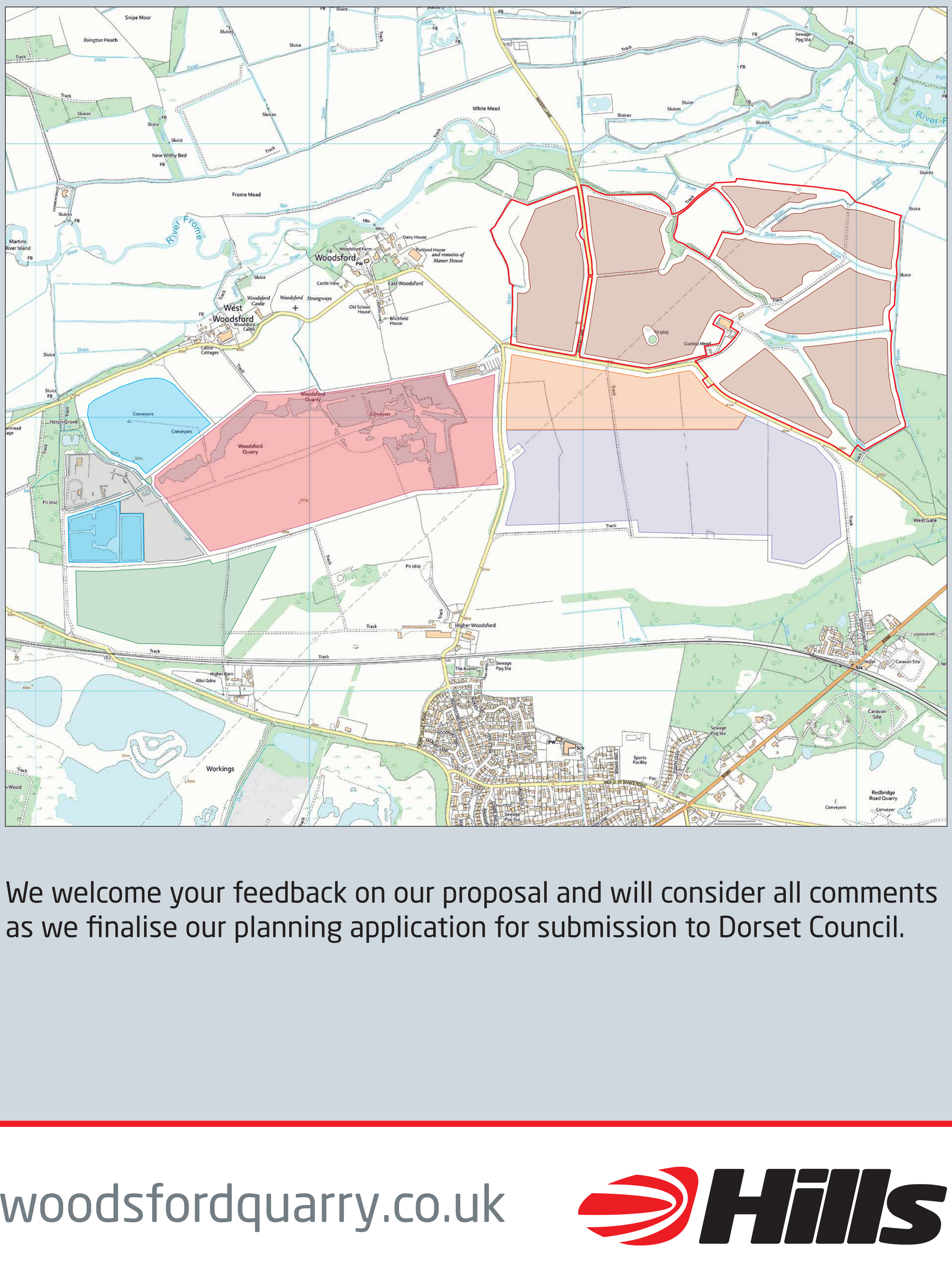
Welcome

Welcome to Hills Quarry Products' and Woodsford Farms' public exhibition about our proposal to extend Woodsford Quarry on land to the northeast of the existing site.



