

Representation	Officer Response
Grundon repeatedly failed to comply with conditions, and have failed to protect the ponds and the protected species within them.	There is a history of non-compliance with the restoration schemes, but that does not affect the duty of the Mineral Planning Authority to determine the planning application on its merits.
The ponds have been destroyed by deliberate damage.	The applicant's ecological consultant addressed this at the last committee, and our monitoring team concurs. The ponds have not been deliberately damaged, they have been the subject of succession.
Grundon are deliberately damaging the ponds and dragging out the restoration until there is no species left to protect.	The ponds have been subject to succession. Grundon are pursuing this application in order to bring the restoration to a close which will enable the aftercare period to commence.
The landowners long term aim is to turn the site into an industrial estate.	The long term aim of the landowner is not relevant to this application which seeks only to restore the site.
The application should be rejected and compliance monitored.	Compliance will be monitored on whichever permission is in place following the decision on this application.
Grundon must put right the damage or have the condition lifted.	The purpose of a Section 73 application is to not comply with a particular condition.
The application should be rejected until the ponds are restored.	The ponds are restored.
The original planning approval required the restoration to have retained or improved habitat, the current restoration must include the same.	The ponds have been restored in accordance with the retained and improved habitat in the original approval, although it has been revised by Section 73 applications.
The newt ponds must be restored back to the condition they were in prior to 2016.	That would lead to the loss of any natural regeneration on the site.
Respondent does not agree that the only change sought from the restoration plan is the gradient of the quarry base.	The application seeks the changes as set out in drawing DG/QO/WIC/RES/01 Rev E.
There has been criminal damage to the ponds.	This is something that is the responsibility of the Wildlife Crime Officer at Thames Valley Police. He has not taken any action in relation to this site.
Wicklesham quarry is important for its biodiversity as well as its geodiversity.	The description and reason for notification: The active quarry and disused pits within this site provide good exposures through

	<p>the Faringdon Sponge gravels of Lower Cretaceous (Aptian) age. The gravels, laid down under marine conditions some 110 million years ago, are unique to the Faringdon area, and were deposited in an unusual and very localised near-shore sedimentary environment. They contain a very rich and unusual assemblage of fossil sponges, bryozoa, brachiopods and echinoids, with over 150 different species having been found here; many of these are known to occur only at Faringdon. In addition, the Faringdon Sponge Gravels have yielded bones from several different kinds of fossil reptiles (including turtles, ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs and crocodiles) and Wicklesham Pit is of particular significance as a source of such material. This site is of great historical importance, and is one of Britain's richest palaeontological localities.</p>
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