



Minutes of Mortimer Liaison Committee Meeting, Thursday 5th October 2023

Attendees:	Olly Thompson - Hills Quarry Products Frank Rodriguez - Hills Quarry Products David Smith - Hampshire County Council Tony Wright - Pinelands Park Resident Steve Stokes - Welshmans Road Resident	Jon Lisk - Hills Quarry Products Richard Edwards - Englefield Estate Karen Scott - Pinelands Park Resident Kim Boon - Welshmans Road Resident
Apologies:	Edward Crookes - Englefield Estate	Kevin Cross - Mortimer West End Parish Council

1.0 Introductions

2.0 Operational Review:

Operation:

Hills Quarry Products (HQP) are currently extracting phase 2, having exhausted phase 1 reserves. Currently around 90% of the way through phase 2, with the intention of moving into phase 3 towards the end of the year. Part of phase 2 has been restored and this has been well received by Richard at Englefield. Silt lagoons are currently being constructed in phase 1 and these should be completed within the next 3 or 4 weeks. These silt lagoons take the wastewater from the plant, the silt then settles out and clean water is pumped back to the plant, effectively recycling as much water as possible. **OT**

Restoration has taken place in the southern most part of phase 2 and expecting to plant here within the next few months. The only thing that is left to do here is a small drainage ditch along the southern boundary before planting commences. **RE**

A section of phase 3 has just been felled in preparation for the quarry works to progress into this area as soon as the tunnel has been installed. This area was made up of mostly small trees packed very densely together so made for poor habitat opportunity. Ecological surveys showed some signs of a Badger set has been found in forests further south but nothing in our area. This is why this section has been cleared whereas the rest of phase 3 has been left. Fencing will be erected around the boundary of phase 3 soon. This will be a mixture of permanent reptile fencing, temporary reptile fencing and perimeter H&S fencing to prevent public access. **RE & OT**

Concern was raised by local residents with what was to be done with the land as the quarry operations progress. Hills Quarry Products were chosen by the Englefield Estate because of their positive restoration techniques which have been proven across many of their other quarry operations. They have also won various awards for their restoration, particularly in the Cotswold Water Park. At Mortimer Quarry, the restoration consists of mostly forestry land however, this will be an improvement on existing. There will be increased diversity such as a more diverse habitat including, native broadleaf trees, conifer trees, heathland, grassland, and waterbodies. Restoration will be progressive. This means that there will only be a limited number of phases operational at any one time. As a new phase is opened, the previous phase that was worked will be restored. Hills are looking to operate on a three phase approach. **RE & OT**

- 1) One phase being opened to ensure there is somewhere to move into next. This is to ensure the short-term life of the quarry.
- 2) One operational phase, where gravel is being currently being extracted.
- 3) One phase being restored, where gravel has been completely extracted already.

By working in this way, it leaves the operation plenty of time to plan ahead. HQP also have an obligation to a 5 year aftercare scheme whereby, if there are any issues with the restoration, HQP must rectify these. **OT**

Community members brought up the issues surrounding noise from the operations. The biggest issue seems to be the noise created by lorry movements along Welshmans Road. In particular, the Western end of Welshmans Road, outside of Pinelands Park to the south, and the homes to the north side of the road. **KS, TW, KB & SS**



The noise is generated by lorries either going too fast down the road, creating wind/engine/tyre noise as well as the noise of the bodies of the wagons clattering together, steel-on-steel, as they hit potholes etc.

This problem is difficult for HQP to tackle as it is occurring on a public highway and therefore, HQP have no control here. However, we can complete toolbox talks and training with our drivers and make them aware of this specific area of concern. We will ask our drivers to slow down whilst going through this area and be courteous of the residents that live alongside it (*since the meeting HQP's transport manager has been informed and he has agreed to raise awareness with our drivers*). **OT**

David Smith will speak with highways to see if he can escalate the pothole issues and also move the national speed limit sign to beyond the houses therefore, reducing the speed of the HGV's in front of these residences. David Smith mentioned that the potholes are more likely to be actioned if more complaints are made on them. **DS**