We welcome your feedback on our proposal and will consider all comments as we finalise our planning application for submission to Dorset Council.

woodsfordquarry.co.uk

Hills

Hills Quarry Products

Hills Quarry Products is part of The Hills Group, a family-owned business involved in the extraction of sand and gravel since the early 1900s and more recently in the production of quality assured ready-mixed concrete.

- We currently operate sand and gravel quarries in Dorset, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Gloucestershire
- We have been working the Woodsford Quarry since 2007
- We are active members of the Mineral Products Association (MPA), the industry body at the forefront of introducing new and improved practices
- We have restored quarries to agriculture, wildlife sites and for leisure uses.

mpa
a member of the Mineral Products Association

ISO 9001
THE QUALITY SCHEME FOR READY MIXED CONCRETE
UKAS PRODUCT CERTIFICATION
009

Partnership with Woodsford Farms

Hills Quarry Products and Woodsford Farms have been working together prior to the opening of Woodsford Quarry to release mineral reserves that provide an essential long-term supply of construction materials into the regions' market.

Woodsford Farms
in partnership with
Hills

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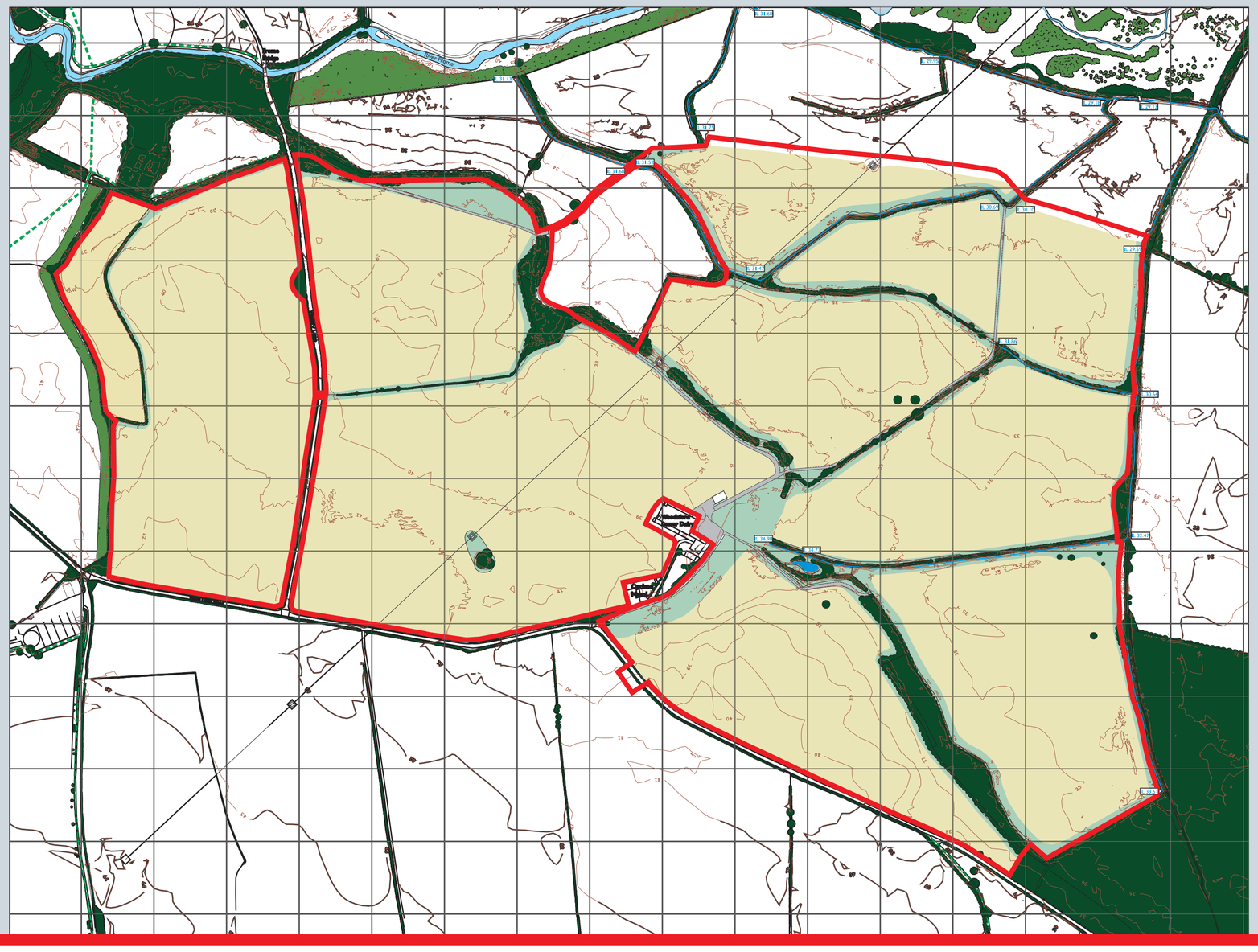
Our proposal

