# Independent Examination

# Gloucestershire Mineral Local Plan 2018-2032

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## Issue 6 – Minerals other than aggregates

Hearing Statement on behalf of

Cotswold Hill Stone & Masonry Limited

Cotswold Stone Quarries Limited

Smiths (Gloucester) Limited

Wemyss and March Estates (Stanway Stone Company)

Syreford Quarries and Masonry Limited

# 1 Introduction

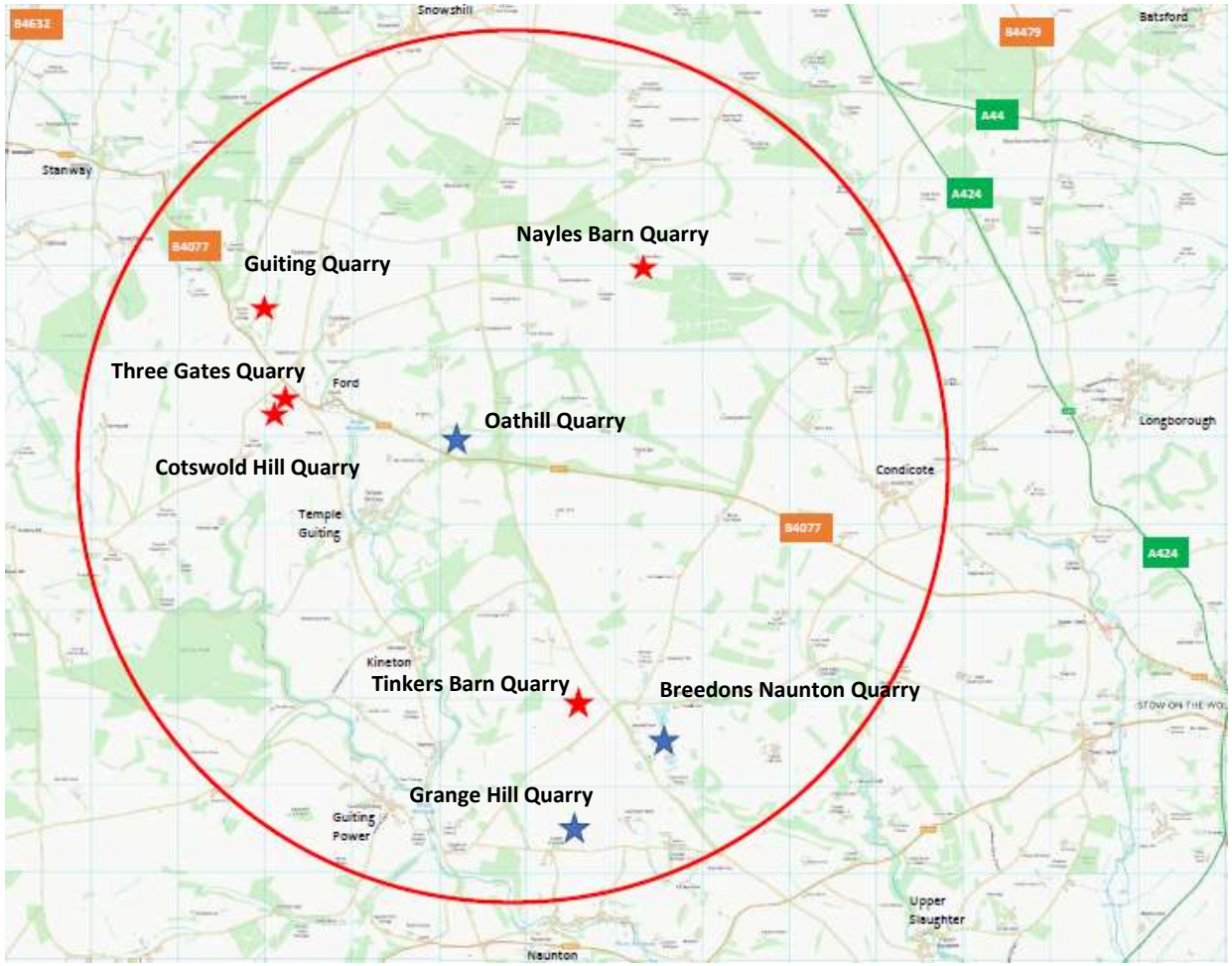
1.1 The natural Cotswold building stone industry is a major resource for Gloucestershire. Although well-established it continues to grow in size and renown making an important contribution to the County's economy in rural areas. It provides a significant level of employment and training with an increasingly highly skilled workforce. Gloucestershire's building stone quarry operations play an important role in preserving many historic buildings in the AONB, the wider County and outside the County boundaries including many notable important public heritage buildings. Additionally they play an essential role relating to Gloucestershire's built environment ensuring appropriate local distinctiveness in new built development, which is a fundamental aim of other planning policies such as Policy EN2 and associated Cotswold Design Guide (ref 1).

