

Date: 21 January 2014
Our ref: 107904
Your ref: WSCC/104/13/SR



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County Planning
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sam

Planning consultation: The continuation of mineral extraction for a two year period and the importation of inert material over a five year period only, to enable the restoration of mineral working at Washington Sandpit for the long term benefit of the Sandgate Country Park

Location: Washington Sand Pit, Hampers Lane, Sullington, West Sussex, RH20 4AF

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 December 2013 which was received on the same day.

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.

Having reviewed the application Natural England has the following comments:

Restoration scheme

The restoration plans for this scheme present a valuable opportunity to provide benefits for Wildlife and people alike. We advise that restoration schemes should contribute towards the provision of valuable BAP habitats which reflect the area and setting of the quarry. Furthermore the restoration scheme should enhance any opportunity for people to access and enjoy the natural world and seek opportunities to enhance connectivity between the application site and the wider landscape.

Given the nature and location of this scheme, lying in close proximity to the South Downs National Park we advise that you to seek the advice of the South Downs National Park Authority. It is of key importance that any restoration scheme is in keeping with the National Park. Their knowledge of the location and wider landscape setting of the development should help to confirm whether or not it would impact significantly on the special qualities of

the National Park. They will also be able to advise whether the development accords with the aims and policies set out in their management plan.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 0300 060 4050. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Rebecca Pearson on 0300 060 4090. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Pearson
Lead Adviser Land Use Services Team