

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 on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Site Name: Brightlingsea Quarry (Trinity and Girling)

File Ref: 14 421 01

Operator: Brett Aggregates

Site Representatives: Karol Podkomorzy (Brett), Simon Treacy (Brett)

Visit no: 2 of 2

Date: Monday 4th March 2024

Time on site: 10:30

Time off site: 12:00

Monitoring Officer: Tom Sycamore/Chloe Budd Tel No: 03330 321 896

Site Co-ordinator: Tom Sycamore Tel No: 03330 321 896

Permission no's:

ESS/39/13/TEN – Winning and working of minerals with progressive infilling and restoration to agriculture and nature conservation (completion by 31/01/2026) – variation of ESS/61/12/TEN, ESS/28/03/TEN and ESS/47/94/TEN.

ESS/39/13/TEN/NMA1 – Non-material amendment to allow relocation of site access, weighbridge, site office and car park.

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 (locked gate) / **Not Obstructed** / Mud on Road
- 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 = N/A
- Bunds: Profiled / Grassed / Some weeds / **NA**

Actions from last site visit:

- Revised restoration plan signed off for approval (ESS/16/23/TEN). Awaiting Deed of Variation to be signed before decision is formally issued.

Inspection Results Summary:

- Site visit accompanied by Andrew Hartley of Natural England to inspect the culvert and water flow to SSSI marshes to the south following concerns raised that previous water supply has ceased. It's thought, although not definite, that SSSI would not have been granted designation historically if water levels were not high enough in the first place. The restoration scheme retains this culvert.
- Discussion was had around quarrying activities artificially contributing towards higher flows. Now quarrying is nearing completion, water levels are naturally settling to pre-quarry levels. Climate change may possibly have reduced historic water levels.
- Natural England suggests artificial pumping may be required. However this could cause other hydrogeological impacts and reduce the water table elsewhere. Also considered unreasonable to enforce such a long-term obligation on the operator to maintain a pump in perpetuity.
- Brett propose to install a solar-powered water abstraction borehole on the southern side of the woodland to the south of the Girling cell which would contribute 20 cu.m per day from the sand and gravel aquifer towards the marshes. This location was inspected on the visit. This would likely fall outside the remits of planning. Brett are encouraged to approach the EA to discuss further.
- Girling restoration was inspected – trees and hedgerows are establishing and being replaced when growth fails. Water body and island feature have been created and many wetland birds were congregating. Slight erosion on the northern sand face however not considered problematic and not impacting the footpath above.
- Public rights of way and signage in correct locations.

Permission under 2017 EIA regulations?:

- Yes / **No**

Actions to be taken before next site visit:

- Continue maintenance of site and replacement of failed planting.

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.