1.2 This statement is prepared by Lucy Binnie, MRTPI BScHONs, see appendix A for statement of experience. The statement is a joint statement on behalf of five operators all involved with building stone operations in the north western part of the Cotswolds AONB which represents the largest concentration of building stone operations in the County. Separate details providing commentary on each of the operators is provided in Appendix B.

1.3 All the operators have quarries within a 5km radius of Trafalgar Junction, the crossroads of the B4077 and Buckle Street (the main road network in this area of the AONB) see Figure 1 overleaf[1]. The quarries are Cotswold Hill, Three Gates, Tinkers Barn and Nayles Barn. But it is important to note that Figure 1 includes other quarries in this 5km radius operated by producers which are not directly represented in this statement but are equally important producers of natural building stone products, including Guiting Quarry, Oathill Quarry, Grange Hill Quarry and Breedon's Naunton Quarry.

[1] Two of the operators have additional quarries beyond this 5km radius, Syreford Quarries & Masonry Ltd whose main site, Syreford Quarry, is located approximately 11km south west of Trafalgar Junction just north of Andoversford and also Cotswold Hill Quarries who have another building stone operation located in the Forest of Dean.

**Figure 1: Location of Operational Quarries Producing Building Stone in North West of Cotswolds AONB**




Red Circle has 5km radius.

# 2 Positively Prepared Plan

## Overview

2.1 The Gloucestershire Mineral Local Plan 2018-2032 (GMLP) is not considered to represent a positively prepared plan for the County's natural building stone operators and so is not considered sound.

2.2 The majority of the production of natural building stone in Gloucestershire occurs in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). As noted in the GMLP itself over half the County is covered by AONB designations (Core Doc SUB001 pg 115). The underlying stone (geology) is responsible not just for the attractive topography for which the Cotswolds AONB is renowned but for the very attractive, built environment (the villages, farms, towns etc) which the particular type of cream and similar coloured Jurassic limestone from quarries only in the Cotswolds AONB can produce. A fundamental aim of local planning policies such as Policy EN2 and associated Cotswold Design Guide (ref 1) reinforces the use of the local natural stone not just for historic but also for new development.

2.3 The distribution of quarries producing natural building stone products reflects the geology and so are only found in the AONBs where the stone occurs. The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 (ref 2, extract pg 22) reinforces the importance of quarrying to the AONB, citing it as one of main economic activities influencing the AONB landscape and that '*businesses most likely to benefit from being located in the AONB are those that are most likely to be compatible with conserving and enhancing its character …… include ……. industry reliant on resources unique to the Cotswolds (e.g. quarries supplying local stone)*'.

2.4 The quarrying industry, focusing on natural building stone, has a substantial presence in the north western corner of the Cotswold AONB, the commentary of the quarrying operation of the companies who are presenting this combined representation demonstrate this. Many sites employ a considerably sized and skilled workforce, equipped with highly specialised machinery and skilled expertise in masonry, stone carving etc. Building stone is a high value product but extraction and processing costs are high, with many sites having a substantial investment in the specialist equipment and trained workforce needed in production.