Noise from the operations were then raised. As the operations progress, they will be getting closer to the residents mentioned above (western side of Welshmans Road). Hills Quarry Products have adopted a conveyor belt system to minimise the impact of noise and dust. The conveyor belts remove the need for dump trucks to haul material back and forth. They are much quieter, have minimal dust emissions compares to using dump trucks and also have significant savings in fuel burn and subsequent CO2 emissions. The machinery that will be in operation in the dig will be a 360 excavator, a loading shovel and a screener to feed material onto the conveyor belts. To reduce the impact of noise from these items of machinery, screening bunds will be erected around the perimeter of the entire site. These are already in place in the current workings and can be used as an example of how they reduce both visual and noise impacts. There is also a non-negotiable 90m standoff from Pinelands Park. **OT**

Noise surveys will also be carried out (23rd October) at four locations outside of the site. 2x of these will be next to the residents along Welshmans Road. These will identify if operations exceed the noise limits permitted. **OT**

Residents asked about the timescale of the quarry operations, how long they can expect each phase to take and how long until the operations are likely to be closest to them (phase 6, 7 & 8). Timescale for the operations is massively variable and it's a constantly changing environment therefore, difficult to suggest timings on when operations are likely to be in a certain phase. Given the nature of sand and gravel deposits, the depth of mineral can vary dramatically which can increase/decrease the life of the site from what was originally anticipated. Also, operationally we might have issues i.e. flooding and freezing in the winter slowing down operations. However, it has been suggested that each phase might last around 2 years as a guideline. **KS, TW, KB, SS & OT**

We are currently looking at installing a tunnel under the footpath to gain access into phase 3. This is hopefully going to start towards the end of this year dependant on the application given to public rights of way. Once we are into phase 3 and digging, we are likely going to start preparations in phase 4 to be one phase ahead again, as mentioned previously. However, there are lots of surveys and searches to be carried out in phase 4 before then, hopefully this side of Christmas. We also have lots of mitigation areas for the translocation of reptiles as well as habitats for nesting birds etc. that are in the process of being created alongside Englefield and the ecologist. **OT & RE**

3.0 Any Other Business:

Day Aggregates to attend next meeting to discuss their operations and developments.

Plans/Drawings to be attached to bottom of these minutes. Also, any contact details and relevant links.



4.0 Contacts & Links:

David Smith, Hampshire County Council:
Email: david.smith@hants.gov.uk
Tel: 07810 162684

Richard Edwards, Englefield Estate:
Email: richard.edwards@englefield.co.uk
Tel: 07774 164 205

Olly Thompson, Production Manager, Hills Quarry Products:
Email: olly.thompson@hills-group.co.uk
Tel: 07786733830

5.0 Plans/Drawings:

See appendix at end of document. (also attached to email)

