

Extension to Heathfield Sand And Gravel Quarry Wester and Easter Coillemore: Comment Summary from First Community Event

1. **Noise** - General concerns were noted from the surrounding area and from specific properties. A noise assessment study has been undertaken. This indicates that noise levels can be controlled at permissible levels through the use of appropriate mitigation, such as bunds around the processing plant and use of rubber screens on plant instead of metal screens. Proposals for noise mitigation will be submitted with the planning application.
2. **Dust** - General concerns were noted from the surrounding area and some specific properties. Plant on site is equipped with dust suppression options, which can be utilised more fully than at present. Most of the new extraction will be in wet conditions (ie below the water table). During peak spells of dry, windy weather, additional dust suppression can be undertaken, or relevant activity can cease on site. Proposals for dust suppression will be submitted with the planning application.
3. **Traffic** - There were questions over the number of vehicle trips and the route lorries will use. Vehicle trip numbers will be the same as at present, using the Kindeace Road to the Tomich junction. In response to a concern over early morning lorry arrivals blocking Kindeace Road, the quarry gate can be relocated further from the road.
4. **Condition of Kindeace Road** - Bad surfacing and potholes widely noted at Kindeace Road. Concerns can be reported to the Highland Council, which is responsible for repair and maintenance of Kindeace Road.
5. **Potential Traffic Impact on Horses** - It was suggested that greater driver awareness or training would be helpful. There may also be scope to erect some signage at key locations.
6. **Local Holiday Letting Businesses** - There were some concerns over potential impacts on holiday letting businesses. There will be some extraction closer to the these businesses to the west and north of the quarry than at present. Landscaped bunds will be provided to the north of the site, to assist in noise management and screen the new extraction areas. As above, dust and noise management provisions can be further enhanced. The quarry operations predate the growth of these businesses. The grading and storage of material will continue as it does at present, at the same location.
7. **Reinstatement** - There were suggestions that the reinstatement work should proceed at an early point, with the benefit of ponds, paths, a play area and parking delivered as soon as possible. It is anticipated that these benefits can be delivered as soon as the extraction of the western area of the site is complete. Reinstatement proposals will be submitted with the planning application. It expected that the Council will impose planning conditions controlling the timing of reinstatement works and benefits. A bond funded by the quarry operator will be required, to ensure reinstatement works can be completed.
8. **Habitat and Biodiversity** - Some concerns were raised over potential impacts on habitat and protected species. Appropriate surveys are being undertaken and will be submitted with the planning application. The use of much of the land for agriculture results in less impact than more sensitive sites. So far, the surveys results are indicating minimal impacts. Suitable mitigation will be undertaken where necessary.
9. **Groundwater Impacts** - Specific concerns were raised over private water supplies in the area. No impacts are expected.
10. **Cumulative Impact** - The quarry activity will continue for a longer period than currently approved but impacts will not be cumulative in terms of scale.