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REP ID 30

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



**ROOSECOTE QUARRY,
RAMPSIDE ROAD, BARROW-
IN-FURNESS**

**CUMBRIA MINERALS
AND WASTE LOCAL
PLAN EXAMINATION**

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BY:

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CMWLP EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC: STATEMENT BY BURLINGTON SLATE LTD. IN RESPECT OF SITE ALLOCATION M27 – ROOSECOTE QUARRY, RAMPSIDE ROAD, BARROW-IN-FURNESS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This statement has been prepared by Stephenson Halliday Ltd. on behalf of Burlington Slate Ltd. for consideration at the Examination stage of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan (CMWLP). It provides information to address Question 84 included in Matter 7 of the 'Draft Matters and Issues for Examination' document.

2 PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS

2.1 Two previous representations have been submitted by Burlington Slate Ltd (BSL) to Cumbria County Council in respect of site allocation M27. These were submitted in May 2015 and March 2016. BSL is in support of the allocation of this site as a Preferred Area in the CMWLP.

2.2 Key points from previous representations are:

- The location of the site is strategically important in supplying material to the south Cumbria area.
- It is expected that demand for sand and gravel within south and west Cumbria will increase over the plan period as the implementation of planned infrastructure and private sector investment commences. This includes Ulverston Infrastructure Programme, development by BAE Systems in Barrow, North West Coast Connections including new pylon bases and Morecambe Bay crossing, Low Level Nuclear Waste Repository at Drigg, Sellafield decommissioning and the new 3.4 GW nuclear power station at Moorside plus associated development.
- It is expected that reserves at the currently permitted site could be exhausted within 3 to 5 years' time.
- Preferred Area M27 has a proven reserve of sand and gravel, having been drilled in the 1990s and the subject of previous planning permissions granted in

1996, 1999 and 2001. These permissions expired in June 2011 without having been implemented.

- 2.3 In response to the objection from Centrica, BSL suggested an amended site boundary for Preferred Area M27 which excluded land used by Centrica for parking and construction storage and applied a buffer around the gas terminal, the sea-line gas line and the helipad. This was accepted by the County Council.

3 MATTER 7 – SITE ALLOCATION POLICIES

- 3.1 Matter 7 raises a key issue with regard to site allocation policies; the issue raised is:

‘Whether sufficient land is allocated or designated in appropriate locations to meet objectively assessed need and to provide choice and flexibility.’

- 3.2 This statement provides a response to Question 84 below:

‘With respect to Roosecote Quarry, could its development impact on gas terminal expansion? If so, how should this be addressed?’

- 3.3 Centrica owns the land currently being quarried by BSL at Roosecote Quarry. It also owns the land allocated as a Preferred Area (M27).
- 3.4 Until 2014, the arrangement between BSL and Centrica was that a lease was granted on a yearly basis for the operation of the quarry. The reason given by Centrica was that this timescale was necessary to protect Centrica’s energy operations to the north, west and south of the quarry and enable the potential expansion of these operations into the quarry and surrounding land. The site operator has put his case to Centrica that this year by year arrangement is stifling his ability to plan for the future, invest in necessary plant and run his business properly. As a result, Centrica has agreed to a 10 year lease on their land from 1st July 2014.
- 3.5 Any future expansion of the gas terminal is likely to be in an easterly direction, in to the area either currently being worked for sand and gravel or in to the area proposed as a Preferred Area for sand and gravel extraction. The site operator argues that mineral extraction is not incompatible with any future expansion. It is a sustainable approach,

advocated by the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 143) which encourages the prior extraction of mineral to avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of proven mineral reserves by other built development. In addition, the extraction of sand and gravel will create a development platform for future development of the gas terminal, at a lower level, which will assist in mitigating the visual impact of any future infrastructure development in this area.

- 3.6 Centrica has agreed that it will consider mineral extensions to Roosecote Sand and Gravel Quarry on a case by case basis and is willing to grant a 10 year lease on its land. The allocation of this site within the CMWLP will not affect Centrica's ability to apply for, and ultimately obtain consent for the development of its infrastructure on this site, provided their scheme complies with relevant planning policies and considerations.
- 3.7 In summary, there is no reason why development at Roosecote Quarry would prevent or hinder the gas terminal expansion; in fact providing a development platform at a lower level may assist in its delivery.
- 3.8 Burlington Slate Ltd confirm that they wish to be heard orally at the Hearing session dealing with this and/or related matters.