North East Extension of Woodsford Quarry

- The life of the extension is estimated to be 14 years including preparation and restoration
- Restoration will follow the phasing of the site, no material or waste to be imported
- The area to be extracted is around 65ha and will yield in the region of three million tonnes of mineral
- Sand and gravel will be dug using a loading shovel and transported by field conveyors taking it back to the existing processing plant reducing noise, dust and use of fossil fuels
- The existing infrastructure at the plant site and access will be used
- The site has been designed to work within the existing field boundaries so hedges and trees retained
- The North East Extension will be worked as an interlude to the existing permitted reserves at Woodsford Quarry, they will be paused, the North East Extension worked and then the current quarry completed when that has been worked
- Maintaining mineral activities in the area will secure around 50 jobs directly plus additional work to other local businesses. It is estimated that Woodsford Quarry contributes £1.6 million to the national and local economy annually
- The restoration proposed will introduce a wide range of new habitats giving substantial gain to the wider environment, as well as including productive agricultural land.



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Why here?

- We can only source sand and gravel from specific areas and a significant deposit is located in and around this part of Dorset.

- The local council identifies the need for construction materials in the region and then allocates specific sites to meet that need.

- After an extensive period of consultation and an Examination in Public by a Planning Inspector, the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan was adopted by Dorset Council on 31 December 2019. The North East Extension to Woodsford Quarry is an allocated site in that Plan.

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Why do we need quarries?

We tend to take minerals for granted – yet they play an essential role in our everyday lives. Materials sourced from the UK's quarries are around us every moment of every day and support us as we work, rest and play.

An end-product in themselves, aggregates are also a raw material used in the manufacture of other vital construction products such as ready-mixed concrete, asphalt, lime and mortar.

In a typical year, we need around 205 million tonnes of aggregates in the UK - that is over three tonnes for every person.

Around 90 per cent of all aggregates are used by the construction industry to build and maintain:

- **Our housing stock** – a single house needs up to 60 tonnes of aggregate
- **Transport networks** – aggregates feature at all levels of road construction and the rail industry uses 3 million tonnes of aggregate each year as track ballast
- **Utilities infrastructure** – substantial volumes of aggregate are required to build reservoirs and sewerage treatment works
- **Hospitals, schools, commercial & industrial buildings** – an average community hospital will need 53,000 tonnes of concrete, a school around 15,000 tonnes and a six storey office building 16,480 tonnes.

