Welcome

Quarry Extension Consultation

Thank you for visiting this virtual exhibition about plans for a proposed lateral extension to Darrington Quarry, near Knottingley (FCC West) which runs from the 02nd September until 23rd September 2024.

This virtual exhibition is designed to inform and consult the local community on the proposals before a detailed planning application is submitted to Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council in late 2024. Prior to this, the applicant, Darrington Quarries Ltd. is looking to obtain your views on the development being proposed.

Darrington Quarries' plans have been designed to deliver a modest westerly extension, known as FCC West, to the existing operational quarry areas (known as FCC East and FCC Central) which aims to:

- Extract approximately 1.3 million tonnes of Upper Magnesian limestone, which is safeguarded in WMBC Development Plan, for up to four years.
- Contribute to the local economy by:
  - Ensuring a continued supply of aggregate to meet future infrastructure / development requirements.
  - Securing the future of local jobs, providing greater employment security to the 27 workers currently employed at the quarry.
  - Sustaining numerous indirect employment roles in the Local Area.
  - Continued payment of business rates.
- Devise appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that the safety and amenity of local residents is protected.
- Restore the site to an agricultural use at the earliest available opportunity, including providing a minimum of 10% net gain for biodiversity.

Please share your thoughts on the plans with us by completing our digital feedback form or by emailing **north@consultation-online.co.uk**. All comments will be considered and will have the potential to influence the design as it evolves, prior to the submission of the planning application in Q4 2024.



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The application site and Wider Quarry Complex

Darrington Quarry

Darrington Quarry is located about 2 km south of Knottingley and around 5 km east of Pontefract. The M62 motorway divides the quarry, with older workings to the south and newer phases to the north.

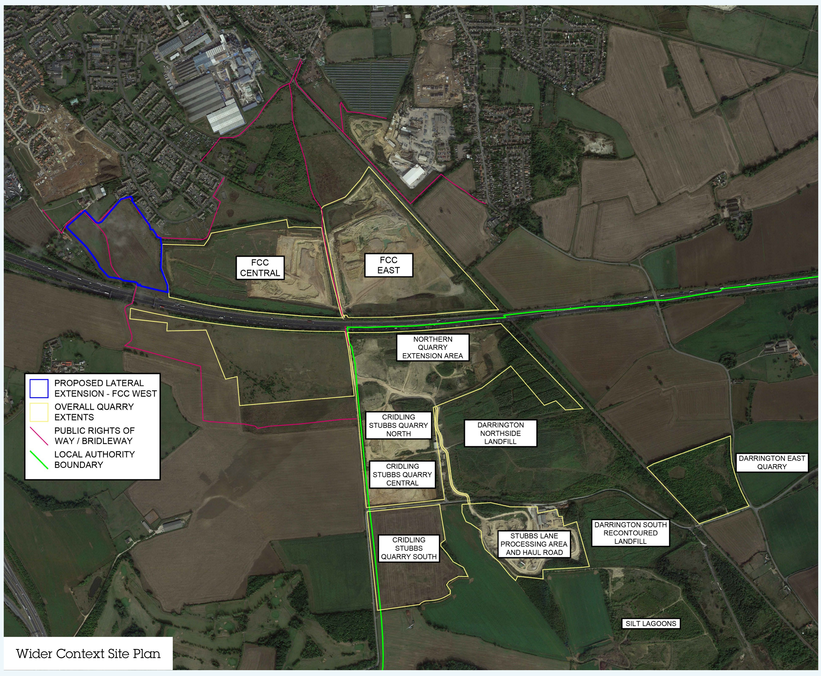
The quarry spans two local authority areas: Wakefield Metropolitan Borough (north of the M62 and some southern parts) and North Yorkshire (south of the M62). Most operations south of the motorway, including the mineral processing plant, fall under North Yorkshire's jurisdiction.

Nearby, the Warwick Estate in Knottingley lies directly northwest of FCC Central. To protect residents, the quarry includes a minimum 80m buffer zone and screening bunds.