2.5 To ensure continuity of the economic contribution to this rural area, as well as the supply of stone essential for the built environment, planning policy needs to strongly support the continuation of existing building stone operations in the AONB. The GMLP as it is proposed

does not accurately reflect the importance of the existing building stone quarrying operations to the AONB and to the rural economy. It fails to recognize that the scale of this important industry is no longer small nor and does not properly describe the typical production and operations of 'building stone units' in the Cotswolds AONB. Consequently the proposed new GMLP policy will severely compromise the natural building stone operations and the supply of natural stone in the County.

## Spatial Consideration

2.6 GMLP policy MW02 has not followed through from the initial assessment of preferred options and if adopted would present an impassable barrier to the continuation of the existing building stone operations. Given the concentrated location of the building stone quarries in the AONB, as previously detailed, there is no spatial consideration in the policy. When assessing the preferred options in 2014, (ref 3, pg 74) the option MPO7b was '*to develop a more 'spatial' approach to the management of the County's building stone resources.*' The Council concluded that this option should be the basis for the emerging policy but MW02 has not carried through any spatial context. Noting the nature and co-location of the existing building stone quarries in the north western corner of the Cotswolds AONB it is not clear how, or if, the GMLP will support continued quarry development in this area going forward. Paragraph 168 refers to '*dispersed*' units. Clearly this cannot be possible in relation to the main supply of Jurassic limestone building stone. This needs to be corrected otherwise without a positive confirmation of the continuation of the current established quarrying activities in this part of the AONB there is the serious and fundamental question of where will this building stone be provided from in the future? The Jurassic limestone can only be sourced from where, geologically, it exists.

## Hybrid Quarries (Multi Mineral[2])

2.7 The technical evidence paper (ref 3, pg 81) refers to 'hybrid quarries' as those producing aggregates in bulk with lesser volumes of building stone. It is difficult to distinguish the balance between building and aggregate production at a 'hybrid' quarry. Most of the Jurassic limestone quarries (in the AONB) producing building stone also produce aggregates as a by-product. The evidence paper refers to issues at hybrid quarries not associated with '*small building stone quarries*' covering: increased amenity impacts; sustainable full working of

[2] The text of the GMLP refers to multi mineral sites which is thought to represent the reference to 'hybrid' quarries used in the technical evidence document. This statement continues to use the term hybrid as the same mineral is worked at each site albeit for different products not different (multi) minerals.

mineral resource; loss of building stone to aggregate use; landscaping impacts; and loss of quarry waste for restoration.

2.8 Any building stone quarry producing aggregates will fall into this hybrid category. At hybrid operations the building stone tonnage figure will always be a smaller proportion when compared against the by-product aggregate production tonnage, as even though the by-product aggregate production tonnage itself is low in comparison to an 'aggregate only' operation it will exceed the building stone tonnage given aggregates are a low value high bulk material. The issue is the level of financial contribution that each makes to the enterprise. Building stone has a substantially higher value for a small tonnage in comparison to the low value of a larger amount of aggregate product. An illustration of this is the cost of stone slates, one of the most difficult natural stone products to source, which commands approximately £200/$m^2$ (equating to one tonne) whereas the crushed stone will sell ex works for £7/t (out of which £2/t aggregate level then royalties and the cost of extraction has to be paid).

2.9 There are very good reasons for producing aggregates at building stone operations. In the first instance the production of building stone generates high volumes of waste from unsuitable strata, stone which is too small in size or offcuts from sawing and other processing. The waste stone 'bulks' up occupying a greater volume than it's equivalent, original in situ tonnage. Retaining high amounts of waste on site severely restricts operational space compromising quarry safety, giving rise to high costs occurred continually moving and double handling waste material and potentially causing visual harm. As producing high levels of waste material cannot be avoided, the only sensible means to address this is by turning the waste into a product enabling it to be removed from site.

2.10 The council is concerned that building stone operations do not become aggregate operations using valuable stone for aggregate rather than building stone purposes (ref 3 pg 81). This is not the case. No producer would, for example, make aggregate from stone which is suitable for an architectural feature, monument, carving or for the repair of a heritage or listed buildings or for walling stone to enhance the AONB. It would make no sense.

