

Site monitoring report

Please find detailed below the report for the site monitoring undertaken. If you should have any queries or require any photographs taken please do not hesitate to contact me.

Site Name: Highwood Quarry, Stortford Road, Little Canfield

File Ref: 11 421 33

Operator: SRC

Site Representative: Unannounced visit

Visit no: 2 of 4

Date: 31 August 2023

Time on site: 15:45

Time off site: 16:30

Monitoring Officer: Claire Tomalin Tel No: 03330136821

Site Co-ordinator: As above

Permission no's:

ESS/16/20/UTT – (original permission ESS/65/06/UTT) – Main mineral landfill permission (S106 attached)

ESS/17/20/UTT – (original permission) – Aggregate recycling and add importation (s106 attached)

ESS/77/12/UTT – Bagging plant

ESS/51/13/UTT – Bund 7 revised location/extension

ESS/11/15/UTT – Offices

ESS/47/16/UTT – 2nd floor site office and additional parking

ESS/11/17/UTT – Office extension (not implemented)

Constraints:

- Weather: **Dry/** Windy / Rain / Snow
- Noise: **Acceptable/** Not acceptable / N/A
- Approach roads: **Dry /** Dusty / Wet / **Muddy** / Flooded
- Ground: Dry / Dusty / Wet / **Damp** / Muddy / Flooded
- Access: Obstructed / **Not Obstructed** / Mud on Road / Ice / Slippery
- Wheel cleaning: **Washer** / Spinner / Sweeper / none N/A
- Hose: In use / Not in Use / N/A
- Machinery: **Working** / Not working
- In correct position: **Yes** / No / N/A
- Stockpiles: Height OK
- Bunds: Profiled / Grassed / **Weeds** / NA

Inspection Results Summary:

Access road

Staining on access road to highway junction and beyond

Extraction/Landfilling area progress

Extraction taking place along alignment of old access track, edged phase D/E

Extracting in phase G and landfilling in G, also extracting in south of phase H.

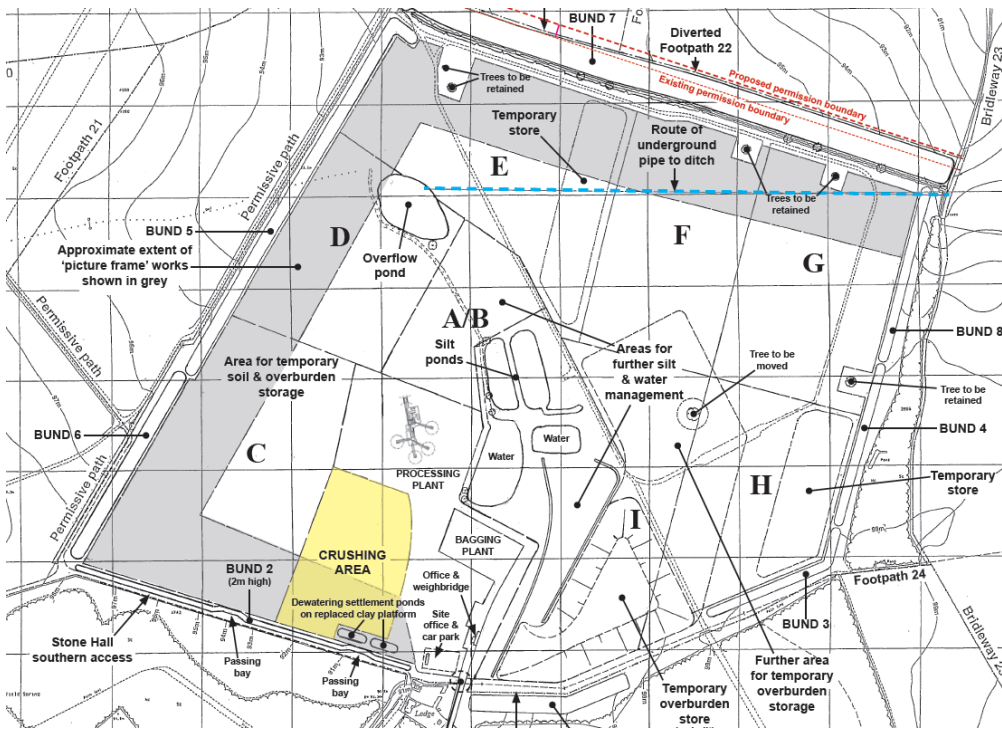
Moving dried silt//subsoil from Phase H to boundary phase D/E