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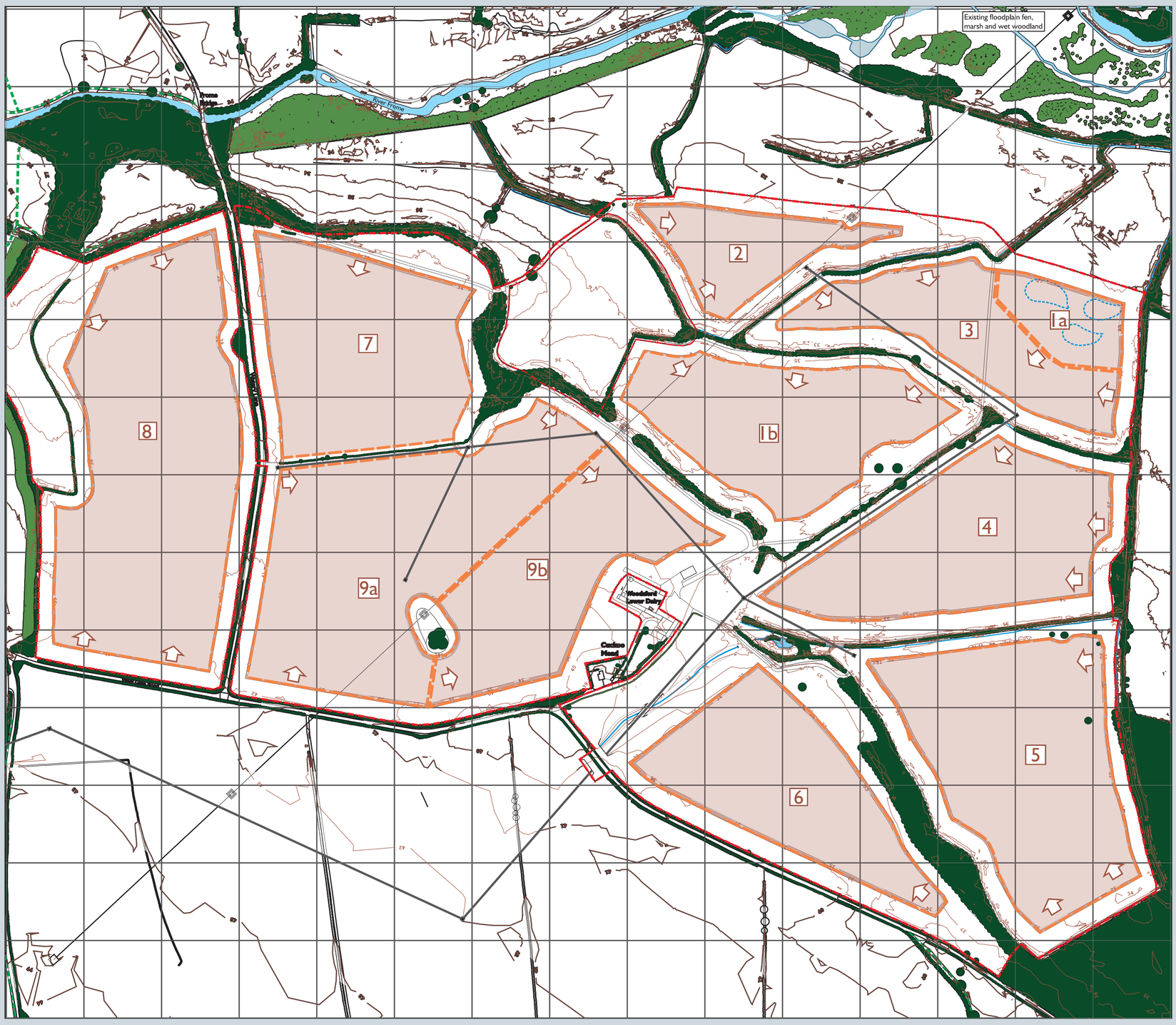
Phasing

The area to be extracted, is 65 hectares.

The proposal is to start in the north east corner, to create the area that will then be used for water management thoughout the rest of the life of the quarry extension (phase 1a) .

Phase 1b will follow and then b Phase 2-6 in a broadly anticlockwise direction. Phase 7 works the land to the east of Watery Lane, south of the River Frome, then Phase 8 to the west of Watery Lane, before the final phase. Phase 9 is divided into subphases a and b, with Phase b only being worked if there are no occupants in the two residential properties at Lower Woodsford Dairy.

