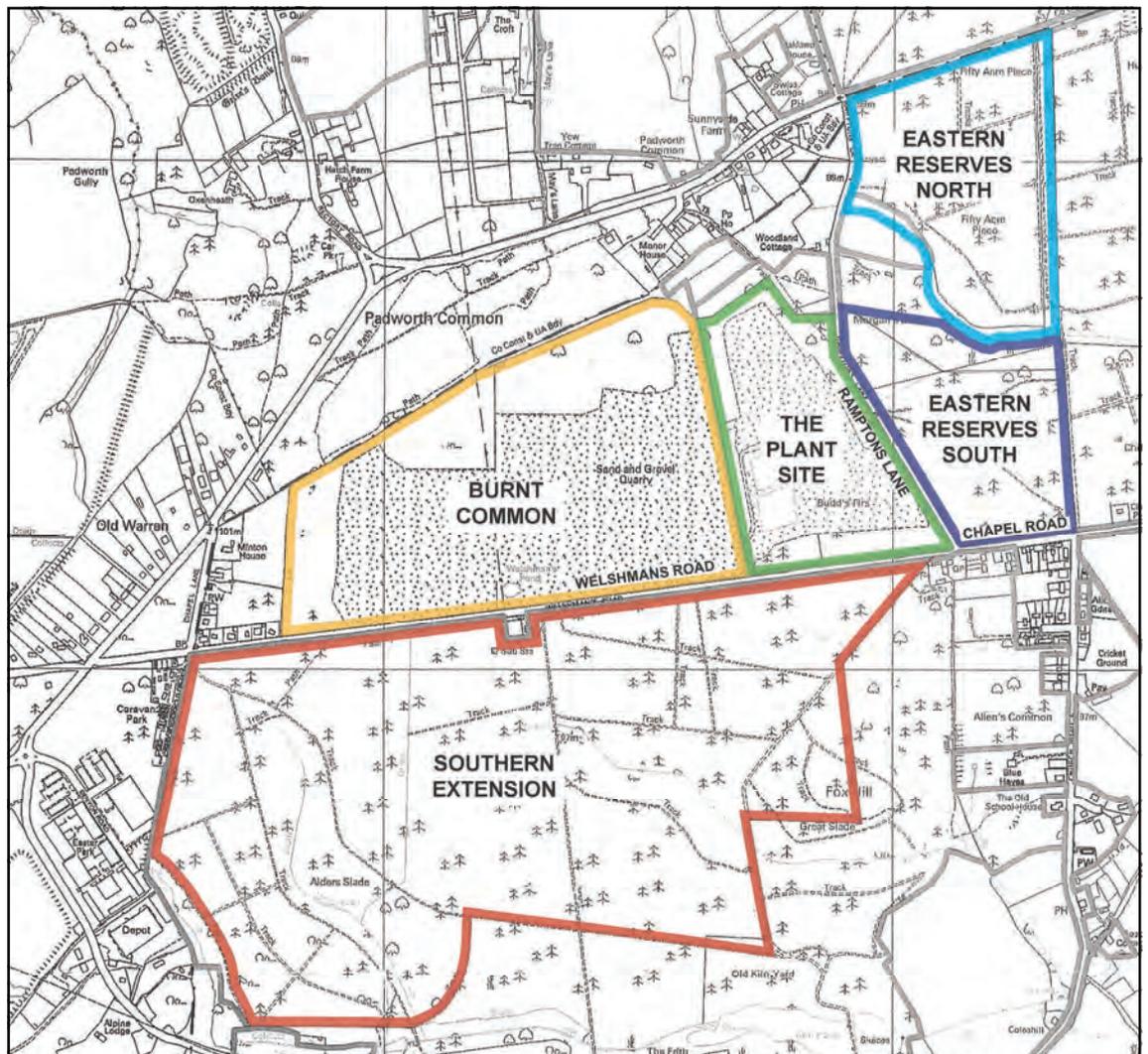


Hills Quarry Products (Hills) has been selected by Englefield Estate to extract the mineral and progressively restore the Southern Extension of Mortimer Quarry, located on Welshman's Road in Mortimer West End, which was granted planning permission for mineral extraction in May 2015.