2.11 Notwithstanding the economic value mentioned above, the building stone operators contributing to this statement that produce aggregate by products are not aggregate quarries. This is demonstrated by a number of characteristics. The quarrying methods avoid blasting which would shatter the stone. It is important to prise the stone intact as far as possible from

its bed to gain the optimum working sizes. In contrast, aggregates quarries often blast and have extensive processing plant reducing the stone into small sized aggregate products.

2.12 Aggregates production at building stone quarries isn't a 'full time' activity, it would be a campaign approach involving the periodic hire of a mobile crusher for short periods of time to crush the unusable stone for sale as low quality aggregate. Therefore the associated amenity impacts of 'intensification', a concern of the technical paper and the GMLP's supporting text para 169, do not occur as the aggregate processing activities are limited in duration and the hired plant has to comply with local authority permitting requirements which address amenity issues such as air quality. The crushed stone is then removed from site in response to demand. As a low quality product, the aggregate material cannot sustain high transport costs travelling great distances so it supplies only local needs and for limited uses.

2.13 The processing plant at these hybrid building stone quarries don't contain any value added aggregate processes such as concrete or asphalt plants. The building stone quarries usually have extensive, and expensive, fixed processing plant dedicated to building stone products essentially specialist cutting, guillotining, masonry and carving equipment. A single 'basic' saw can easily represent an investment of over £100,000. To recoup such an investment the operator must sell the maximum possible volume of high value products from the quarry and waste as little as possible unusable stone.

2.14 This all reflects the prime nature of the existing building stone operations only producing aggregate as part of the site's operational needs. Be the term hybrid or multi mineral, the main production is for building stone with all other production stemming from the waste by-product. Ancillary production of waste by-products does not alter the fact that the primary purpose of a building stone quarry is to produce natural building stone products. The GMLP needs stronger acknowledgement that hybrid operations with an aggregate output from a building stone quarry are typical building stone operations and should be supported to ensure efficiency of building stone production.

## Scale

2.15 The issue of hybrid quarries and the scale of building stone 'operations' has been presented in a manner which is misleading when appreciating the scale of the existing industry. The technical evidence note (ref 3) refers to 'most' natural stone operations as ''*small-scale' and 'cottage industry' scale*'. The GMLP footnote 79 on page 48, states '*Based on recent data from the MPA Annual Mineral Survey Returns average sales of natural building stone from each of*

*Gloucestershire's active quarry units is just over 2,500 tonnes per annum*.'. The basis for calculation is not clear, other than it is an average. It presents a picture of quarries producing only 2,500 tonnes without any further clarification.

2.16 The author's experience of the quarry operators contributing to this statement is that they all produce building stone considerably in excess of this figure, and most have additional production of non-building stone tonnages[3]. Without clarification of other production, including aggregate and other non-building stone production (e.g. agricultural lime) this 2,500tpa gives a misleading impression of building stone quarries as a small scale industry which isn't borne out in reality. The text itself, para 168, states that the quarries '*only generate a few thousand tonnes work of sales per year*' but this isn't typical in the majority of Jurassic limestone building stone operations in the Cotswolds AONB. They are substantial operations producing the highest quality stone products, directly employing hundreds of staff, with many more dependent on the industry for their livelihood, training entrants into the industry in highly skilled work. There is nothing of a cottage industry in any of the Cotswold AONB building stone quarries.

2.17 Similarly the reference to '*Natural building stone production in Gloucestershire has historically been low in comparison to aggregate working*' is correct but misleading. Sites producing just tens of thousands of tonnes of building stone product can support more jobs than an aggregate site producing hundreds of thousands of tonnes of aggregate and those jobs are likely to be just as, or more, skilled. The proposed GMLP has completely failed to understand the nature of the building stone industry in the County. Consequently clarity on the text and footnotes needs to be provided to present a much more accurate and truer picture of the building stone operations.