All soils would be carefully stripped and stored for use in restoration. The sand and gravel would be dug using a loading shovel and transported to the processing plant by field conveyors which have the advantage over dump trucks to reduce noise, dust and use of fossil fuels.



Restoration plan

Restoration has been considered at length within the constraints of the materials that will be available after mineral extraction, the level of groundwater within the site and the interests of Woodsford Farms when the land is returned post extraction.

The later phases of the site will be returned to agricultural production, using the soils and overburden that have been accumulated in the earlier phases.

Additionally, the habitats that will be created, include lowland fen/ pasture which will be grazing land and include seasonally wet scrapes. Native hedgerows and hedgerow trees will be planted along with blocks and belts of broadleaf woodland.

The water bodies within the extension site will be wildlife lakes or angling lakes (subject to any necessary consents). Each wildlife lake includes a nesting island. All of the restored land will be subject to habitat management.

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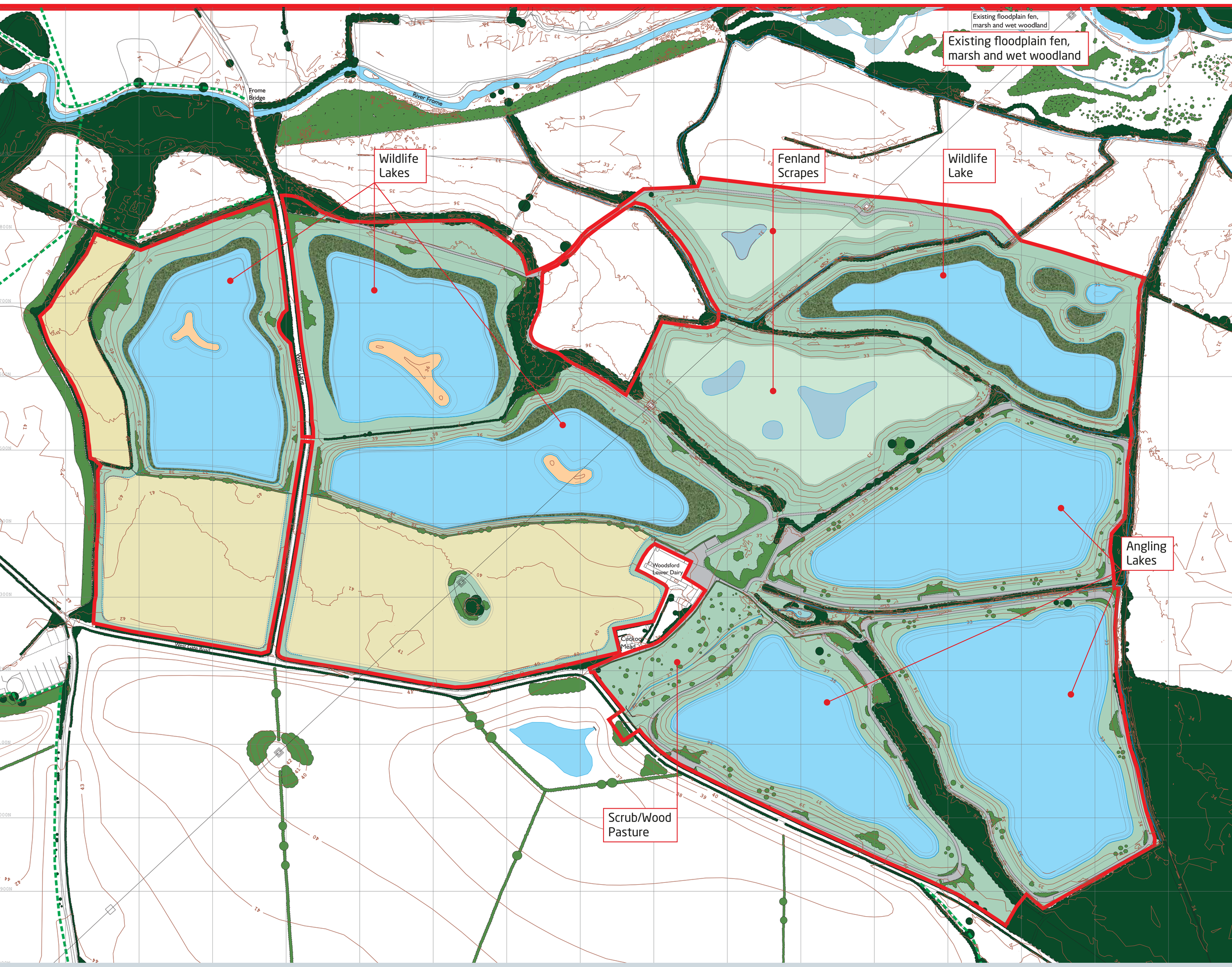
Restoration plan



