

# 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:** Jonathon Hayward SRC \_ john Hilton called away

**Visit no:** 4 of 4

**Date:** 27 March 2024

**Time on site:** 12:00

**Time off site:** 13:15

**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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Mud on access road to highway junction and beyond. Subsequent to the visit there have been complaints of load shed on the public highway, particularly on the A120 slip roads.

### Extraction/Landfilling area progress

Extraction completed on NW section of access track, EQA report sent to EA re lining of site for boundary of D and E.

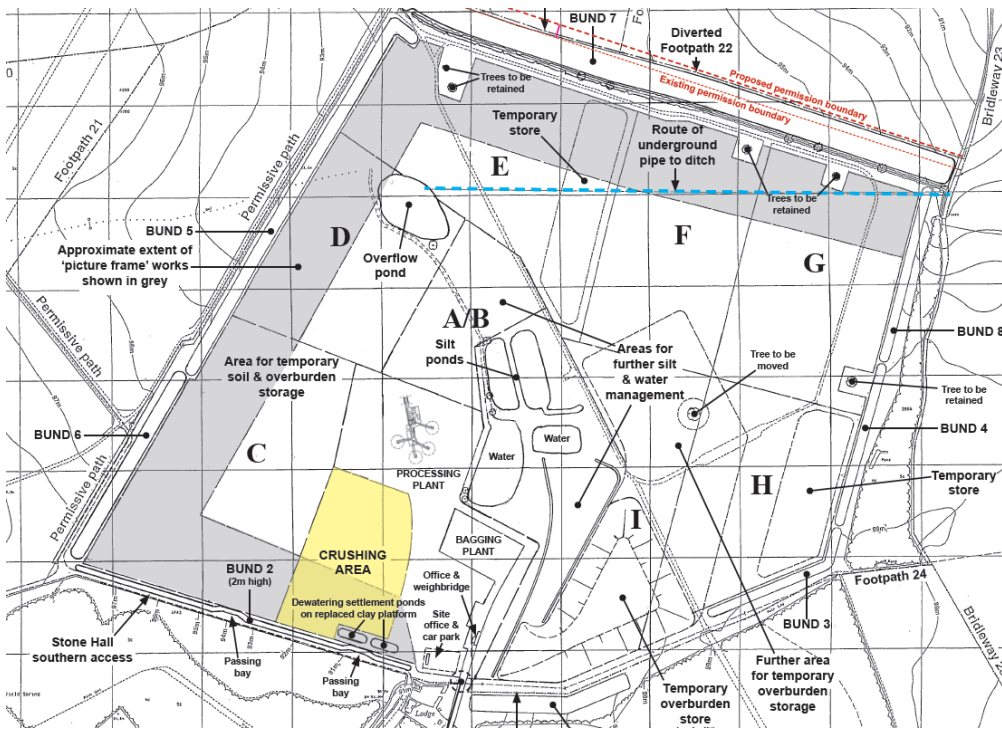
Extracting in phase G and landfilling in G, also extracting in south of phase G, with topsoil being stripped in north section of H.

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

Moving topsoil from Phase H to phase F

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 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

More stone picking is considered to be required. It was my understanding that the land had been sown with winter wheat, but there didn't seem to be any evidence of this. Aftercare visit organised for April 2024.

### 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.

The silt lagoons were very full and didn't appear to have the required 1m free board capacity. This is a matter for HSE.

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

## Veteran Trees

The oak tree has been felled and much of the material located adjacent to High Wood SSSI – the main trunk had been left near its original location. The trunk's current location not noted during visit, likely moved as phase H progresses.

### **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 From Previous visit:**

#### **Cattle grid/rumble grid**

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

#### Planting

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

Comment: No progress

#### 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: Outline aftercare scheme for agricultural areas now approved.

Aftercare for other afteruses not submitted. A detailed restoration scheme is awaited to address conditions 27 and 56. The scheme needs to consider the planning permission for mixed development approved on appeal UTT REF: 21/00138/REF. If a detailed

restoration scheme is not submitted in the next month, the matter will be passed to the enforcement officer for action.

**Access Road** Mud on access road and this is being carried out onto public highway. Ensure road sweeping vehicle available at short notice.

Hedge by office car park – needs trimming

Comment: Hedge trimmed.

### **Actions from this visit**

**Flooding by weighbridge** This has been raised in previous visits, but with the particularly wet weather the problem has been exacerbated. A solution to this flooding must be found as it contributing to the problem of mud on the public highway.

It is disappointing that actions that have been highlighted for a number of visits have not been addressed, those **highlighted** are required to be addressed or enforcement action will be the authority's only option.

### Single storey office ESS/11/17/UTT

This office is no longer occupied by SRC staff, having moved to Colchester. The office building and link are required to be removed if no longer in use in association with the quarry/landfill. Please provide a timetable for their removal.

**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.**