

West Sussex County Council  
Development Control  
County Hall Tower Street  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1RH

**Our ref:** HA/2021/123395/03-L01

**Your ref:** WSCC/028/21

**Date:** 11 April 2023

Dear Planning Team,

**AMENDED FRA - THE CONTINUED WINNING, WORKING AND PROCESSING OF SAND FROM THE EXISTING ROCK COMMON QUARRY, THE IMPORTATION OF INERT CLASSIFIED ENGINEERING AND RESTORATION MATERIAL, THE STOCKPILING AND TREATING OF THE IMPORTED MATERIAL, THE PLACEMENT OF THE IMPORTED MATERIAL WITHIN THE QUARRY VOID AND THE RESTORATION AND LANDSCAPING OF THE QUARRY ROCK COMMON QUARRY, THE HOLLOW, WASHINGTON, PULBOROUGH, RH20 3DA**

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above application.

### **Environment Agency Position**

Further to our previous response we have the following comments to add.

#### **Permitted Quarry**

We would highlight that the incorporation of a geological barrier may be required as part of the environmental permit for any quarry infilling. The need for a geological barrier will be assessed as part of any environmental permit application. If there is deemed to be a risk from the infilling material, then a geological barrier is likely to be required as part of the permit. This could be required irrespective of any the current planning assessments.

In our response to a previous application, we requested conditions requiring the conveyor tunnel that is proposed to be reopened to be "permanently closed". Reasoning for this included protection of groundwater.

We acknowledge that there is a risk of subsurface corridors, near sites that are known to contain elevated contaminants (such as the existing permitted landfill). The risks are greatest if the tunnel is likely at any time to be below groundwater levels.

The level/elevation of the tunnel though is such that we feel the risks from the tunnel are

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manageable. This would be particularly true when the site is operating and as it could be quickly identified and controlled.

We also acknowledge that on a precautionary basis it would be advisable to require the operator to reseal the tunnel again when site operation cease. We therefore request that the condition below be attached to any planning permission granted in addition to our other recommended conditions.

**Condition**

Upon the cessation of operations, the reopened conveyor tunnel between the former Windmill Landfill site and Rock Common Sand Pit under the Hollow shall be resealed.

**Reason**

In the interests of the satisfactory restoration of the site and the protection of groundwater quality.

**Permitted Landfill Site**

The existing permitted landfill is still covered by the conditions of the Environmental Permit. We would wish to confirm that under no circumstance should any part of the proposed development impinge or compromise any part of the cap or other existing containment features of the permitted landfill.

If you have any queries regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the advisor identified below.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs Sophie Brown**  
**Sustainable Places Planning Advisor**

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