Moving topsoil from Phase H to phase F

As works have now move into H please can noise monitoring be organised to show compliance

Phase E, restored to restoration levels and in part topsoiled. This area needs to be cut to reduce weed infestation and stone picked. To be brought into restoration when works in track on boundary D/E until an area larger enough to be put into aftercare is created.

It is understood once the track area has been worked and restored the bunding around veteran trees will be removed.



It should be noted if Stone Hall is reoccupied, it will be necessary to reinstate 3m high bunds around phase C or ensure screening of plant and extraction areas from Stone Hall.

Western bunds need maintenance. This has been mentioned on nearly every report issued. While the large bunds (east and north of site) are well maintained the western boundary is a mass of weeds, the seeds are likely to drift onto the restored area and agricultural land beyond – it essential they are strimmed to reduce weeds and improve appearance.

Hedge on northside of quarry adjacent to bund 7 the spiral guards should be removed. There is a gap in this hedge due to a slip during extraction. JH wishes to retain as gap can be used to remove the bund to the north and then be replanted when bund removed.

Restoration of Phases C & D

Restored areas in grass, underdrainage undertaken in February 2023 had left raised areas over drains. JH has knocked down raised area to allow contractor to spray off weeds, ready for winter crop as agreed at aftercare meeting in April 2023.

Processing Area

In respect of other operations on site, the processing plant and weighbridge; bagging plant; and inert recycling facility were all operational at the time of visit. Stockpiles were contained within the site and generally in approved locations. Stockpile heights were acceptable.

There is a low point near the weighbridge office that floods regularly resulting in staining being carried out of the site. This drainage issue needs to be resolved.

Veteran Trees

The oak tree has been felled and is to be located adjacent to High Wood SSSI – the main trunk remains near its original location and needs to be moved to be with other cut wood by High Wood SSSI

Compliance with Conditions:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/16/20/UTT Condition 27 Seasonal ponds details need to be submitted.

Permission/Condition No: ESS/16/20/UTT Condition 56 Restoration Scheme. Draft scheme submitted and comments by MPA provided.

Permission/Condition No: ESS/16/20/UTT Condition 57 Aftercare scheme – outline aftercare scheme submitted; comments provided by MPA revised scheme awaited.

Actions:

Picture Framing phases D, E and F - As the right of access across the site has been resolved, it is noted that the original route has been blocked off and the temporary alternative now in use. Please submit scheme of working for next 12 months as required by condition 66 of ESS/16/20/UTT that includes completion of the picture framing.

Comment – annual working scheme submitted and works underway.

Cattle grid/rumble grid –

Comment: The grid is completely full of mud and is contributing to staining on the public highway, this needs to be cleaned/emptied.

Planting

Access road hedges and planting – needs weed management and standards planted.

Comment: organise for autumn 2023.

Guards on hedge along north edge adjacent bund 7 to be removed.

Comment: Not removed

Screening bunds

Screening bund on the western boundary to be maintained, weeds trimmed and then treated to suppress weeds.

Comment: no progress

Restoration and aftercare details

It is essential progress is made to approve the restoration and aftercare details. No satisfactory outline aftercare scheme has been submitted to cover all types of restoration i.e. agricultural, woodland, grassland seasonal pond)(condition 57 of ESS/20/18/UTT, now condition 57 of ESS/16/20/UTT). No formal submission has been made to discharge the requirements of conditions 56 and 27, regarding restoration details. A meeting was held in the summer 2022 but since then limited progress. Last information was the landowner had reviewed the restoration scheme, but no submission has been made.

Comment: No progress. If not progress by mid Oct enforcement action will be progressed.

Noise monitoring – organise site monitoring to show compliance.

Note: The actions noted in this report are required in order to ensure adequate progress is made and to avoid potential enforcement action against a breach of planning control.