DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

ADDENDUM TO:

TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR THE PROVISION OF
INDUSTRIAL LIMESTONE AND
INDUSTRIAL LIMESTONE SUPPORTING PAPER

ADDITIONAL PROMOTED SITE

ALDWARK/BRASSINGTON MOOR QUARRY

APRIL 2016
Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council (the mineral planning authorities) are working together to prepare a joint minerals local plan. It will be called the Derbyshire and Derby Joint Minerals Local Plan and cover the geographical area of Derbyshire, excluding the Peak District National Park. It will cover the period to 2030.

Minerals are essential raw materials, which are used to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that our country needs. They are vital for economic growth and our quality of life. They are, however, a finite resource and can only be worked where they are found. It is important therefore, that we make the best use of them to enable their long-term conservation.

The Plan area has a wealth of mineral resources. Mineral extraction and development has, for a long time, been a part of the Derbyshire landscape and an important part of the local economy, making an important contribution to the national, regional and local need for minerals. Whilst mineral working can also provide environmental benefits, residents and local businesses are often concerned about any unwelcome impacts.

A clear, long-term Minerals Local Plan is a way of setting out the future scale and location of mineral working in the Plan area to support economic growth whilst protecting the environment and local communities. It is important that the Minerals Local Plan gets the balance right between the needs of the economy, the environment and local communities. It is vital, therefore, that communities, businesses, organisations and people throughout Derbyshire and Derby are involved in developing the Minerals Local Plan so that, as far as possible, it contains an agreed set of priorities that will deliver sustainable minerals development that is right for the Plan area.

This consultation presents a series of papers, which seek to develop further the emerging vision and objectives, strategies and policies of the Minerals Local Plan. We now need your comments, suggestions and input on these papers, which will then be used to feed into the Draft Minerals Local Plan. We will ask for your views on this document later in the process.

This Paper is an Addendum to the Appendices of the Paper Towards a Strategy for the Provision of Industrial Limestone, February 2015 and its corresponding supporting Paper of the same date which were previously distributed as part of this current consultation.
These Papers are seeking your views on developing a policy approach in the Minerals Local Plan to ensure the supply of industrial limestone throughout the Plan period. Industrial limestone is the term given to limestone that is used for manufacturing and industrial processes. These include cement manufacturing, iron and steel making, water and effluent treatment, and for use as fillers in products such as paints, plastic.

The purpose of this Paper is to provide information on an additional site that is being promoted for allocation in the Minerals Local Plan by the operator at Aldwark/Brassington Moor Quarry.
Appendix

Sites promoted by mineral operators for allocation in the Minerals Local Plan

Aldwark/Brassington Moor Quarry

Aldwark/Brassington Moor Quarry is situated to the west of Cromford, and lies within the Carboniferous Limestone resource centred around the Matlock/Wirksworth area. The quarry, currently operated by Longcliffe Quarries Ltd, lies adjacent to the Peak District National Park Boundary. Planning permission was first granted to extract mineral from Brassington Moor Quarry in 1951 and several permissions to further extend the quarry have been granted since. The permitted quarry area comprises the main quarry, Barnfield Quarry, Pyro Quarry, the processing plant and a largely reclaimed waste tip, which are all located south of the B5056 between Grangemill and Longcliffe, and Aldwalk Quarry to the north. There is road access off the B5056 to those parts of Brassington Moor Quarry to the south of the road, while a tunnel under the B5056 links the northern and southern parts of the quarry. Brassington Moor Quarry shares a boundary with Grangemill Quarry which is separately owned and operated.

The limestone is won from two distinct limestone horizons, which gently dip northwards and which are characterised by a relative lack of vein mineralisation or faulting. Nearest the surface is the Monsal Dale limestone, which is thin to thick bedded and generally more varied than the sequence below, which is the Bee Low limestone characterised by its massive, uniform bedding, varying in thickness from 30 to 80 metres or more with very little contamination. Only the Bee Low limestone is worked to the south of the B5056; to the north, the Monsal Dale limestone overlies the Bee Low limestone, both of which are worked in Aldwalk Quarry. These limestones have a calcium carbonate content in excess of 99.5% and very low levels of impurities, particularly iron and lead making them particularly valuable.

At Aldwark/Brassington Moor Quarry, the quality of the limestone deposits, combined with a range of high specification machinery, enables the production of a broad range of industrial limestone products demanding very high levels of purity, including granules/powders for use in manufacturing processes such as animal and pet feedstuffs, fertilisers/soil conditioners, glass, sugar refining, rubber and plastics. The very specialised nature of industrial limestone products cannot be overemphasised. The high purity calcium carbonates are required to meet a range of sector specific demands that can vary customer by customer. For example the specification for animal feed products requires very low levels of heavy metals with some elements as low as two parts per million. For glass the iron content is the critical value, for certain adhesives and sealants brightness is the major factor. Stone not suitable for the industrial market due to colour/chemical specification is sold as construction aggregate materials under a variety of applications.
Recent production rates have averaged around 1 million tonnes split approximately equally between industrial and aggregate uses. The operator estimates that existing permitted reserves are anticipated to last a further 14 to 18 years depending on the quality (of the in situ rock) encountered and customer product mix requirements. At recent production rates these reserves would maintain supply to 2030/2034 i.e. around the end of the Plan period.

Whilst the consented reserves may last beyond the Plan period the operator is mindful of the long lead in times required to obtain any planning permission (the last extension application took nearly 10 years from conception to grant of planning permission) and therefore wish to promote an extension to the south-west of the current Aldwark Quarry. The site measures 25 hectares and contains a reserve of industrial limestone of approximately 38 mt. This additional reserve would be processed through the existing processing plant facilities.

In support of this extension the Company states that the land is presently in agricultural use and is not subject to any statutory designations that would constrain working. It also states that this site would take workings further away from Aldwark, (the closest residential community), when compared to the present working area.