2.18 To further demonstrate the hybrid issue and confusion in some of the presentation of building stone figures, Figure 2 shows the amalgamation of production tables for crushed rock and building stone, taken from the latest Annual Monitoring Report (core doc ref SUB016). The production figure of non-aggregate crushed rock in the last recorded year is 170,000t with a figure of 51,000t for natural stone. The GMLP refers to '*natural building stone has on average represented just 9% of all limestone and sandstone production in the County*', footnote 78 on page 48. This is just one of many possible measures of proportion based on sold tonnage. However, if the proportion were to be recalculated based on product value, or number of

[3] The sites without the ability to produce aggregates all have operational issues due to this prohibition.

employees required, the proportions would be different reflecting the significance of the building stone industry.

2.19 Translating the quoted 9% figure for natural building stone on the latest crushed rock figure gives 151,000t not 51,000t, a difference of 100,000t. If this is correct it would seem to imply a far greater production of natural building stone, which aligns with the author's view based on her knowledge of the local natural stone operations, the author accepts natural stone products are not responsible for all the non-aggregate crushed rock production[4]. Noting there can be substantial variation in building stone production from one year to the next this may evidence recording issues and reinforce under recording.

[4] Agricultural lime production in the county is in excess of a five figure tonnage.

**Figure 2: Comparison of Crushed Rock and Building Stone Production Tables from GCC AMR**

| Year | Total sales of limestone and sandstone in million tonnes | Sales for 'crushed rock' aggregate purposes In million tonnes *(as %of total sales)* | Sales for non-aggregate purposes In million tonnes *(as % of total sales)* | Natural building stone sales in tonnes | % change on previous year | from limestone In tonnes *(as %of total sales)* | from sandstone In tonnes *(as % of total sales)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2014 | **1.68 mt** | 1.51 mt *(90%)* | 0.17 mt *(10%)* | **51,829 t** | Increase by 14% | 36,746t *(71%)* | 15,083 t *(29%)* |
| 2013 | **1.6 mt** | 1.36 mt *(85%)* | 0.24 mt *(15%)* | **45,398 t** | Decrease by 21% | 35,605 t *(78%)* | 9,793 t *(22%)* |
| 2012 | **1.41 mt** | 1.18 mt *(84%)* | 0.23 mt *(16%)* | **60,978 t** | Increase by 15% | 48,884 t *(85%)* | 12,094 t *(15%)* |
| 2011 | **1.45 mt** | 1.30 mt *(88%)* | 0.18 mt *(12%)* | **49,906 t** | Decrease by 13% | 38,640 t *(77%)* | 11,266 t *(23%)* |
| 2010 | **1.41 mt** | 1.20 mt *(85%)* | 0.21 mt *(15%)* | **57,315 t** | - | 44,631 t *(78%)* | 12,684 t *(22%)* |
| 2009 | **1.33 mt** | 1.17 mt *(88%)* | 0.16 mt *(12%)* | 52,353 t | - | 40,901 t | 12,184 t |
| 2008 | **1.76 mt** | 1.61 mt *(91%)* | 0.15 mt *(9%)* | | | | |
| 2007 | **2.21 mt** | 2.08 mt *(94%)* | 0.13 mt *(6%)* | | | | |
| 2006 | **1.91 mt** | 1.81 mt *(95%)* | 0.10 mt *(5%)* | | | | |

Source: Minerals & Waste Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for Gloucestershire (Core Doc Ref SUB016 tables 22 and 23)

2.20 Option MPO7b was meant to address hybrid quarries however, and noting that most building stone operations can be classed as hybrid (multi mineral), this has not been carried through. The GMLP supporting text to Policy MW02, paragraph 171, states that '*multi-mineral development proposals that could involve the working of some aggregates and other minerals along with natural building stone, the relevant requirements of policies MW01 and MA02 will also need careful examination*'. To comply with the first two criteria of Policy MW01 aggregate working is only allowed where needed to contribute to aggregate landbanks and the site is in an aggregate working allocation. Natural building stone operations are not identified in the aggregate working operations and cannot pass the first qualification. The alternative third criterion allows this where it complies with Policy MA02. However none of the criteria in Policy MA02 (including the proposed modifications amended wording) make provision for aggregate working as part of a building stone operation. As the GMLP does not provide for aggregate operations as part of a building stone operation this is considered unreasonable given that aggregate operations are an integral part of most existing building stone operations in the County. Policy MA02 needs to be amended to allow aggregate supply from building stone quarries.

