

EMAIL SENT TO THE BREEDON GROUP ON 17TH JUNE 2024

Dear Sirs

On behalf of the councillors of West Deeping Parish Council, I attach the document that we prepared for Lincolnshire County Council in response to planning application EIA/15/23 earlier this year and would ask you to accept this as our official response to the public consultation held in our village hall last week and the webinar held the previous week.

In addition, we would also like to make the following comments in respect of :-

The River Welland and the dewatering required of this site

In light of the fresh knowledge provided on Monday at the public exhibition where for the first time you have confirmed your intentions to dewater the site and leave only a 30m stand off to the important River Welland, the WDPC makes further comments on the consultation in addition to our previous comprehensive response to the scoping opinion which we resubmit here to form our response as part of this consultation.

In direct contradiction to all previous assurances given by Maria Cotton that there would be no way that you would be pumping the dewatered water back into the River Welland, you now propose to do just that. Your further admittance of the fact that you know that there will be derogation from the River Welland into your proposed pits and that you intend to pump the water caused from your dewatering, back into the river in direct contradiction to all of your previous assurances on this proposed site show a complete disregard and contempt for LCC's advice in their scoping decision EIA/15/23.

The River Welland is a precious and rich habitat for the multitude of species which live there including otters, watervoles, eels, numerous species of fish and other aquatic mammals, and a vast range of birdlife which lives on and around the river.

The 30m stand-off that has been suggested by the Environment Agency is "to protect the stability of the river banks". A much greater stand-off (499m from Cemex's calculations) would be required if this site were to be approved in light of the responses to the separate and numerous scoping requests done on this site which require you to pay particular attention to identify, mitigate and minimise the extent of the radius of influence of dewatering on the surrounding area both during and post mining. The current proposals make no consideration for this nor the "Consideration should also be given to the contribution the land (marked Lammas Close on OS mapping) makes to the significance of heritage assets including those

designated in West Deeping and Maxey and in particular the Grade II* listed Molecey's Mill and its relationship to the stream forming the southern application area boundary.”

Further, your claim that the influence of your proposed activities on the groundwater environment will only extend some 80m from your proposed workings when on Cemex’s site just a few metres away, similar, if not identical, activities influence conditions some 499m away does not hold up to inspection.

Is this why, as recently as this scoping request, December 2023 you have deliberately omitted this vital information on dewatering the site and its devastating effects on the river and surrounding environment?

Your proposed interference with and impact on this very important watercourse which is home to otters, watervoles, many species of fish and a multitude of other wildlife shows a complete contempt for the destruction you will have on the area and on its ecosystems and ecology. Another of our much loved amenities which you are intent on destroying.

Further your proposals demonstrate no consideration of the mitigation measures you intend to take to minimise the extent of the influence of your dewatering, nor do they show any consideration for the contribution that this river makes to the significance of the heritage assets.

Your proposed stand-off distances from this vital river are nowhere near far enough to protect this vital habitat and do not take into account the significance that this watercourse has on the listed watermill.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Coles
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