HD41

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CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
SITE ALLOCATIONS AND PROPOSALS MAP
EXAMINATION HEARING SESSION 4: ADDITIONAL NON-INERT LANDFILL CAPACITY

NON-INERT WASTE LANDFILL CAPACITY OF GOLDMIRE QUARRY HOLKER ESTATES (REPRESENTATION REFERENCE 27)

Restoring the landform of Hagg Hills similar to what it was before limestone was quarried from here would involve landfilling of just over 2 million cubic metres after taking into account the amount of rock to be extracted up to 2042 when the quarrying planning permission expires. This is in addition to the landfilling of 850,000 cubic metres of inert wastes that forms part of the planning application for an 'integrated inert waste recycling and disposal facility', giving a total void space of some 2.9 million cubic metres.

The scheme of working for the quarry that was approved in 2003 includes the lowering of the quarry floor to 22.5 metres AOD with the working area gradually moving from north to south. Consequently, it was originally anticipated that the initial phase of non-inert landfilling would be at the north end of the quarry with an estimated capacity of 168,750 cubic metres up to the 60 metre AOD bench with an additional 56,250 cubic metres if restored to original ground levels. Limestone extraction would then continue southwards during the first phase of waste disposal to provide the base of the second phase and so on until the quarry is worked out, landfilled and restored i.e. 225,000 cubic metres represents the capacity of the first phase, not the maximum stated by Barrow Borough Council in their response to the Examination Inspector's Issues and Questions (ED100).

The operator of the quarry now intends to complete the extraction of limestone from the upper benches of the northern end of the quarry before quarrying the southern part of the quarry in phases between the end of 2012 and 2018. This will allow the landfilling of imported waste to commence at the end of 2014 in accordance with the submitted scheme for the 'integrated inert waste recycling and disposal facility'. Limestone will then be extracted in phases from the northern part of the quarry floor after 2018, which could then be landfilled.

Before a scheme can be designed for the disposal of non-inert wastes details of the quantities, engineering properties and polluting potential of the residues from the under construction household waste treatment facility and the other waste arisings from commerce and industry in the Barrow area that will still need to be landfilled are required. It is anticipated that separate cells will be provided for the different types of non-inert waste and these can be incorporated into the submitted scheme for the disposal of 850,000 cubic metres of inert waste.

Most of this capacity could be made available during the period covered by the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework but it is difficult to say at this stage what the balance between the amounts of inert and non-inert wastes would be. It should certainly be possible for Goldmire Quarry to take all of the landfilled waste arisings from the Furness area and the southern part of the County after the planning permission for the Bennett Bank site expires in 2017 or reaches the end of its operational life, if before then.