



Minutes of Mortimer Liaison Committee Meeting, Thursday 5th March 2026

Attendees: Olly Thompson - Hills Quarry Products
Richard Edwards - Englefield Estate
David Smith - Hampshire County Council
Kevin Cross - Mortimer West End Parish Council
Frank Rodriguez – Hills Quarry Products
Tony Wright - Pinelands Park Resident
Dave Phenna - Pinelands Park Resident

Apologies: Steve Davies – Hills Quarry Products
Cllr Rhydian Vaughan – Hampshire County Council

1.0 Introductions

2.0 Operational Review:

Phase 3 excavation activities are continuing as planned, with steady progress being made across the area. Phase 4 has now been fully prepared and is ready for the commencement of digging operations. Looking ahead, we are planning to initiate the ecological survey for Phase 5, ensuring all compliance and environmental requirements are met ahead of future development. **FR**

The production plant is performing well overall. Water levels across the ponds remain high, which is typical for this time of year. Recent wet weather has created challenges with sticky material moving through the plant, which has had some impact on throughput. However, as conditions improve, we anticipate a corresponding increase in production efficiency. Over the winter period, the plant maintained an average output of approximately 12,000–14,000 tonnes. Sales have been slower than usual, averaging around 8,000 tonnes per month. This reduction appears to be driven by seasonal factors as well as wider economic conditions influencing demand. We expect these figures to improve as we move into better weather and more favourable market circumstances.

Estates: Planting works in Phase 2 have now been completed with the successful establishment of Scotch pine across the area. In Phase 2a, where initial planting has already taken place, we have observed notable levels of browsing damage caused by rabbits. This activity has resulted in the loss of a number of young trees. **RE**

A programme of beating up will be required to replace the damaged or lost saplings and ensure the long-term success of the restoration efforts. We will continue to monitor the area closely and may need to consider additional protective measures to mitigate further browsing pressure and support healthy tree establishment.

4.0 Community Engagement

There have been no reported issues relating to noise, dust emissions, or HGV movements during this period. All operational activities are being carried out in full compliance with our environmental management procedures, and feedback from both on-site personnel and local stakeholders has been consistently positive. Overall, performance in these areas remains strong, and we are pleased with the level of control and good practice being maintained across the site. **RE, TW, DS & FR**

FR noted that the site remains committed to maintaining open and transparent communication with the local community. He reiterated that if any residents or stakeholders have concerns or wish to discuss site activities, they are welcome to visit during the working week. This provides an opportunity to talk through any issues directly, gain clarity on ongoing operations, and ensure any matters raised are addressed promptly and constructively.

5.0 Any Other Business:

Proposed Revision to the conveyor routing plan

A potential adjustment to the current excavation strategy is being considered. The proposal involves accessing Phase 5 by progressing through the south-western section of Phase 2. This revised approach would provide several operational advantages.

By entering Phase 5 from this direction, we would be able to install a new conveyor directly between Phase 2 and Phase 5. This would streamline material handling through the quarry. Importantly, this change would also significantly improve the efficiency of future restoration works in phase 3 and 4 which could begin immediately, without the need to wait for removal of the original conveyor system running through those areas once excavation in Phase 5 is complete. This would accelerate the restoration timeline, reduce operational disruption, and offer greater flexibility in planning.

Further assessment will be required to confirm feasibility, environmental considerations, and overall programme benefits.

OT

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

6.0 Contacts & Links:

David Smith, Hampshire County Council:

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Olly Thompson, Strategic Project Manager, Hills Quarry Products:

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Frank Rodriguez, Quarry Manager, Hills Quarry Products:

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5.0 Plans/Drawings:

See appendix at end of document.

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: November 2026 (Around 15:00pm) (Specific Date TBC)

Appendix:

Restoration Plan:



Phasing Plan (with brown/orange proposed conveyor routes):