Site boundary

Contour

River/Lake/Open water

Track, yard and anglers' parking

Reed/Fen margin

Shallow scrape in lowland fen (seasonally flooding)

Agricultural land

Uncultivated headland/ Lowland meadow

Lowland fen/Pasture

Gravel nesting island

Well established and proposed tree, hedge and woodland planting

Tree. hedge, woodland

Public footpath

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Environmental considerations

Woodsford Farms recognises the importance of protecting the local environment for future generations and has worked with Hills to design a restoration which will significantly enhance the biodiversity interests of the land.

A full environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposal has been carried out, which looks at the potential significance of impacts, how these can be prevented or, where not possible, minimised and mitigated to acceptable levels.

The EIA includes detailed assessments on:

- Water Environment
- Ecology & Biodiversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Archaeology
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Landscape
- Agriculture

Water environment

The assessment has looked at groundwater, surface water and the potential for flooding both during and after the operational life of the extension site.

- Information on groundwater from boreholes around the site has been collated and the presence of other mineral working in the area considered

- The site lies outside identified flood zones

- The ground and surface water regimes are well understood with working the current permitted quarry.

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Ecology & Biodiversity

Most of the site currently comprises arable fields, which offer limited opportunity for diverse habitats. The restoration proposed will introduce a wide range of new habitats giving a substantial gain to the wider environment.

- Extensive fieldwork has been ongoing, looking at the land in terms of both flora and fauna, and an arboriculture survey has been carried out
- Working practices are designed to avoid impacts to wildlife e.g. soil stripping or removal of vegetation at appropriate times of the year
- Site restoration will improve the diversity of habitats with wildlife corridors forming linkages to surrounding habitats
- The proposals would see new areas of fenland pasture, wildlife lakes and newly established hedges and tree belts
- Ecological monitoring will form part of the post restoration work ensuring habitats are managed appropriately.

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Noise

The Government has set out specific guidance on noise associated with mineral extraction and restoration. This forms the basis for the noise assessment.

- The noise assessment builds a computer model of noise levels through the full operation from soil stripping, bund building, mineral extraction and restoration

- The properties which were considered to represent the sensitive locations were agreed with the Environmental Health officer at Dorset Council and background noise measurements taken

- The mineral extraction at the northern extension will use conveyors to take mineral from the working area back to the plant site in the existing quarry. Conveyors are considerably less noisy than using dump trucks

- The noise model confirms where any mitigation measures are needed and these are being incorporated into the overall design

Measuring noise levels

- As well as the distance to properties, mitigation will include the positioning of the grassed soil bunds to act as a noise barrier where needed temporarily

- A site-specific noise management plan will form part of the planning submission and operation of the quarry extension.

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Air quality

As with noise, the first step is to identify sensitive receptors. The approach to the assessment was agreed with an Environmetal Health officer at Dorset Council before commencing. As well as properties, it also includes ecologically important sites.