## Supporting Text MW02

2.21 The new policy requires demonstration of need. The supporting text, para 173, outlines this as a 'Building Stone Assessment' (BSA). The NPPF (2012) and associated technical guidance does not provide for such an assessment nor does the GMLP provide any meaningful guidance as to what this could entail. There is reference to the Strategic Stone Study which is in essence a reference document about stone and quarries in the County, listing 100 different stone types and 250 quarry sites (old and current) (refs 4 and 5). This compares with 22 actual operating building stone sites in the County in 2014 (ref 3, Appendix C) indicating that the current operational quarries do not reflect the full range of stone in the County. Beyond this there is no real assistance on the preparation of a BSA with the supporting text requiring details of demand and consideration of environmental and economic merits of alternative supplies. This is an exceptionally high burden and very subjective in nature particularly on alternative supplies. It is an exceptionally onerous and totally unnecessary requirement for existing operators to comply and will damage, delay or make unviable their ability to continue or expand their existing business operations i.e. an extension or replacement site, and this requirement should be removed.

## Sustainability

2.22 The supporting text, GMLP para 174, introduces another requirement for applications, a sustainability assessment, and refers to the importance of the landscape with reference to flexibility for '*individual proposals for small-scale natural building stone workings*'. Again there is no meaningful guidance/detail to this and clearly the text fails to identify what a small scale operation is or to recognise the scale and importance of the industry as it already is. The matter of small-scale workings and sustainability, not reflecting the reality of the industry's actual scale has been previously mentioned. This words "Small-scale" should be removed from the text or the text should be altered to provide not only more guidance on such assessment but to address the reality of the building stone industry in the AONB and, in order to uphold the reasons for being a Minerals Planning Authority and producing a Minerals Plan, to support Gloucestershire's building stone industry and the supply of stone which it produces.

2.23 One of the notable ways in which sustainability is delivered is by using the waste stone for aggregate purposes. When mineral wastes are used for an alternative purpose to their primary use they are often termed as secondary aggregates. This is highly sustainable and is supported in other areas of the Plan, notably SR01, because it serves to reduce the need to produce primary aggregate elsewhere. Yet as demonstrated above aggregate production at building stone quarries is not supported, contrary to the reality of the current industry. Notwithstanding that aggregate production overcomes serious operational difficulties that impact the viability of building stone operations, prohibiting aggregate production does not afford the building stone industry the ability to deliver sustainability benefits with the production of secondary aggregates. The GMLP should be amended to allow proportionate aggregate production to form part of the sustainability of a natural building stone proposal.

# 3 Policy MW06

## General

3.1 There should be a presumption to support all ancillary development which is part of the valuable contribution minerals makes to the economy as recognised by the NPPF and this should be acknowledged in the supporting text.

3.2 The comments in the representations still stand notably on the scope for potential permanence of ancillary development which would require amendment of criterion III. An example in Gloucestershire where a mineral operation's ancillary development has permanent permission allowing its retention after the completion of mineral extraction is at M C Cullimore's site at Netherhills, Perry Way Frampton. The site has full permission for mineral processing and storage and most recently was granted permission for an aggregate recycling facility. The original mineral operations at Netherhillls have long ceased but the site is well located relative to the highway network, has minimal amenity impacts and has become an established aggregate operation (ref 6). Clearly the scope for permanence will depend on the individual site circumstances and this could be reflected in the supporting text.

3.3 Also the unnecessary removal of permitted development rights should be addressed with the supporting text referring to the fact that the removal of permitted development rights should not be an automatic practice but have a clear purpose not a vague reference to protection of amenities.

