

# Statement of Community Involvement

Section 73 Planning Application for the proposed deepening of the existing quarry and an extension of time for mineral extraction and restoration operations through the variation of conditions 1 (timescales), 2 (approved plans), 4 (depth of mineral extraction), 6 (phasing plans), 40 (final restoration scheme) and 41 (water level timescales) of permission 01/03/1185 (original planning permission ref 1/86/760)

at

**Leapers Wood Quarry,  
Kellet Road, Carnforth, LA6 1BP**

on behalf of



by

---

**H e a t o n s**  
Planning Environment Design

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Purpose of this report.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>PLANNING CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Introduction.....	2
2.2	Legislation and Key Documents.....	2
2.3	Site Description.....	3
2.4	Site Context.....	4
2.5	Background and Planning History.....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>QUARRY LIAISON GROUP MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Introduction.....	6
<b>4</b>	<b>ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	7
4.2	Publicity .....	7
4.3	Carnforth Civic Hall – Public Exhibition .....	7
4.4	Nether Kellet Village Hall – Public Exhibition .....	7
4.5	Over Kellet Village Hall – Public Exhibition.....	8
<b>5</b>	<b>SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>9</b>

---

**Heaton's Document Management**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Date</b>
FINAL	CS/SG/GI	CS/SG	07/05/2024

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Heaton's on behalf of Tarmac Trading Limited (the Applicant) to support a planning application at Leapers Wood Quarry, Kellet Road, Carnforth, Lancashire (the site).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission is being sought for the deepening of existing quarry operations and an extension of time for the quarrying operations until 31 December 2064, with interim restoration being completed a year later, by 31 December 2065 and final restoration being undertaken by 31 December 2078 in conjunction with the adjacent Back Lane Quarry.
- 1.1.3 This planning application is submitted under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and proposes to vary conditions 1 (timescales), 2 (approved plans), 4 (depth of mineral extraction), 6 (phasing plans), 40 (final restoration scheme) and 41 (water level timescales) of planning permission 01/03/1185 (original planning permission ref 1/86/760).
- 1.1.4 Leapers Wood Quarry has been operating for many years and is one of a very limited number of quarries able to meet the carboniferous limestone aggregate demand of the north-west England market.
- 1.1.5 The site is a strategic supplier of high-grade aggregates which are essential for the repair, maintenance and improvement of the built environment in the region.
- 1.1.6 Full details of the proposed development and a site description are provided within the accompanying Planning Statement and Environmental Statement.
- 1.1.7 This SCI explains the purpose, nature and outcome of the community liaison and consultation that was undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application.
- 1.1.8 Further information on the applicants can be obtained via the website [www.tarmac.com](http://www.tarmac.com)

## **2 PLANNING CONTEXT**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 In accordance with good practice and the advice within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance, all developers proposing to submit planning applications for major development should undertake an element of community engagement prior to submitting their application.
- 2.1.2 Community engagement is an important part of the planning process and ensures that the views of the local community, as well as the numerous statutory consultees, are considered by the Applicant in the preparation of the planning application. Strengthening community involvement was a key part of former planning reforms, as laid out by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The reforms were founded on an objective of delivering a speedier and more flexible and responsive planning system, as well as building on opportunities for public participation and involvement.
- 2.1.3 Tarmac recognises the importance of community involvement and intends to recommence regular liaison group meetings involving residents and local authorities in order to keep all interested parties updated on the current and future activities at Leapers Wood Quarry, including the opportunity for site-related concerns or issues to be raised and discussed. In recognition of the importance and value that community engagement and consultation plays within the planning application process, Tarmac has sought to consult with the local community during the design of the proposed development and the preparation of this planning application.

### **2.2 Legislation and Key Documents**

#### National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.2.1 Paragraph 39 of the NPPF advises that *'early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community'*.
- 2.2.2 Paragraph 40 states that the LPA should:
- 2.2.3 *'...where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications'*.

Lancashire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.2.4 Lancashire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the County Council's policy for involving the community in the preparation the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and planning applications. The current SCI was adopted in November 2015.
- 2.2.5 The Council encourages applicants to engage in pre-application discussions with planning officers. The focus of these meetings is to provide the applicant with guidance relating to the information required for proper consideration of the Statement of Community Involvement application. It is an opportunity where key issues and policies that the applicants' proposals should take into account, may be identified.
- 2.2.6 The Council's SCI states that, 'During any pre-application meeting with the planning officers, the consultation requirements for the application will be discussed. If an application is viewed to be potentially contentious, wider scale public consultation by the developer may be necessary before the planning application is submitted. The purpose of such consultation would be *'to allow the developer to explain their initial ideas and to obtain the views of the local community and stakeholders. Such an approach brings benefits to all those involved by allowing accurate information to be presented to the community. In addition, by making provision for amendments early in the process, the applicant may avoid the inconvenience of having to make substantial amendments to an application at an advanced stage of the process'*.

