



## Operations are progressing well

Since Hills Quarry Products started excavating and processing aggregates at Mortimer Quarry in May this year, the work on site has been going well and on schedule.

### What's happening on site?

Phase 1 (area a) – mineral is being extracted and processed.

Phase 1 (area b) – planned ecological mitigation measures commenced in October.

Phase 2 – currently being prepared for extraction. The timber harvesting has been completed and fencing has been erected along the boundary of the phased area including special fencing to assist ecological mitigation and prevent any reptiles entering this area.

### Forestry access route diverted

A pedestrian and horse riding permissive access route which was located within Phase 2 has been temporarily closed as part of the planned preparatory work. To minimise the impact for woodland users, Englefield Estate have created an additional permissive path around the area and signs have been erected to inform walkers and horse riders of the change in route. A map showing the diversion is available [here](#) on Mortimer Quarry website.

### Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for an apprentice and two LGV drivers to work at Mortimer Quarry.

### **Mobile and static plant apprenticeship – to start ASAP**

This role will suit a hard working person with a willingness to learn and who enjoys working outside in all weather conditions. The successful candidate will complete the course in approximately 15 months and will then be qualified as a mobile and static plant operator. As part of the apprenticeship, the candidate will gain qualifications and develop their skills whilst earning money, as well as having the opportunity to further their career within Hills Quarry Products' division.



Details about the apprenticeship have been sent to local secondary schools and colleges to attract interest and a poster advertising the vacancy has been sent to local parish councils for community noticeboards. More information about the role is available on our website [here](#).

### **LGV drivers for Class 1 and Class 2 vehicles**

For more information about these roles please visit our website [here](#).

If you or anyone you know is interested in these positions and would like to speak to someone in our HR department, please contact 01793 781199 or email [join@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:join@hills-group.co.uk) for more information and an application pack.

### **Liaison committee**

The fourth meeting of the Mortimer Quarry liaison committee took place on 4 October 2018. Read the minutes online [here](#). The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 January 2019.

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### **FOR REFERENCE:**

As we progress through each phase of the quarry, we repeat certain activities many times over. This guide explains some of the terminology we use in our workings:

Timber harvesting: Mortimer Quarry is located within part of the large area of commercial forest owned by Englefield Estate. The timber is harvested in phases to allow the sand and gravel to be excavated following which the phases are restored to mixed forest including biodiversity areas with public access.

Soil stripping: This is the removal of top soils which are placed into amenity bunds on the site. Archaeologists are on site to record any finds as the work is undertaken. See [more](#) on how Hills has worked with archaeologists on other sites.

Creating bunds: The topsoils in each working phase are not removed from the site, but are retained within the area and used to create amenity bunds. These bunds are a requirement of the planning permission and they create a visual barrier into the site along with helping to reduce noise. The bunds will become covered with vegetation such as ferns and heathers which are in keeping with the surroundings. Once the sand and gravel has been extracted, the bunds are used in the restoration of the site. For more details on the overall restoration of Mortimer Quarry and examples of other Hills' restoration projects – click [here](#)

Ecological mitigation: Moving reptiles, (also known as translocation) is always undertaken by qualified ecologists who first erect special fencing to prevent any additional reptiles entering the donor site. This is done before any timber harvesting takes place and remains in place until ecologists are satisfied that the site is 'clear'. Reptile refugia (such as roofing felt and corrugated metal tins) are set up in the donor site and inspected regularly. Any reptiles found in the refugia are moved by the ecologists to the receptor sites – this take a number of months. This is followed by habitat manipulation works, under the ecologists' supervision, where vegetation is cleared to ground level using a tractor-mounted flail followed by clearance of the top layer of vegetation using an excavator. The top soils are then placed into piles (called windrows) and the ecologists inspect and monitor these to capture the final remaining reptiles.