The Application Site

FCC West lies to the immediate west of the existing operational areas of Darrington Quarry, known as FCC East and FCC Central, and covers an area of approximately 8 hectares of agricultural land with trees, hedges and fencing present to the site boundaries.

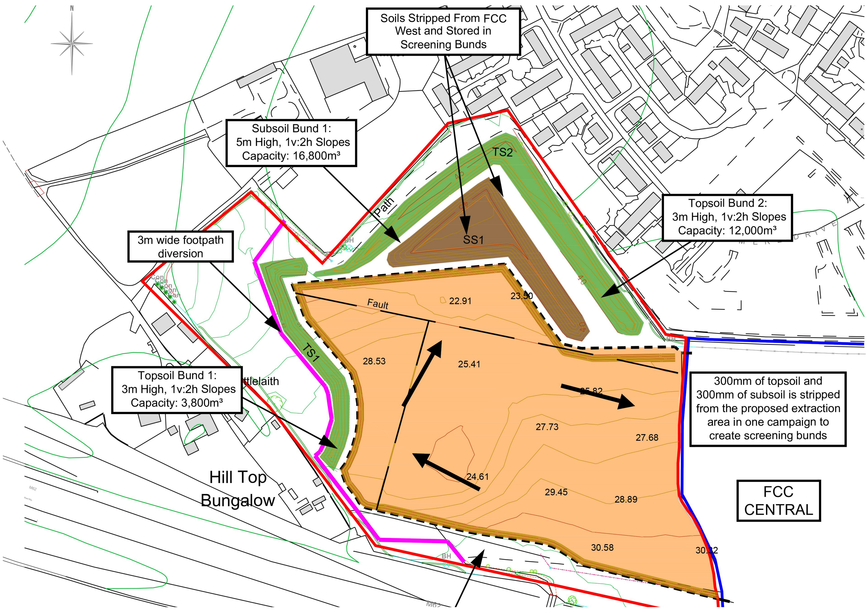
A public footpath (No. 5) enters the southern boundary of the site from the southern areas of Darrington Quarry and crosses the western half of the site in a northerly direction where it joins a bridleway (No. 7) which runs the length of the site's northern boundary.



Wider Context Site Plan

Environment

FCC West



As discussed briefly on previous boards, the proposed development, subject of a future planning application, comprises a lateral westerly extension (FCC West) to an existing operational area of Darrington Quarry known as FCC Central.

The quarry extension would release up to 1.3 million tonnes of high-quality Brotherton Formation Upper Magnesian limestone over a 4-year period. Access to FCC West would be afforded via the existing quarry access and M62 underpass.

The proposed quarry workings would on average be approximately 10m in depth and soil resources would be stripped and stored in screening bunds, prior to mineral extraction, in a manner that is compliant with best practice to allow their use in the restoration process.

Fixed quarry processing plant would not be used within the extension area. Instead, mobile quarry plant, consisting of a tracked excavator and a number of articulated dump trucks together with other ancillary equipment such as a water bowser for dust suppression, would be utilised to work the mineral. As per existing operations, and due to the nature of the deposit, it would not be necessary to use blasting techniques.

The nature of the phased extraction and restoration would ensure that a minimal area would be operational at any one time, with extraction closely followed by staged restoration.

It is intended, if planning permission for FCC West is granted, that the mineral would be worked at the earliest available opportunity and would be excavated and restored on a phased basis, before moving back into FCC Central to complete the temporarily paused mineral excavation works.

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Phasing and restoration

Phasing

The proposed mineral extraction operation would progressively advance across FCC West. However, the internal phases of development would be dependent upon likely timescales and location of working or restoration, and there would therefore likely be an element of overlap between extraction and restoration works.

Following the commencement of extraction operations within FCC West the Yorkshire Water pipes present would require relocation to allow the full extent of the available mineral to be released across the area. The existing footpath that currently runs northwest across the site would also require diversion for the duration of extraction. The footpath would then be reinstated following the site restoration process.

