

WICKWAR QUARRY - Proposed Quarry Extension Scheme

In what way are you informing the local community and others about your proposals?

The Company is has recently attended Parish Council meetings in Wickwar, Charfield and Cromhall. The company is also holding a public exhibition and quarry open day today, of which this leaflet forms a part. It also attended a quarry liaison group every six months.

What restoration plans do you have?

The final restoration will be a mix of open water and nature conservation, with a specific aim of increasing the biodiversity of the land. This is very similar to the restoration approved by the Council for the current quarry, and has adopted many of the techniques that are ben successfully applied there. Any restoration will be progressive, i.e., it will be restored as quarrying progresses rather than leaving it to the end. In this way as little of the site will be unrestored at any given time as possible.

How many people does CEMEX currently employ on site and will there be opportunities for further jobs for local people?

Approximately 50 full time, plus a similar number of equivalent part time/contractors. No new posts are likely to be created, but those existing will be protected for the life of the extended quarry, i.e., until 2039.

What are the products made at the quarry used for?

Products from Wickwar Quarry supply the building industry with a variety of crushed rock products from Bristol to Worcester, Hereford to Wiltshire. It also supplies a network of CEMEX operated concrete plants with a similar geographical coverage. In addition, the quarry also feeds a number of plants within the site itself, including a concrete plant, an asphalt plant and a concrete block plant, whose products are sold throughout the south and south west of England and Wales.

What are CEMEX's timescales?

Ideally the Company would like to be quarrying within the extension during 2022 to ensure consistency in supply to its customers. This will entail the construction of the Churchend Lane Tunnel during the latter half of 2021. In turn, this requires the planning application and Environmental Statement to be submitted to South Gloucestershire Council for its consideration before the end of 2019.

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What is CEMEX proposing at Wickwar Quarry?

It's proposed to quarry up to 17.5 million tonnes of limestone over 17 years from land immediately north of the current quarry, and north of Churchend Lane. It will restore the land as quarrying progresses to a mixture of water and nature conservation uses at a lower level. The Company would want to start quarrying by the end of 2022.

Why do you need to submit a planning application when already have an existing quarry?

The current quarry is likely to run out of stone by the end of 2022. Wickwar Quarry is a key site to CEMEX in the South West and South West Midlands. To link the proposed extension to the current quarry a tunnel needs to be built under Churchend Lane which means that quarrying will not be able to commence straight away. Given the importance of the site CEMEX need to maintain continuity of supply of stone from the current quarry to the new site. Seeking planning permission in advance of the potential running out of current

reserves will assist in this aim.

What does South Gloucestershire's Development Plan say on this?

The site is identified by the Plan as a Preferred Area for quarrying. This indicates that the Council consider the suit suitable in principle for quarrying, but planning permission will still need to be applied for and granted. Any application will be determined on its merits, it cannot be assumed that a grant of permission is a forgone conclusion. The application will also be subject to an Environmental Assessment, which is an assessment of the likely environmental impact of the proposed quarry extension.

Will a new site lead to increased traffic, noise and pollution?

No, the production of aggregates will remain as per the current quarry, which has operated in the manner it does today for some years. All that will change is the where quarrying will take place, with the current quarry exhausted and restored, working will move to the land north of Churchend Lane.

What about visual impact? How many residences will this affect?

The quarry extension has been designed so as not be visible from the ground floors of houses on the west side of Churchend, these being the closest to the proposed extension. The Tortworth Estate has already planted extensive areas of trees in the fields that lie between the village and the proposed quarry. This will be backed up by a bund, formed from soils within the quarry and seeded with grass, that will be up to 3 metres in height, running along its outside edge. Elsewhere the quarry will be screened by existing substantial hedgerows, as is the current quarry.

What about vibration?

An assessment by independent experts has concluded that the maximum levels of vibration currently experienced at neighboring houses due to vibration from blasting can be adhered to at the properties adjacent to the proposed quarry. No one house will be closer to the quarry than it is now, but more houses will be closer to the quarry than at present.