

Went Edge Quarry

Response to EA RFI of 22-10-24 – Matters relating to the HRA

Application reference: EPR/FP3724SM/A001

Operator: Went Valley Aggregates and Recycling Ltd

Update the HRA to provide to include evidence to substantiate the presence of the basal marl within the base of the quarry. This should include detailed cross-sections to demonstrate the presence of the basal marl within the base of the quarry. If evidence of basal marl cannot be provided this application will be returned due to there being no assessment to the risk to groundwater and the site lies on a Principal aquifer.

The site has been the subject of several planning applications as the extent of the quarry has varied over the years. The most recent planning application in the name of Went Valley Aggregates Limited was granted in 2019, reference NY/2019/0002/ENV. This included an Environmental Statement produced by John Carlon of Cromwell Mining Consultants. A review of planning submissions indicates that Cromwell Mining Consultants have been involved with the site for several years and have photographic evidence of its development including the presence of marl below the base of the quarry.

In a recent email from John Carlon to Rob Lunn he states the following with respect to the marl:

Please see photographs of the quarry when a trial pit was excavated in 2007 and a drop cut in January 2017 to see what thickness the red marl was in the base of the quarry to the south side of the filter press. You can see it is marl as it is purple. There is also a photo of the drilling rig drilling the floor under the industrial estate to check the thickness of the limestone and hitting the purple marl below. By April 2017 the drop cut had been filled in with the marl and then compacted fines so that the south east corner could be worked.

I don't have any borehole logs for the area as they were probably drilled in 2007 and will be in the paper files or in the FGB archive which I shall have to retrieve from the database.

Whilst the site is on a primary aquifer it is the limestone that is also dry. Beneath it is the marl that lies on the coal measures unconformably as Went Edge is on the coal measures at 19 metres AOD and the water table was proven in the Ackworth Rock at 14 metres AOD. On photographs the limestone can be seen to be about 2.5 metres thick and then purple marl which is 6 metres thick and holding water from runoff in the quarry. It was pumped out in March 2017 and backfilled and covered with limestone fines by April 2017.

We also attach:

- Historical photographs provided by John Carlon
- A cross section taken from the 2010 planning application, reference NY/2010/0158/FUL (C8/45/13AE/PA).

The site has been through several stages of planning approval and consultation with the Environment Agency. The conceptual model on which the current (2022) HRA is based is the same as that which has been approved for previous planning applications.

We note that the risks to groundwater *have* been considered in the 2022 HRA. The conclusion is that the aquifer is dry in the vicinity of the site and is underlain by low permeability marl. There is, therefore, no source-pathway-linkage to assess. The potential risks to surface water have been quantitatively assessed.

HRA references a 2019 an Environmental Statement that was prepared by Cromwell Mining Consultants (Cromwells) that describes further detail on the GW level and geological units beneath the site. Please submit this evidence to support the conceptual model.

A copy of the Environmental Statement, as accessed from the North Yorkshire Council planning portal against application NY/2019/0002/ENV, is attached.

Attachments

1. Historical photographs;
2. Cross section; and
3. 2019 Environmental Statement – Cromwell Mining Consultants.