FCC West would be worked in a clockwise manner where the active limestone face would continue westward from the approved FCC East and FCC Central after the limestone resource is exhausted, before moving northwards, and then eastwards. It is predicted that a limestone resource of around 1.3 million tonnes would be present in FCC West, to the base of the mineral.

Overburden from FCC West would be used as the final restoration and any excess material would be directly placed into the previous workings when sufficient void has been generated.



Indicative image of proposed restoration to FCC West

Restoration

The final restoration profile for FCC West is proposed to be low-level agricultural land with a 5 m limestone face retained on the southern boundary. This would result in a 'bowl' shaped restoration profile with 4.42 hectares of gently northern sloping agricultural land.

The northwestern area of the site would remain at existing levels.

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Environmental impact assessment

The proposed development, because of its nature, is required to be subject to a process called Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). EIA ensures that any likely significant effects that might arise from a proposed development are appropriately assessed and, where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures are included to reduce such effects.

As part of this process, a pre-application consultation exercise has been undertaken with Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council and its specialist advisors to agree the scope and approach of the EIA work to be undertaken and submitted in support of the planning application.

A significant amount of environmental information is already available from previous planning applications and the project team has an excellent understanding of the sensitivities of the site, and the wider environment.

The results of this important work will be available for inspection once the application has been submitted to the Council.

The topics being considered as part of the EIA are as follows:

- **Landscape and Visual Effects:** Assessing the impact on landscape character and visual effects, including restoration plans.



- **Noise:** Using noise modelling to evaluate potential impacts on nearby residences.
- **Biodiversity:** Surveying flora and fauna and ensuring a 10% net gain in biodiversity.
- **Ground Conditions:** Investigating site suitability for development.
- **Soils and Agricultural Land Quality:** Ensuring no harm to Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.
- **Hydrology and Hydrogeology:** Assessing impacts on water movement beneath the site.
- **Surface Water Drainage and Flood Risk:** Managing surface water and evaluating flood risks.
- **Archaeology and Cultural Heritage:** Assessing impacts on historical and archaeological features.
- **Air Quality:** Evaluating effects on local air quality.

In addition to the above, but outside of the formal EIA process, other matters would also be considered including:

- **Traffic and Transport:** Assessing the capacity of the existing and proposed highway network (no increase in vehicle numbers).
- **Population and Human Health:** Evaluating impacts on local health and wellbeing.

The EIA work would be prepared to the highest standard, in accordance with best practice guidance prescribed by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.



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Summary

Thank you taking the time to view our virtual exhibition showcasing the proposals for the lateral extension to Darrington Quarry.

We want to hear from you before a planning application for the development is submitted to Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council. The deadline for submitting feedback is 5pm on Monday 23rd September 2024.

Please take a moment to fill in our feedback questionnaire before you leave the virtual exhibition. We welcome your comments and suggestions which, where possible, will help to shape the application that is submitted*.

All comments and feedback will be included in our Statement of Community Consultation (SCC) report. The SCC report will be submitted to Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council as part of the planning application.

*Any comments made to Darrington Quarries are not representations to the planning authority. There will be an opportunity to make representations to the planning authority once a planning application has been submitted.

Future Timeline

- Feasibility/ technical studies **Summer 2024**
- Community Consultation **Autumn 2024**
- Planning Submission **Winter 2024**
- Determination **2025**

Next Steps:

The key next steps will be to prepare the planning application which takes on board any comments from yourselves to inform the design and assessment process. Once the application has been submitted, there will be a period of consideration and consultation by Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council, and its statutory consultees, before any decision is made.

A number of other organisations will be asked their views, along with local stakeholders and neighbours.

Keep in touch:

If you have any further queries or have any questions or comments, you can contact the project team by emailing **north@consultation-online.co.uk** or by phone at **0800 066 8941**

Thank You!

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