



# Larkshall Mill Statutory Consultation

CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER 4 JULY TO 12 AUGUST 2022



### WHY WE ARE WRITING TO YOU

We are O.C.O Technology, a UK company specialising in carbon capture and the production of sustainable building materials.

Earlier this year, we submitted an application to Norfolk County Council for planning permission to turn the existing waste transfer station at Larkshall Mill into a new Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility. This will be a replacement for our existing facility in Brandon, Suffolk, which is due to close as the lease is expiring.

Like our other facilities, the new development will use carbon dioxide (CO2) to treat Air Pollution Control residue (APCr) from the Energy from Waste sector. Our innovative technology transforms the waste into Manufactured LimeStone (M-LS), a product which is now in high demand from the construction sector as the world's first carbon negative aggregate.

The county council's decision on this application is expected this summer but, by law, it is only able to grant permission for the site to handle up to to 30,000 tonnes of APCr a year.

As demand for carbon negative aggregate continues to increase, driven by a move towards the use of more sustainable building materials, our wish is to increase that figure.

This means there will now be a separate planning application to enable the site to handle up to 100,000 tonnes of APCr waste annually. The volume handled means the project is classified as a major infrastructure development, known as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). We anticipate finalising the details of this planning application by the end of this year. Planning consent for the scheme requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be made to the Planning Inspectorate, which in turn makes a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State, for the final decision on whether consent should be granted.

An important part of the planning process for a DCO application is to consult with technical experts and people living and working nearby. This formal consultation is called a statutory consultation and it will cover authorising the construction, operation and maintenance of a facility processing up to 100,000 tonnes of APCr every year.

This newsletter is to inform you that the statutory consultation on our proposals for a DCO will take place between 4 July and 12 August.

It is also intended to help you, as a local resident, understand what this development may mean for the community and gives you an insight into who O.C.O Technology is, how it works and the processes we use.

In addition, it sets out ways that residents can engage with the project through both our public exhibition and responding to our consultation, via our online consultation questionnaire or by writing to us. All the details are listed at the end of this newsletter and, if you attend the public exhibition, you will have the opportunity to talk to some of our team and our consultants about the proposals.

We trust you will find this information useful and we look forward to hearing your comments.



## ABOUT US

O.C.O Technology is a world-leading UK company that specialises in carbon capture, sustainable construction products and waste treatment. Built on more than 20 years of award-winning research, we are one of the top ten companies in the world for permanent capture of CO2 in an industrial process. Earlier this year we were named as a leader in the world concrete tech market by respected equities research business BNP Paribas Exane. With a current turnover of some £20 million, we currently employ around 100 staff across our three facilities in the UK. Our expertise is in demand worldwide and we are currently involved in international projects in Spain, Japan and Australia.

O.C.O is a member of the Carbon Capture  $\vartheta$  Storage Association.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

Focusing on sustainability, our patented Accelerated Carbonation Technology (ACT) process utilises carbon dioxide as a resource to treat and valorise a wide range of wastes, including Air Pollution Control residues (APCr) from the Energy from Waste sector.

Built on more than 20 years of award-winning research, the ACT process transforms the waste material into an artificial aggregate – known as Manufactured LimeStone (M-LS). Because more CO2 is permanently captured than is used in the manufacturing process, M-LS has been recognised as the world's first carbon negative aggregate. It is a key component in building blocks and demand is rising sharply as the construction sector looks to improve its green credentials and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-heavy concrete.

Utilising the APCr in this way means the waste is diverted from landfill and, by producing the M-LS, it also helps to save the use of precious natural limestone resources.

Further information is available on our website: www.oco.co.uk



#### OUR PLANNING PERMISSION AND DCO APPLICATIONS

O.C.O Technology currently operates three sites in the UK: Brandon (Suffolk), Leeds and Avonmouth. We are experiencing strong growth and are looking at ways of meeting the future demand for our services. Alongside this, our existing facility at Brandon has come to the end of its lease and we need to replace it.

We are therefore proposing a new aggregate manufacturing and carbon capture facility at Larkshall Mill, near Wretham. The site is currently used as a waste transfer station. This means it has an established industrial use and it is well-suited for conversion to an aggregate manufacturing and carbon capture facility.