## Waste Related Development

3.4 Policy MW06 should give acknowledgement and encouragement to appropriate waste related development covering construction and demolition (C&D) wastes with both recycling and recovery. Whilst waste policies are provided in the County's Waste Core Strategy (Core Doc PSD1) with Policy WCS4 covering C&D wastes, if the waste operation's raison d'etre in its location is the minerals operation then it should qualify as ancillary minerals development. C&D wastes assist with minerals sites' restoration throughout the County, on a variety of mineral sites. This is ancillary to the mineral extraction as the waste development would not take place in that location without the existence of the quarry.

3.5 Additionally processing of C&D wastes is symbiotic to aggregate processing operations often using the same type of processing plant. It is not common to utilise the same plant for the two different materials but it can be done. The point is that the similarities of the processing plant

mean that, as per comments in the original representations, a well-designed plant site could accommodate similar waste operations in an acceptable manner. If one of the main aims of the GMLP is to increase secondary and recycled aggregates, to conserve primary mineral resources, then clear support should be afforded for secondary and recycled aggregate operations as ancillary minerals development. And with this, the more successful the Plan is with its aims of increasing secondary and recycled aggregates and reducing demand for primary materials, it is logical that there may be some knock on delay i.e. the primary aggregate mineral extraction operations will take longer. The supporting text needs to accept this situation may arise as the text focuses on not compromising timescale which appears as a basic conflict.

## Comparative Analysis

3.6 The proposed modifications do not address the issues previously raised and this requirement should be dropped. A comparative analysis is highly subjective and factors influencing this will vary in importance between operators and will be influenced by third party decisions over which an operator will have no control yet which will prejudice his ability to invest in his business. The ancillary development should be acceptable in its own right and compliant with other general policies.

# References

## List of References

1. Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023
2. Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted 3 August 2018) Policy NE2 and Appendix D, Cotswold Design Guide
3. Minerals Local Plan Site Options and Draft Policy Framework Evidence Paper Minerals Technical Evidence dated June 2014
4. Strategic Stone Study Gloucestershire Quarries
5. Strategic Stone Study Gloucestershire Stone Types
6. Gloucestershire County Council Delegated Officer Report on MC Cullimore's Planning Application reference 17/0112/STMAJW at Netherhill for Retention of Aggregate Recycling Facility

# Appendices

# Appendix A – Author's Statement of Experience

## Statement of Experience

Lucy J Binnie is a Chartered Town Planner with over 30 years' experience in minerals and waste planning. Lucy is a director of Land and Mineral Management which is a minerals and waste specialist consultancy based in the South West of England.

Lucy graduated with a BScHONs Town and Regional Planning degree from Dundee University in 1987 which included a specialist option in Minerals Planning which determined the direction of her working career. On leaving university she has worked in a number of County Councils including Buckinghamshire, Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Berkshire and Gloucestershire primarily dealing with development control matters for minerals and waste as well as including some policy and providing RAWP secretariat. Her experience work has included inquiry and EIA work as well as sitting on various specialist technical groups including the RTPIs Minerals and Waste Panel and County Planning Officers' Society's Group. The geographic range of the council's has provided Lucy with a working experience of an extensive range of mineral types and related issues.

Leaving local government in 2006 she joined Land and Mineral Management Limited and set up their Cirencester office. She has an extensive client basis of SME companies involved in minerals and waste with many of her clients and their sites based in Gloucestershire.

Lucy's long experience has provided her with detailed expert knowledge in mineral and waste fields with a good appreciation of 'both sides of the fence' covering local authority issues and the nature and operational needs of the industry.

# Appendix B – Representation Companies with details of Building Stone Operations

Details below are provided of the building stone operators who have made representations to the plan and on whose behalf this joint statement has been prepared. The details cover their quarrying operation in the Cotswolds AONB, outlining the nature of their operations and including some of the issues and future aspirations.

**Stanway Stone Company: Representation no 793504**

Site: Nayles Barn Quarry

Workforce: 15

Building Stone Products:

The stone slates and walling stone. Are able to produce large slates, which can alone be worth in excess of £100 for a single slate. Slates are sold through Cotswolds and have supplied many public buildings in Oxford.

