

This was an application for the transfer of sand/gravel from a quarry, via the river, to the processing plant downstream. The Trust is navigation authority for this stretch of river, although in this case whilst we manage/operate this waterway, we do not own it.

The use of the river in this location to carry freight was acceptable in principle to the Trust. The Trust must however consider the needs of other users of the waterway and ensure that the proposal does not have an adverse impact on navigational safety.

In response to the planning application consultation the Trust requested that a condition be imposed to require the provision of a freight risk assessment. This was required to ensure that the freight operations were carried out in a safe manner and were not detrimental to the navigation or other users.

After the grant of consent, the Trust met with the applicants and their freight carrier to discuss the proposal and the scope of the freight risk assessment. Details of known waterway hazards in the area were shared at this meeting.

Following this the Trust oversaw a series of trial runs, including approaching and turning at the wharf site, to test the proposed risk assessment scenarios and assumptions.

The results of the trial runs were submitted to the council, and the Trust confirmed acceptance of these results in order that the LPA could discharge the condition.

**The LPA can encourage Developers to utilise waterborne freight to improve sustainability.**

**The Trust has to ensure that navigational safety is properly assessed to protect all users of the waterway.**