Figure 1: location of the proposed new facility

Boundary Application Site

Our proposals involve the reuse of as much of the existing buildings on site as possible with the addition of some new equipment, buildings and silos.

To ensure that the new site is built and operational in the near future, we have already submitted an application for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts to Norfolk County Council. This is an application for a facility processing up to 30,000 tonnes of APCr every year, the maximum threshold under which the Council, as the local minerals and waste planning authority, can determine applications for such facilities.

To ensure that we are able to meet the growing demand for our unique services, we are now also applying to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 to allow the site to process up to 100,000 tonnes of APCr every year. This is what this consultation is about. Once the DCO is granted, it will supersede the planning permission from Norfolk County Council. Therefore, it is important that anyone wishing to comment on this consultation makes their views known on the entire development of the site that will be required to manage the 100,000 tonnes per annum.

The DCO application to the Secretary of State for a 100,000 tonne facility rather than an application to Norfolk County Council for planning permission, must be made because the volume of APCr to be processed would be greater than 30,000 tonnes a year. The increase in volume means the facility is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

DCO applications follow a fixed statutory process which requires us to consult with the local community and key stakeholders before an application is submitted. These stakeholders include Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council, Natural England and local parish councils, among many others.

## THE PROCESS

The diagram on this page shows the manufacturing process for the carbon negative aggregates.

The manufacturing process is undertaken all within the process building, although silos, sand stores and curing/storage of aggregate is outside of this.



# The manufacturing process involves four stages:

**Stage 1:** APCr is delivered in sealed bulk powder tankers and conveyed through pipes into enclosed storage silos. From there it is moved into sealed mixers, where it is treated with carbon dioxide to chemically and physically change the residues using our patented process. This initial process causes the calcium in the materials to be converted to calcium carbonate, which both chemically and physically stabilises the materials. Material movements are fully automated, with no manual handling of the ingredients.

**Stage 2**: the output from Stage 1 is blended with binders and fillers (typically sand and cement) within a sealed mixer to produce a material with the correct properties for pelletisation.

**Stage 3:** pelletising (this takes the crumbed material from stage 2 and rolls it against itself to form round gravel-like pellets) is undertaken within a horizontal rotating drum pelletiser. The duration of the material within the pelletiser is controlled to ensure the aggregate achieves the required strength and pellet size for use.

**Stage 4**: the pelletised material is then stored under cover to harden before either being sold as a variable sized product for block manufacture or in a blended aggregate.

It should be noted that as well as the injection of CO2, the materials absorbs CO2 from the atmosphere during pelletisation, curing and storage.

#### The benefits

Our process helps reduce the environmental impacts of a number of different essential services.

By converting Air Pollution Control Residue (APCr) and other similar waste into a distinct and useful product, we prevent it from being sent to landfill – well over half a million tonnes since 2010. This is a more sustainable way of managing this waste.

More carbon dioxide is permanently captured during the process than is released. That means it is carbon negative - every 1,000 tonnes of Manufactured LimeStone produced captures the same amount of carbon dioxide as planting 4,000 trees every year. Since 2010, we've captured more than 50,000 tonnes of carbon.

We supply Manufactured LimeStone to the construction industry as a building material. This reduces the need to use equivalent virgin material.



### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



The proposed facility is an EIA development according to the EIA regulations. This means that we must submit an Environmental Statement (ES) as part of our DCO application.

The ES will show how we have assessed the potential effects of the scheme on the environment and any measures that are required to reduce them.

As part of this consultation, we have published the preliminary results of our EIA in a document called a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The topics assessed in the PEIR include ecology, flood risk, air quality, landscape and visual impact, noise, transport, socio-economics, climate change and cumulative effects. Where appropriate, we will propose mitigation.

Following this consultation, we will consider the feedback received and prepare and submit an ES with our application. This will set out the outcomes of our assessments, as well as details of any proposed mitigation.

You can view the PEIR and its non-technical summary on the project website: www.oco.co.uk

#### CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORT

If we were to receive development consent from the Secretary of State, construction would begin in 2024 and would take approximately six to eight months to complete. This is assuming that our current application to Norfolk County Council for planning permission for the 30,000 tonne scheme is approved, as most of the development required for the 100,000 tonne scheme will have been built.