Lancaster City Council's Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.2.7 The City Council's SCI advises that applicants for *'schemes with significant off-site impacts are positively encouraged to engage with the local community, key stakeholders and utility providers before making applications'*.
- 2.2.8 The SCI recommends community engagement for applications of the type being considered. These include discussions with residents groups; public meetings; leaflets; and the use of local media.

**2.3 Site Description**

- 2.3.1 The site lies immediately adjacent to the north of Back Lane Quarry. The sites are operated independently but their phased working and subsequent restoration are interrelated. The dedicated site entrance lies to the north of the site on Kellet Road.
- 2.3.2 The site extends to approximately 48 hectares (ha) in size and comprises an operational limestone quarry across the majority of the application area, site offices

and a weighbridge in the north of the site and a naturally regenerating overburden tip in the west of the site. Perimeter areas comprise lowland mixed deciduous woodland, mixed plantation woodland, hedgerows, dense scrub, calcareous grassland, improved pasture, open mosaic habitat and inland rock and scree.

## **2.4 Site Context**

- 2.4.1 The northern boundary of the site consists of a woodland belt made up of Leapers Wood, Bowman Stout Wood and Slacks Wood (around 100m wide) beyond which are agricultural fields separating the quarry area from the settlement of Over Kellet (around 500m away). Leapers Wood is classified as Ancient & Semi – Natural Woodland, Bowman Stout Wood is Ancient Replanted Woodland and Slacks Wood is also Ancient & Semi – Natural Woodland.
- 2.4.2 To the south of the site, beyond Back Lane Quarry, there are agricultural fields leading down to Back Lane, Main Road and the village of Nether Kellet. Hawthorns Caravan Park lies approximately 700m to the south of the quarry.
- 2.4.3 To the west of the site is a belt of woodland screening the site from the M6 which runs in a north / south direction past the site. To the east of the quarry is Kit Bill Wood, an Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland covering around 4.9 ha.
- 2.4.4 The nearest residential areas to the extraction area lie around 400m to the north-west on the edge of Carnforth, beyond the M6. Over Kellet village lies around 500m to the north-east and Nether Kellet village lies around 900m to the south of the quarry at its nearest point.
- 2.4.5 There are a number of Listed Buildings within 2km of the site, the closest of which is Grade II\* listed 'Church of St Cuthbert' approximately 500m to the east. The nearest cluster of listed buildings are within the village of Over Kellet around 800m north-east of the site.
- 2.4.6 A Public Footpath (PROW ref: 1-24-FP 7) runs north to south along the eastern side of Kit Bill Wood (to the east of the quarry), reaching Main Road. Here it runs parallel with Main Road before heading east to west (PROW ref: 1-22-FP 5) across the agricultural fields to the south of Back Lane Quarry.
- 2.4.7 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2km of the site. Crag Bank SSSI is a 3.7ha biological designation located around 1.5km to the west of the site. Thwaite House Moss SSSI is a 7.25ha biological designation approximately 1km to the south-west of the site.

2.4.8 The Forest of Bowland National Landscape and the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape lie around 1.7km to the east and 1.8km to the west respectively.

## **2.5 Background and Planning History**

2.5.1 Leapers Wood Quarry is a long-established limestone quarry supplying high grade limestone aggregate throughout the region. Planning permission for mineral extraction at Leapers Wood Quarry was granted in 1988 (ref. 1/86/760). The permission was subject to an Environment Act Mineral Review in 2003 (Application reference: 1/03/1185).

2.5.2 Planning permission was granted for the construction of a western embankment at Leapers Wood Quarry in 1995 (ref 1/94/582). The embankment provided a location for the tipping of overburden and waste material from the adjacent quarry and improved the screening of the quarry when seen from Carnforth and surrounding areas to the west. Condition 1 of the planning permission required the embankment to be completed by 30th June 2012 with restoration completed within a further year.

2.5.3 Planning permission to vary condition 1 of planning permission 01/94/0582 to extend the time period for the completion of the western embankment to 30 June 2022 was permitted on 28th September 2012 (ref. 01/12/0662).