The development at Mortimer Quarry includes (refer to Figure 1):

- Progressive sand and gravel extraction at Southern Extension (outlined in red)
- Retention of existing quarry plant site and associated development (outlined in green)
- Temporary conveyor gantry crossing of Welshman's Road
- The area marked 'eastern reserves south' will continue to be used for water management (outlined in dark blue)
- The area marked 'eastern reserves north' has been extracted and is currently under restoration (outlined in light blue)
- The area marked as 'Burnt Common' (outlined in yellow) is not part of the Englefield Estate

Figure 1



Summary of the proposals

Southern Extension

- Covers 88.5 hectares, (outlined in red on Figure 1) of which 58.2 hectares will be subject to extraction and the remainder will be reserved as non-working standoffs, soil storage and habitat protection areas
- Two million tonnes of sand will be extracted over a 10 -12 year period, with an annual output of around 200,000 tonnes
- Normal working hours will be:
7.00 to 17.00 on Mondays to Fridays;
7.00 to 12.00 on Saturdays;
No working shall take place on Sundays or Public Holidays
- Restoration of the site follows excavation on a progressive basis. This keeps the area of open ground to a minimum (see Figure 2 opposite) both minimising visual impacts, dust and noise. Existing trees on unworked areas of the site will be retained.
- The site will be restored to commercial and mixed forest, biodiversity and public access (see Figure 3 opposite)
- It is not proposed to restore the site using imported inert materials. Instead, poor quality soils, discarded during extraction, together with the stored soils, will be re-used. As a result, the restored area will be around 2-3 metres below its current ground level.

The Plant site

- Existing plant on site will be repaired and upgraded
- Once mineral extraction has ceased, the plant will be dismantled and the area reinstated as part of the restoration works

Conveyor

- The ground level conveyor will take sand and gravel from the extraction areas in the Southern Extension to the gantry
- The gantry across Welshman's Road has a second, fully enclosed conveyor that takes the sand and gravel to the Plant site
- This avoids the need for dump trucks to transport the sand via site roads within the Southern Extension and to the processing plant, significantly reducing noise and dust
- The conveyor and gantry will be dismantled and the ground reinstated as part of the site restoration works.

Environmental considerations

A full Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken as part of the original planning application. Hills will implement the mitigation methods proposed in the EIA together with those set out in the S106 agreement. The main points are highlighted below:

Vehicle movements

- Vehicle movements within the site area will be minimised through the use of as a series of conveyors to transport the dug material across the site and over the gantry to the processing plant.
- Lorry routing is west along Welshman's Road, apart from local deliveries within a two mile radius.

Noise

- Use of conveyors will reduce noise impacts on site.
- Bunds (grassed mounds) provide screening from plant noise.

Air quality

- A dust mitigation strategy is already approved and includes suppression measures such as use of water bowsers, speed limits and perimeter bunds.
- This has been effective in historically controlling dust at the quarry and will be extended into the Mortimer Quarry area.

Natural heritage and biodiversity

- Extensive survey work has been carried out and detailed management and monitoring is planned to ensure any birds, bats, reptile or badgers are accommodated in new areas around the site before each phase of extraction begins.
- Walkover surveys will record the botanical interests and, after restoration of each area, the new habitats created will be monitored under the 10 year aftercare programme to ensure their success.

Archaeology

- Several possible areas of archaeological interest have been identified and, using suitably experienced archaeologists, these will be investigated after tree felling and before mineral extraction in those areas.
- Additional work will be done on the gravels themselves by the same archaeological team as the site progresses.

Footpaths / Public access

- Footpath and bridleway diversions (when necessary) will be temporary until mineral extraction and restoration have ceased.
- No official bridleways or public rights of way will be affected by Phase 1.
- An additional footpath is proposed to increase public access to the area.

Hydrogeology and hydrology

- Water monitoring around the full extent of the working phases has been ongoing for several years to establish background levels and this will continue through the life of the quarry and its restoration.
- Both groundwater and surface water are monitored monthly.

Visual

- Bunds (grassed mounds) will be positioned to screen views from residential properties and/or public rights of way.

Restoration

- High quality restoration of the site follows excavation on a progressive basis keeping areas of open ground to a minimum and minimising visual impacts, dust and noise.
- The site will be restored to commercial and mixed forest, biodiversity and public access.

Aftercare

- A 10 year aftercare programme will commence following the completion of restoration.