



Minutes of Mortimer Liaison Committee Meeting, Thursday 13th March 2025

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

Apologies: Edward Crookes - Englefield Estate
Karen Scott – Pinelands Park Resident

1.0 Introductions

2.0 Operational Review:

Hills Quarry Products (HQP) are currently extracting phase 3, having exhausted phase 1 & 2 reserves. **OT**

Since the meeting in October 2024, HQP have cleared trees from Phase 3 and have completed the topsoil strip/destructive search. This has been completed in all bar one small section of phase 3, parallel with the bridleway, which will be completed in Apr/May 2025.

Ecological work is ongoing in phase 4. Reptile trap and translocation exercises occurred here throughout the summer of 2024 and will continue throughout this summer. Some habitat manipulation will occur later this spring, to assist in the trap and translocate exercise. Reptile fencing will be installed to split the area up into sections, again to assist with the translocation exercise. This is likely to occur over the next few weeks.

There is a small pond in phase 5 which runs dry throughout the summer months. This is to be infilled throughout the summer of 2025, once it has dried up, to prevent ecological constraints when it comes to extracting phase 5 in the future. A replacement for this pond has already been created in an area to the east, which was deemed to be most suitable. This was done by using a clay liner to help retain water.

We will continue to extract Phase 3 for the remainder of 2025. We are likely to start work in phase 4 throughout spring 2026. As previously stated, we will continue to extract mineral from the site using conveyor belts. This is favourable to using dumpers to haul material as there will be a reduction in any potential noise and dust emissions. It will also increase the efficiency of the site by reducing fuel burn and idle times.

Plant side, there are no notable changes. The silt line and fresh water return line is now in, connecting the plant with the Benyon's Enclosure silt lagoons. This system is fully operational and is a closed system whereby, the water pumped out of Benyon's Enclosure to feed the plant is pumped back to Benyon's Enclosure to allow for silt settlement. This occurs with minimal losses at the plant site. Rampton's Lane silt lagoon system is no longer in use, however, there is still a pipeline in place, just in case we need to utilise it for any reason. Rampton's Lane lagoons will remain active however, to ensure a backup in case of emergencies i.e. low water in Benyon's.

In terms of restoration, throughout the winter of 2023/24, Rich planted 6,500 trees in the restored area of phase 2. Some of the trees have failed and this is likely due to the heavy rainfall we've had over the past year, coupled with difficulties in the drainage in this area of the site. The planting was a mixture of different varieties of tree species, all of which have showed similar signs of failure, not pointing to any specific species. Throughout the summer of 2025, HQP intend to place topsoil in the remainder of phase 2 and work on the drainage where the failures occurred. Then, in winter 2025/26, Rich will plant/replant the entirety of this phase. **RE & OT**

4.0 Community Engagement

No noise or dust complaints with regards to the Quarry activities from Pinelands Park residents. **OT**



The issues surrounding Welshman's Road speed limit and potholes was raised. An attempt has been made to try to change the speed limit along this section of road, but no luck. Kevin Cross reported to the group that they have had 3x incidents reported whereby someone was caught in excess of 100mph along Welshman's Road. The road safety officer from Berkshire has been out and has said that everything is fine however, if it were to be done over, he'd change the layout. Rhydian has reported on the Chapel Lane junction, but nothing has been done about it. He too, has had no luck changing speed limit.

**TW, RV &
KC**

The biggest concern for residents remains the noise created by traffic along Welshmans Road as well as the safety of other road users, particularly when pulling out of Pinelands Park or Chapel Lane.

This problem is difficult for HQP to tackle as it is occurring on a public highway and therefore, HQP have no control here. However, HQP's transport manager has raised awareness with our drivers and this subject is covered in the driver's handbooks.

OT

5.0 Any Other Business:

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:
Email: david.smith@hants.gov.uk
Tel: 07810 162684

Richard Edwards, Englefield Estate:
Email: richard.edwards@englefield.co.uk
Tel: 07774 164 205

Olly Thompson, Production Manager, Hills Quarry Products:
Email: olly.thompson@hills-group.co.uk
Tel: 07786733830

5.0 Plans/Drawings:

See appendix at end of document.