6.0 Useful Links:

<https://www.mortimerquarry.co.uk/>

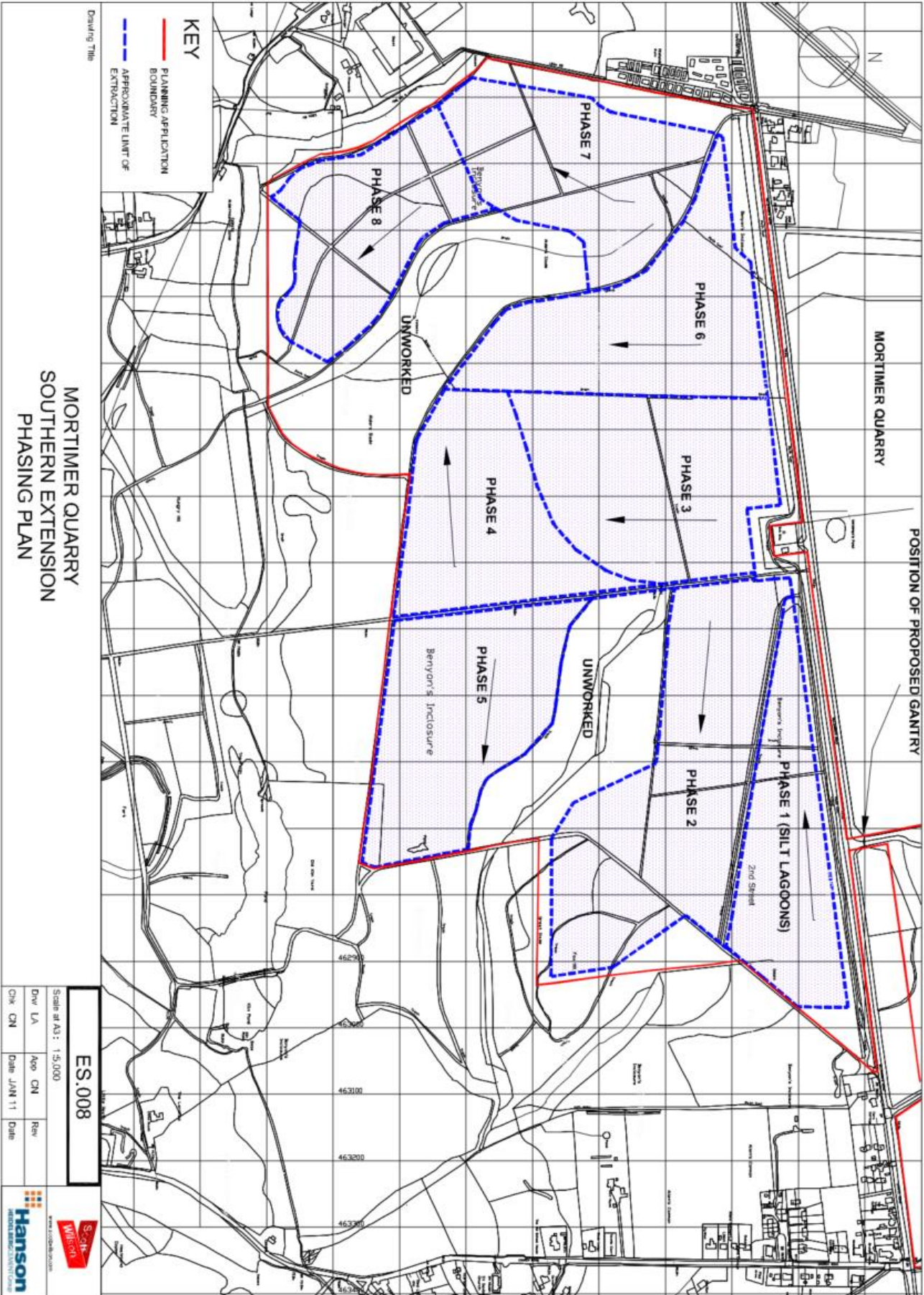
<https://www.hills-group.co.uk/>

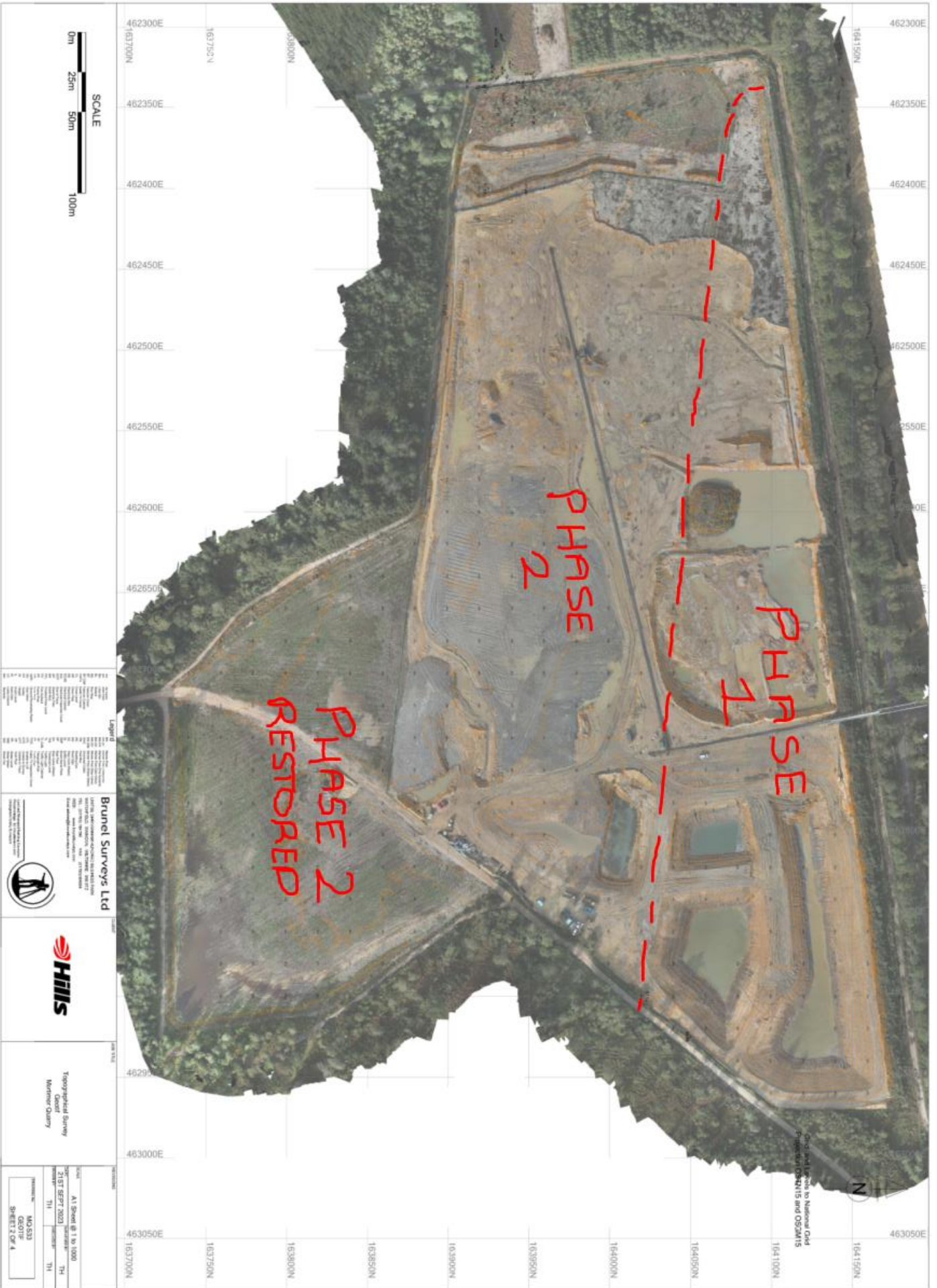
<https://www.mineralproducts.org/Industry-Overview/Vital-for-Living.aspx>

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: January 2024 (Tues, Wed or Thurs after 16:00pm) (Specific Date TBC)

Appendix:

Plans/Drawings:





SCALE
0m 25m 50m 100m

Legend

- 1. Proposed Quarry Boundary
- 2. Existing Quarry Boundary
- 3. Proposed Access Road
- 4. Existing Access Road
- 5. Proposed Spoil Bank
- 6. Existing Spoil Bank
- 7. Proposed Spoil Pile
- 8. Existing Spoil Pile
- 9. Proposed Spoil Tip
- 10. Existing Spoil Tip
- 11. Proposed Spoil Storage Area
- 12. Existing Spoil Storage Area
- 13. Proposed Spoil Treatment Area
- 14. Existing Spoil Treatment Area
- 15. Proposed Spoil Reclamation Area
- 16. Existing Spoil Reclamation Area
- 17. Proposed Spoil Rehabilitation Area
- 18. Existing Spoil Rehabilitation Area
- 19. Proposed Spoil Restoration Area
- 20. Existing Spoil Restoration Area

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 Email: info@brunel-surveys.co.uk
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Topographical Survey
 Quarry Quarry

Scale	A1 Sheet @ 1:1,000
Date	21ST SEPT 2023
Project	TH
Sheet	TH
Drawn by	TH
Checked by	TH
Approved by	TH
Project No.	160333
Sheet No.	SHEET 2 OF 4

On a reference to National Grid
 Projected OSN4115 and OS2015