We recognise that construction can be disruptive and can carry environmental impacts. Therefore, we are proposing to retain and reuse as much of the existing site infrastructure as possible such as the existing bailer shed and site offices. This will help minimise the impacts from construction. Once the facility is built and operational, it would operate 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This will allow us to stagger vehicle movements throughout the day and implement shift patterns with changes proposed at 6:00am, 2:00pm and 10:00pm. This would limit any impacts at peak travel times during the day. It should be noted that the majority of traffic movements will be during the day, with only one or two deliveries of APCr at night.

Further information on our assessment of construction and transport effects can be found in the PEIR that we have published for this consultation. The PEIR can be viewed on our project website: www.oco. co.uk or in hard copy at the locations detailed on the following page.

## STATUTORY CONSULTATION

# This statutory consultation will take place between 4 July and 12 August 2022.

There are many ways you can get involved with the consultation.

We will be holding an exhibition at Wretham Village Hall, Church Road, Wretham IP24 1RL on the following dates and times:

• Friday 8 July between 3:30pm and 7:30pm

#### Saturday 9 July between 10:00am and 2:00pm

At these events you can speak to our topic specialists about the project.

#### Where can I find more information?

You can review the PEIR and other consultation documents by going to the dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website https://oco.co.uk/ and at the following locations:

- Thetford Library, Raymond Street, Thetford IP24 2EA
- Attleborough Library, Church Street, Attleborough NR17 2AH
- Wretham Village Hall, Church Road, Wretham IP24 1RL

The documents will be available to view during opening hours only. For further information on opening hours please contact the venue.

#### How can I give feedback?

There are a number of ways through which you can give feedback. You can:

- complete a consultation questionnaire online at our website: www.oco.co.uk
- return the questionnaire affixed to this newsletter to our freepost address: Larkshall Mill consultation, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL
- submit your comments by email to larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk or in writing to the above freepost address

Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on 12 August 2022.

## NEXT STEPS

Following the statutory consultation, we will refine our proposals before submitting our DCO application to the Secretary of State. We expect this to happen in winter 2022.

Once the application is submitted, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State will have 28 days to decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

# CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE 4 JULY TO 12 AUGUST 2022

O.C.O Technology is consulting on its proposals for a new facility that will manufacture carbon-negative aggregate (using carbon capture technology) for use in the construction industry at Larkshall Mill, Wretham, Norfolk. As the waste facility would be processing 100,000 tonnes a year if approved, the project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This consultation is your opportunity to express your views on our proposals before we submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the relevant Secretary of State. We currently expect to submit our application later in 2022. We want as many people as possible to share their views on our proposals as part of this consultation.

#### How to respond to this consultation

This questionnaire is designed to help you give us your feedback on the proposals. You can respond to the consultation by:

- Completing this questionnaire online: www.oco.co.uk
- Completing this questionnaire and returning it to Larkshall Mill consultation, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL
- Completing this questionnaire and sending it by email to larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk
- Writing to us directly using the email address or Freepost address above

Responses must be received by O.C.O Technology between 4 July 2022 and 11:59pm on 12 August 2022. Following this statutory consultation, we will consider all of the responses that we receive and finalise our DCO application. The application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to responses to the consultation.

1. Do you have any comments on our proposals for Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility?

2. Do you have any comments on our proposals to reuse the existing buildings on site?

3. Do you have any comments on the potential environmental effects of our proposals during: a) The construction of the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility?

b) The operation of Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility?

4. Do you have any further comments?

## If you would like to be kept updated on this project, please provide your contact details below: Name: Address: Telephone: Email address: Please tick the boxes below as appropriate: Age: 20-39 0-19 40-59 60-79 79+ Occupation: Student Unemployed Part-time Full-time Retired All consultation questionnaires should be returned You can find more information on the proposals and by 11:59pm on 12 August 2022 to: Larkshall Mill also complete this consultation questionnaire online at consultation, FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL www.oco.co.uk or Larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk F- (6) F 6

Any comments received will be analysed by O.C.O Technology Ltd and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by O.C.O Technology and its agents in accordance with the data protection law and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent application for the Order and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Responses will also form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may also be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.







#### CONTACT:

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