

# **Cursiter Quarry FAQ**

## **What are the Council doing?**

The Council is due to submit a planning application for the long-term development of Cursiter Quarry in Firth. As part of a 3-phased expansion plan designed to secure additional reserves the quarry could increase in size over the next three decades expanding into neighbouring fields. The planning application will be submitted in Spring 2019 with the application process being handled by consultants AECOM. The planning application also covers landscaping and future restoration of the site.

## **What currently happens at Cursiter Quarry?**

The council-owned quarry currently supplies stone and aggregate materials for Council roads and building projects as well as the local construction industry. It extracts Devonian Flagstone which is highly suited to a range of crushed aggregate products, in particular as roadstone and aggregates used for producing asphalt for road construction and maintenance, with the quarry being the only active producer of asphalt in Orkney.

The activity at the quarry generates an income for the Council which is reinvested to provide and protect some of the vital services we provide in Orkney.

## **Why does it need to be expanded?**

The current quarry area is heading towards the end of its use and we need to safeguard supply of materials. Current output ranges between 75,000 and 120,000 tonnes of rock per year. If approved, the 7ha expansion will release approximately 3 million tonnes of additional resources, sufficient for another 30 years of production.

## **If you're expanding the quarry, does it mean you'll be increasing the amount you produce from the quarry – meaning more activity and more competition for other local providers?**

The level of output and the general day to day operation of the quarry will remain largely the same, albeit with updated procedures in line with current industry best practice.

## **When is this happening?**

We're aiming to submit the planning application in the spring, with the intention being that work may begin on extending the screening mounds, and putting in advance mitigation works in late 2019 / 2020.

## **How can I give my views?**

Following a public drop in session earlier this month (January), we're providing further opportunities for people to see the proposals and provide their feedback to inform the design process.

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed development can do so by writing to AECOM at [fraser.blackwood@aecom.com](mailto:fraser.blackwood@aecom.com); or by post to Fraser Blackwood, APEX 2, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD by 15 February 2019.

Note at this stage comments made to Aecom are for the purposes of assisting with the scheme design and EIA process and as such are not representations to the Planning Authority. When the planning application is submitted, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Planning Authority.