### **3 QUARRY LIAISON GROUP MEETINGS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 Historically, Tarmac have attended a regular liaison group meeting as a forum for local representatives, Tarmac and the planning authority to discuss quarry operations. The meetings were administrated by officers from Lancashire County Council.
- 3.1.2 The liaison meetings have not taken place on a regular basis over the last few years following the Covid-19 pandemic but it is Tarmac's intention to review the arrangements and ensure that regular meetings take place going forward.

## **4 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 A series of public exhibitions were scheduled during March and April 2024 to present the proposals to the local community and seek feedback from attendees.

4.1.2 Presentation boards were provided setting out the proposed plans and details of quarrying operations.

4.1.3 Copies of the draft Non-Technical Summary were made available to attendees.

4.1.4 Public exhibitions were held at:

- Carnforth Civic Hall on Friday 22 March 2024 (1.00pm to 6.30pm)
- Nether Kellet Village Hall on Wednesday 27 March 2024 (1.30pm to 6.30pm)
- Over Kellet Village Hall on Wednesday 3 April 2024 (1.30pm to 6.30pm)

### **4.2 Publicity**

4.2.1 The public exhibitions were advertised on all parish notice boards and websites. Additional notices were placed on boards in a number of shops within Carnforth, including Tesco and Booths.

4.2.2 Notice of the events was also included within the Over Kellet parish newsletter which was distributed to all households within the parish (around 700 households).

4.2.3 The Councils also advertised the exhibitions on their websites. City Councillors and planning officers were also notified by email.

### **4.3 Carnforth Civic Hall – Public Exhibition**

4.3.1 Attendance numbers were low (approximately 10) at this event. However, attendees included the Town Mayor Jim Grisenthwaite, Deputy Town Mayor Liz Jones, Lancaster City and Town Councillor Chris Hanna, City Councillor Louise Belcher and the owners of Hawthorns Caravan Park.

4.3.2 None of the attendees were opposed to the proposed application and no specific concerns or objections were raised.

### **4.4 Nether Kellet Village Hall – Public Exhibition**

4.4.1 This event was attended by approximately 22 people including Parish Councillors, local residents and neighbouring landowners.

4.4.2 None of the attendees were opposed to the proposed application and no specific concerns or objections were raised.

#### **4.5 Over Kellet Village Hall – Public Exhibition**

4.5.1 The final exhibition was attended by approximately 25 people. Parish Councillor Derek Johnson was present for the majority of the exhibition.

4.5.2 None of the attendees were opposed to the proposed application and no specific concerns were raised. One attendee was keen to understand more detail regarding the hydrological / hydrogeological impact assessment. Another attendee was keen to understand the blasting impacts on their property and how this may change with the new application. It was explained to residents that the levels of blasting vibration are significantly below the levels at which any structural damage could occur and within the planning condition limits.

## **5 SUMMARY**

- 5.1.1 No significant comments or objections to the proposed scheme were noted during the public exhibitions. Having reviewed general discussions with attendees, it is considered that no changes to the draft scheme were required.
- 5.1.2 The general feedback received demonstrates that, as is the case with most developments of this nature, the principal topics relate to amenity issues, such as noise, dust and traffic, as well as in this case, hydrogeology.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant has ensured that these issues have been addressed within the planning application and accompanying Environmental Statement and that, where required, measures have been included within the scheme to minimise the potential for any residual or unacceptable effects on the environment and local amenity.
- 5.1.4 Whilst the Applicant has engaged with the local community during the recent series of public exhibitions, on submission of the planning application to Lancashire County Council, stakeholders and interested parties, including residents and local businesses, will be able to view and provide further comments on the planning application and supporting documents.

# Public Exhibition

## Leapers Wood and Back Lane Quarries

**Tarmac and Aggregate Industries are hosting a series of exhibitions as part of a public consultation on the proposed deepening of our Leapers Wood and Back Lane quarries.**

Three events will be held to give residents an opportunity to review our plans for the development of the quarries, discuss the proposals directly with us, and submit feedback.

We hope you will be able to join us at our consultation exhibition and look forward to seeing you.

### **Friday 22nd March**

**13:00pm - 18:30pm**

Carnforth Civic Hall  
North Road  
Carnforth  
LA5 9LJ

### **Wednesday 27th March**

**13:00pm - 18:30pm**

Nether Kellet Village Hall  
Main Road  
Nether Kellet  
LA6 1EZ

### **Wednesday 3rd April**

**13:00pm - 18:30pm**

Over Kellet Village Hall  
Church Bank  
Over Kellet  
LA6 1DT