6.0 Useful Links:

<https://www.mortimerquarry.co.uk/>

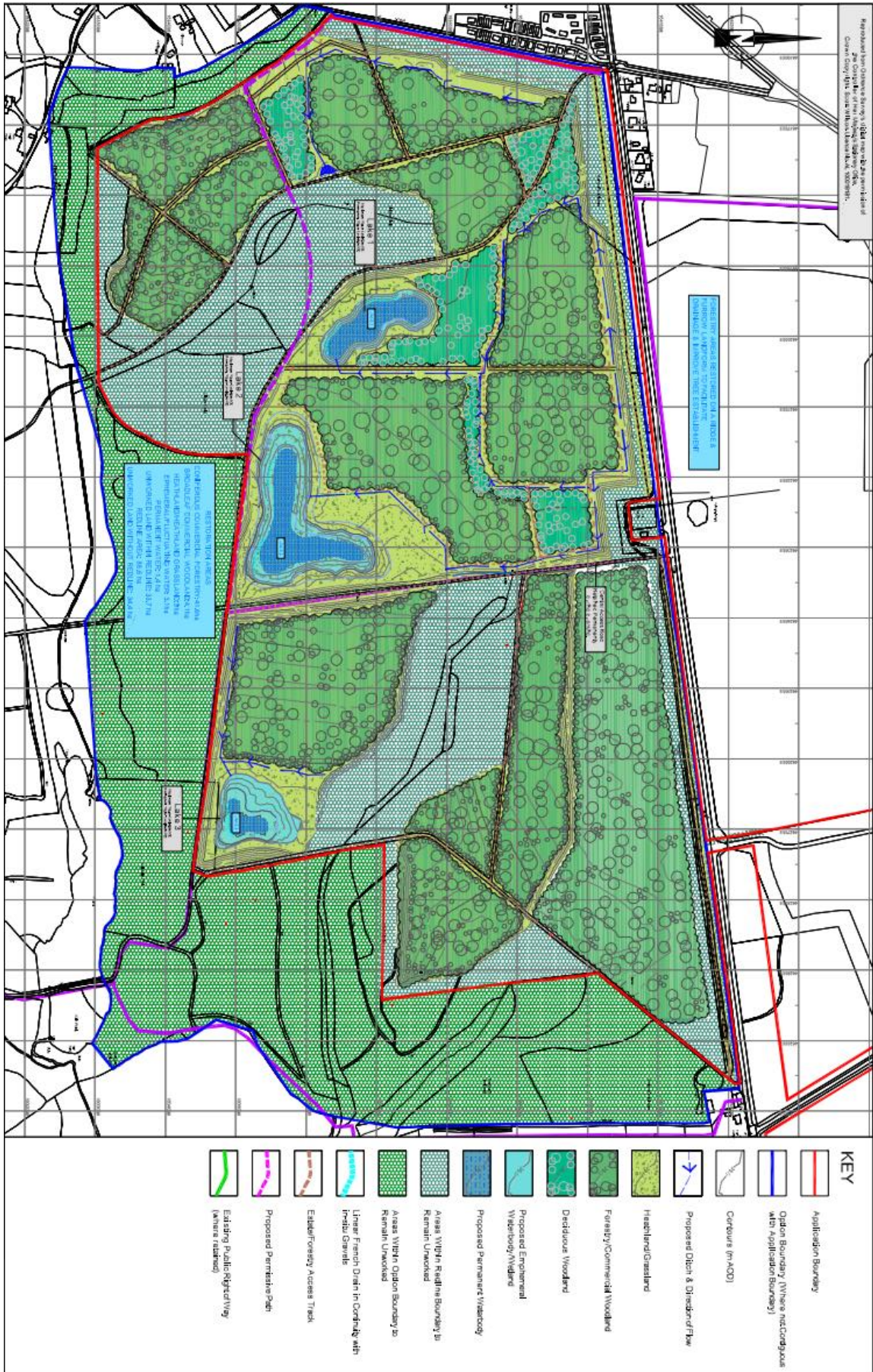
<https://www.hills-group.co.uk/>

<https://www.mineralproducts.org/Industry-Overview/Vital-for-Living.aspx>

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: July 2025 (Around 16:00pm) (Specific Date TBC)

Appendix:

Restoration Plan:



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

