



### **Current work on site**

Mineral continues to be extracted from Phase 1a and 2a. Production has been limited, which has slowed the progression of the quarry operations to the west.

Ecological investigations in Phases 1c, 2b, 2c commenced in the latter part of 2021 but there were insufficient suitable days of capture and relocation before the weather turned and reptiles went into hibernation. Investigations commenced again in May 2022. Once the ecological mitigation is completed the extraction of mineral will continue to the west.

Mineral in the southern part of Phase 2a has been exhausted and it is expected to be restored in autumn/winter this year. Operations will move back north of the forestry track allowing the southern section to be restored as quickly as possible.

The restored area will be used as a test to get the ground conditions correct and the planting scheme to be established for the remaining site. The intention is to use different species of trees to give more variety throughout the managed woodland.

### **Liaison committee**

The last liaison committee meeting took place on site on 13 April 2022. The minutes of that meeting can be found [here](#). The next liaison meeting is proposed for 21 September 2022.

The meetings provide an opportunity for Hills to provide updates to community representatives on the current workings at the quarry and to answer any queries.



## Mortimer Quarry Summer Newsletter 2022

### Meet the Mortimer Quarry Team



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### Dangers of swimming in quarry lakes

Hills has been actively supporting mineral products sector campaigns to highlight the dangers of swimming in quarry lakes. These include the Mineral Products' Association #StaySafeStayOut campaign, the Royal Lifesaving Society's #DrowningPreventionWeek and the new #RespectTheWater campaign launched by the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF).

Messages are regularly shared across Hills' social media platforms and site managers ensure that adequate and relevant signage is placed around all water areas within Hills' quarries.



### Support for local community projects

We are pleased to have been able to support the following projects:

#### **Englefield Village Hall**

Many people in the community love using Englefield village hall. However, the acoustics are poor which affects the use of the hall especially for those older residents. Hills made a donation of £250 towards the fundraising to improve the acoustics.



#### **Mortimer West End Cricket Club**

Hills made a donation of £200 towards the fundraising campaign to replace the 40+ year old ride-on roller used by the club and for which spare parts can no longer be sourced.



#### **Padworth Show 2022**

Hills made a donation of £175 towards the costs for running the annual Padworth Show held earlier this year.



#### **Mortimer West End and District Annual Show**

Hills has made a donation of £50 towards the costs for the show which will take place on Saturday 27th August and includes the usual full range of produce, arts and crafts.

#### **Mortimer West End Village Hall Car Park**

Hills has agreed to provide suitable material to be used to make improvements to the carpark.



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