



Current work on site

Mineral continues to be extracted from Phase 1 as planned and operations will be moving south into Phase 2 later this year. This will allow the southern section of Phase 2 to be restored and the intention is to make sure the ground conditions are correct for the planting scheme to establish successfully.

Proposed application to vary planning condition

Hills Quarry Products is looking to submit a planning application for Mortimer Quarry.

Planning permission for the Southern Extension to Mortimer Quarry includes condition 3 which states:

The extraction of sand and gravel within the southern extension shall cease and the site, including the silt lagoons within the eastern extension, be restored in accordance with condition (23) by 30 September 2023, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Mineral Planning Authority.

However, the grant of planning consent was dependent on a Legal Agreement being signed and that was not completed between the County Council and the landowner, Englefield Estate, until 2015, when the planning consent was finally issued. However, the end date in condition 3 was not updated at that time to reflect the passing time.

Hills is therefore proposing to make an application to Hampshire County Council (as the mineral planning authority) to vary the condition to revise the end date to 2032. This reflects 14 years of anticipated extraction and restoration from the date the mineral was first extracted in 2018.

Additionally, following discussion with Hampshire County Council, Hills is applying to update and re-word a number of the planning conditions to reflect that requirements in those conditions have been discharged; and provide a more accurate set of conditions for the current development with respect to compliance of approved schemes and similar.

The application will be subject to a public consultation undertaken by Hampshire County Council and we will liaise with the Parish Council via the liaison committee.



Mortimer Quarry Winter Newsletter 2020

Liaison committee

The eighth meeting of the Mortimer Quarry local liaison committee took place on 05 September 2019. Read the minutes online [here](#). These meetings enable Hills to provide updates to community representatives on the current workings at the quarry, as well as face-to-face discussion and to answer any queries.

Donation to Padworth & Aldermaston Show 2020

Hills has been very pleased to donate £175.00 to Padworth & Aldermaston Wharf Craft and Produce Show, an event for local residents and visitors, being held on Sunday 05 July. We hope everyone has an enjoyable day!

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. Click [here](#) to see the ecology reports for Mortimer Quarry.