on 09 November 2023.

No comments have been received by TGPC on the findings presented in the Hydrock Report since it was issued. TGPC confirmed with the GCC Minerals Planning Authority on 11 December 2024 that the Hydrock Report is to be made publicly available.

Context and key findings

The Oathill Planning Application (21/0050/CWS73M), together with its earlier reference (19/0086/CWMAJM), is important as it provides details of traffic counts on the local roads in August /September 2019 and also in March 2022. Noise measurements were also recorded on the B4077 in Ford during August and September 2019.

However, the Environmental Statement for the Oathill Application dismissed the noise readings and no air quality measurements were made. The basis for this was that the

proposed increase in HGV movements (from 50,000 tpa to 100,000 tpa focused in just 2 months of Aug and September) would be less than 10% of existing movements.

Although the number of HGV movements observed during the Hydrock survey work were much lower than recorded in the traffic surveys Aug / Sept 2019 and March 2022 the summary provided in the Hydrock Report highlights:

- Adverse level of noise both during the night-time period (23.00 to 07.00) and during the daytime. (The nighttime noise is attributed to the number of early morning HGV movements).
- Dust levels are also an area of concern and require further investigation. In Ford the source is passing HGVs but at Upper Coscombe it is thought it is likely to be a combination of the passing HGVs and dust from the adjacent Guiting Quarry.
- Vibration measurements are not an issue at the sites surveyed at Ford and Upper Coscombe but a different response may occur where the soil structure is different.
- Small particulates P₁₀, (typically associated with brakes, diesel and exhaust fumes or tyres) were measured and can be correlated to HGV movements. The readings were below the normal level for concern in current UK Guidelines.

The scope of work with Hydrock has finished and any new work would need to be done under a separate contract. Comments and observations on the Hydrock Report would still be appreciated.

Summary

In the absence of other environmental measurements, the Hydrock Report highlights concerns associated with noise and dust from HGV movements on the B4077. These need to be addressed in the context of the Cluster of Quarries as a whole, in the north part of the Cotswold National Landscape, as well as individual applications.

Temple Guiting Parish Council

Copied to:

Local Parish Councils,

Cotswold District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council

CNLB, CPRE

GCC Cllrs: Mark Mackenzie Charrington, David Gray & Dominic Morris