

Reference: ABS/DIV/03629

**Countryside Records  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND**

**Director of Environment and  
Place**

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam

**Informal Consultation**

**Proposed Temporary Diversion Under s257/261 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Wroxton Footpath 3 (part)  
Wroxton Quarry, Wroxton**

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has received an application from Earthline Ltd (Hills) to temporarily divert the above footpath under Section 257/261 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (The "Act").

Earthline Ltd have planning permission MW.0020/19 granted on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 by OCC to work Wroxton Quarry. Accompanying this letter is a plan that shows how the quarry is split into its various phases of workings and a summary of the planning consents relating to the quarry – 'Welcome to Wroxton' to help give understanding to the sequence of events in terms of past and present planning consents.

The first consent to work the quarry was given in the 1940's alongside consent to work the neighbouring Alkerton Quarry. Subsequent S73 Applications to vary conditions of the original permissions were submitted and new consents given but the original wording relating to mineral extraction was unhelpfully not carried forward to these s73 applications. Hence the current consent appears not to show consent to work the quarry. Rather it appears to show consent only to vary a condition.

The path needs to be temporarily diverted until 2026 to enable extraction of minerals followed by restoration of the site including the footpath along its definitive line to a condition not substantially less convenient to the public and in line with the approved restoration plan. Earthline Ltd would carry out the work to the restored footpath to this Council's satisfaction. Any Order would be worded such that should restoration be completed earlier than 2026 the path could be returned to its current alignment sooner. Footpath 13 to the north of Wroxton Fp 3 is not being diverted as part of this proposal.

Fp 3 runs south-west/north-east Area 5a and 5b of the quarry (AB on the diversion plan). To avoid the working area Fp 3 would run SE, NW and then NW around the outer perimeter of the quarry. The path width would be 3m and be maintained by Earthline Ltd. Signage and

fencing would be erected to direct walkers to the diverted route. Waymarking for the temporary route would be carried out by OCC.

Should a temporary diversion Order be made it would be made on the grounds that it is necessary to divert the path to enable development to go ahead in accordance with planning permission granted under Part III of the Act. The authority must also be satisfied that the definitive route can be restored, after minerals have been worked, to a condition not substantially less convenient to the public.

The administration and advertising costs this Council incurs will be recharged to the applicant.

Any comments you wish to make are welcomed and will be considered when the Council decides whether or not to make a temporary diversion Order. I would be grateful for any comments by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021**. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Sylvester', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Sylvester  
Rights of Way Officer

Email: [andy.sylvester@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.sylvester@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**GDPR and Data Protection Act:** Oxfordshire County Council will collate correspondence and comments received in response to this communication, for further consideration. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.