Dust from all aspects of the operations on site is considered. Mitigation measures include the use of conveyors, which cause much less dust to arise than dump trucks moving around site as well as the naturally damp nature of a sand and gravel quarry. The assessment concludes that, with measures in place, dust can be adequately controlled. A site-specific dust management plan (DMP) will form part of the application.

Archaeology & cultural heritage

Substantial background information has been collected with reviews of existing information sources, geophysical investigations and extensive field evaluation work.

The work carried out in the existing quarry informs this as well. The assessment work identitfies there is potential for a range of finds but nothing has been identified that is considered so significant to prevent mineral extraction. Archaeology associated with mineral extraction has provided considerable insight into the archaeological history of the UK and this land has the same potential.

The exact measures will be agreed with the County Archaeologist but it is expected that an archaeologist will be on site as soil stripping takes place in areas identified as being of specific interest and should anything of significance be found, further investigation undertaken.

Cultural heritage

Often considered alongside archaeology, the potential for the development to impact on scheduled monuments, listed buildings and similar elements of the surrounding environment also forms part of the assessment work. Heritage England and Conservation officers in Dorset Council will be involved in the consideration of this element of the proposals, but it also has overlap with other assessments such as noise, air quality and visual impact.

Visual and landscape

The views of the proposed extension to the quarry are limited due to the screening effect of existing woodland and hedgerows within and adjacent to the site.

The landscape and visual impacts of the development would be limited by:

- Retention of existing hedges and woodlands to maintain the limited visibility of the site
- Recent implementation of woodland and hedge planting on peripheral edges to provide landscape benefits
- Using soil storage bunds in perimeter locations
- Retaining the field pattern to those existing
- The creation of additional native woodland and hedges
- Creation of species rich lowland meadows and permanent pasture.

Working with the community

Woodsford Farms and Hills know the importance of being a good neighbour and has formed liaison committees at their sites as a forum to discuss the site with the local community.

Quarries can be good educational facilities.
Hills regularly gives access to local groups and schools who are interested in gaining a fascinating insight into the geology, fossils and prehistory of the local area together with learning more about the important role that quarries play in modern day life.

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Awards

We have won many awards for our restorations of former quarry sites and promotion of their biodiversity.


UEPG AGGREGATES EUROPE

Sustainable Development Awards 2022

UEPG Sustainable Development Awards

This certifies that

Hills

Hills Quarry Products

Has been recognised for excellence in the category of

Restoration

Brussels, 30 November 2022

Antonis Antoniou Latouros
UEPG President

Dirk Fincke
UEPG Secretary General

- **2019 Shorncote Quarry**
  MPA Highly Commended Award for high quality restoration of Shorncote Quarry

- **2015 Cotswold Water Park**
  MPA Special Award for Hills' contribution to restoration for wildlife conservation and recreation

- **2007 Langford Lakes**
  MPA Chairman's Trophy for restoration of former gravel workings to a nature reserve (in conjunction with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)

- **1999 Isis Lakes**
  QPA Award for restoration of sand and gravel quarry to wildlife habitat with residential development (in conjunction with Watermark)

- **1996 Manor Farm**
  QPA Award for restoration of sand and gravel quarry to wildlife habitat and leisure use

- **1994 Spinnaker Lake**
  Sand & Gravel Association Award for restoration of sand and gravel quarry to leisure use.


Restoration of Dryleaze quarry to agricultural fields

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Next steps

Thank you for attending today's exhibition.

We welcome your feedback on our proposal and there are a number of ways you can do this:

- Complete a feedback form today and place it in the box provided;

or

- Visit the website **www.woodsfordquarry.co.uk** and leave your comments in the 'Feedback' section;

or

- Write to us at:

FREEPOST RTJC-RKKY-RYKR
Hills Quarry Products
Wiltshire House
County Park Business Centre
Shrivenham Road
Swindon SN1 2NR

We will look at all the comments we receive and this will help to shape our final planning application.

We intend to submit our planning application to Dorset Council later in 2023.