Natural stone sales is circa 3,800t but this figure does not include stone used on the Stanway Estate itself.

Background:

Initially opened as a new site just over ten years ago following need to reroof a church on Stanway Estate and subsequently expanded into walling stone on an adjacent field for similar reasons.

Future:

The company still has an amount of permitted reserves however it is experiencing difficulties with waste which are increasing restoration contours above original ground levels.

**Cotswold Stone Quarries Limited: Representation no 793895**

Site: Tinkers Barn Quarry

Workforce: 40

Operations:

Building stone operations cover production of building and walling stone and stone slates.

The site is the main producer of stone slates in the AONB has a cutting shed with equipment representing a capital investment of circa £100,000. Aggregate production is by mobile crushing plant, operating at ad hoc times during the year. The site was originally permitted in 1998 as a new site with a depth limitation of 4m. An extension granted in 2011 allowed working to a depth of 6m, subsequent issues with waste saw an application to allow crushing and removal of waste stone.

Natural stone production is circa 9,500t and aggregate production 30,000t.

Building Stone Products:

The stone is a grey colour. Notably projects include the Gloucester Gateway M5 services and sup0plying Blenheim Palace and the roofing slates are widely used inside and outside the Cotswolds AONB including many college roofs in Oxford and further beyond.

Other/Future:

The company previously operated another quarry, Brockhill (just south of Breedons Naunton Quarry) which closed a number of years ago. The company are actively looking for a new quarry to replace this and produce masonry stone and have undertaken some trial pit work on potential sites which all lie within the 5km radius of figure 1.

**Cotswold Hill Stone & Masonry Limited** and **Smiths (Gloucester) Limited:**

**Representations no 820738** and **802358**

Site: Cotswold Hill Quarry

Workforce: 20

Operations:

Building stone operations cover production of architectural masonry, decorative masonry, building and walling stone. The quarry operations include aggregate production and a recovery operation, using imported waste soils, to assist restoration. The quarry is designated as a regionally important geological and geomorphological site (RIGS) due to the strata exposure and a pair of peregrine falcons (a protected species) has nested in the quarry face for many years now.

The site has a number of cutting sheds with the cutting plant equipment representing a capital investment of circa £200,000. Aggregate production is by mobile crushing plant, operating at ad hoc times during the year.

Building Stone Products:

The stone is a honey and cream. Notably historic building repair work beyond the County boundary includes: The Houses of Parliament; Hampton Court Palace; Blenheim Palace; Magdalen Bridge, Oxford; and, Alexandra Palace.

Other:

The site is allowed to import natural building stone and has a sister site in the Forest of Dean working the Pennant Sandstone.

Future:

Reserves of lighter colour stone are limited and are considering extension potential or alternative site in the medium term.

**Syreford Quarries and Masonry Ltd: Representation no 794030**

Cotswold Sites: Three Gates and Syreford

Workforce: 16

Three Gates

Products are block and walling stone. Equipment for walling stone on site with block processed at Syreford unit. 'Crushing' is prohibited and to address issues with quarry waste the site has been exporting quarry waste for crushing at third party site.

Syreford Quarry

Supplies high end Cotswold stone architectural masonry and wall stone. The main processing plant for company is based here with specialist equipment with a capability for 3D work representing a capital investment of circa £500,000. Aggregate production prohibited, quarry waste is an ongoing operational issue.

Production is approximately 5,500t

Building Stone Projects:

SWM have provided stone for many nationally renown historic buildings as well as local historic buildings and many prestigious new build projects. Notably historic work includes: St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle; Eton College; Hampton Court Palace; Truro Cathedral; Icomb Grange; The Royal Observatory, Oxford; Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester; Worcester and St Johns Colleges, Oxford; Cirencester Town Hall; and, Cheltenham Ladies College.

Other/Future:

Three Gates reopened approximately 5 years ago to assist SQM with additional blockstone. In the medium term SQM are looking to address matter of waste and a site extension at Syreford to ensure continuity of supply.