



Introduction

Mineral products give us places to live, places to work, places to play and underpin our society. East Leake Quarry has been extracting and selling sand and gravel since the 1990s and the company would like to continue operations for an additional 10-12 years. The continuation of sand and gravel extraction at East Leake - Rempstone would not alter the existing operations at East Leake Quarry with regards to access, traffic and aggregate processing. Although the extraction area is moving in an easterly direction the previous extraction areas are being progressively restored providing improved biodiversity and conservation areas. The company understands the importance of working with and protecting its neighbours and safeguarding the surrounding environment and is proud that its operations have caused very few complaints or concerns in the past and would like this to continue during any future extraction.

East Leake Quarry is a strategic site for CEMEX serving the aggregate market in south Nottinghamshire and north Leicestershire and the proposed extension would enable the company to continue to serve this aggregate market and contribute to the local economy directly and indirectly. As East Leake Quarry is one of the few aggregate sites within this vicinity, it is considered sustainable to exhaust all high quality reserves prior to final restoration and removal of the aggregate processing plant.



Application Summary

Extraction area = 27.5ha

Sand and gravel extraction = 1.78million tonnes

Life of the site = 10-12 years

Production rate = 150,000- 180,000 tonnes per annum

Vehicle movements =

50 Loads = 100 movements per day (50 in/ 50 out)

Hours of Operations

It is proposed to continue to operate the quarry on the same hours and days as currently permitted which are:

07.00 – 19.00 Monday to Friday

07.00 – 13.00 Saturdays

No operations will be carried out on Sundays or Public (bank) Holidays.





Method of Extraction

It is proposed for the site to be dewatered via a pump, then excavate the mineral using a 360 degree hydraulic excavator and transport the mineral to the existing processing plant at the quarry via dumper truck. Raw material would be stockpiled within the existing plant site stocking area, for processing at the existing site for sale. Mineral extraction will commence in Phase 1 Rempstone whilst extraction is completed within Phase 4 of Burtons (current extraction area) there will be no simultaneous extraction both phases would be worked in campaigns.

Infrastructure

The existing processing plant will be retained for the duration of mineral extraction. There will be no new plant or infrastructure associated with the extension only maintenance of that existing. Mobile equipment will continue to include 360 excavator, loading shovels, dumper trucks and water bowser.

The existing weighbridge, offices and work shed will also be retained. No new or additional lighting will be erected on site.





Access / Vehicle Movements

The proposal will continue to use the main site access onto Rempstone Road / A6006. The traffic movements associated with the continued mineral extraction would be 50 loads (100 vehicle movements) per day. All drivers of HGVs will exit the site turning left only out of Rempstone Road onto the A6006.

Rights of Way

The proposed development will affect one right of way and one bridleway, these being. Bridleway Rempstone BW11 and Right of Way Rempstone FP1 which leads into East Leake FP1 to the north. The company proposes to temporarily divert Rempstone FP1 along the boundary with the A6006 and provide a route to the northern boundary to the existing exit onto the A6006. The existing temporary bridleway diversion will continue until the site is restored. The proposed diversion routes will be a grassed surface covering a width of 2m and priority given to ROW users during extraction until final restoration at which point the original definitive route will be reinstated.



Ecology

East Leake Quarry lies within the Trent Valley and Rises Natural Area where farming is the principal land use. Habitats within 30m of the site include semi-improved grassland, arable land, hedgerows and a pond.

The proposed extraction has limited ecological value with no protected species identified during Phase 1 ecological habitat survey of the site, It should be noted that all trees will remain in situ and be protected through out the life of the site. The proposed restoration of wetland conservation and agriculture provides biodiversity gains.

The proposed extension of East Leake Quarry should not negatively impact the two Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Sheepwash Brook Wetlands which lies within close proximity to the site's northern boundary and Stanford Park within 1 km to the south west.



Hydrology

East Leake Quarry is not located within Environment Agency Flood Plain of which parts follow Sheepwash Brook which a main surface water feature as is Kingston Brook. Rempstone Spring is also located within 1km of the site.

The company promotes water reuse and recycling on site through a series of settlement lagoons prior to use in the aggregate processing plant. The existing principles of water management will continue during future mineral extraction and, excess water will continue to be discharged off site via Sheepwash Brook as regulated by the Environment Agency.

Mitigation measures to be implemented through any future sand and gravel extraction to protect the existing ground water, surface water and prevent flooding will include the following

- Avoid extraction near existing abstraction licences
- Sensitive habitats (e.g. SSSI, SPA .)
- Compensation flows
- Recharge trenches
- Clear water management system
- Bunding of fuel tanks
- Design of method of working and restoration levels and gradients.



Noise and Air Quality

Noise

To ensure the site does not have a negative impact upon local residents the proposed excavation will include the following mitigation measures;

- Acoustic soil bunds of 3m in height will be placed along the A6006
- Acoustic soil bund of 4 - 5m in height will be placed along the eastern boundary screening Beech Tree Farm
- Maintenance existing of hedgerows
- White noise reversing beepers on all mobile plant
- One way vehicle system to reduce vehicles reversing
- Maintenance of plant in accordance with manufactures recommendations

All noise levels will be maintained at 55dB LAeq 1 hour free field or below, which is equivalent to a conversation in a coffee shop

Noise monitoring will be implemented during initial mineral extraction to demonstrate compliance



Dust Mitigation will include the following

Maintaining existing tree / hedgerow screening to reduce wind speeds and contain any fugitive dust;

- Phasing / progressive restoration
- A water bowser and sprays will be available to moisten material if required
- Wheelwash
- Vehicle speeds will be restricted
- The access road will be damped down when required using a water bowser
- All HGVs will be sheeted and inspected to ensure no potential spillages

Dust monitoring will be implemented during initial mineral extraction to demonstrate no nuisance is being caused



Archaeology

The company will continue to preserve archaeology by record prior to sand and gravel extraction

A desk based assessment and field evaluation consisting of 17 trenches over the proposed extraction area has been carried out as part of this planning application. It has been concluded that there is evidence of archaeological remains mainly in the form of pits and ditches. The artefacts are mostly Anglo Saxon, although there are also some earlier Iron Age features. The company propose to continue to implement a Written Scheme of Archaeological investigation (watching brief / strip / map / report, analysis and publication) for all proposed soil stripping.

Soils

The agricultural land classification of the proposed extension is grade 2-3 with the majority being 2 and 3a with small sections of 3b. Areas of Grade 2 agriculture will be reinstated as part of the proposed restoration scheme.

All soil handling and storage will be undertaken in accordance with government (DEFRA) good practice guide to soil handling to ensure they are dry to maintain structure.





Landscape

The area surrounding the proposed extraction area is rural in nature and is primarily fields in agricultural use, with small blocks of woodland interspersed throughout the landscape and bound by managed hedgerow. The wider landscape is gently undulating with an elevation generally between 65m AOD and 80m AOD

The proposed extraction area is not located within a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are no regional or district level landscape designations that applies to the site.

To mitigate the potential landscape and visual impact it is proposed that existing boundary hedgerow be gapped up with locally appropriate species where necessary and maintained at a height of approximately 1.8m. To further mitigate views from the south temporary soil mounds will be erected to a height of 3m.

Views from the east would be mitigated by a storage bund to a height of 4-5m which would be created during phase. The existing soil mound along Sheepwash Brook will be retained until final restoration to protect properties to the north.

All mounds will be seeded and maintained by strimming and spraying as necessary. It is also proposed that restoration is progressive with soils directly replaced whenever possible.



Restoration

The restoration of East Leake Quarry will incorporate two key principles - agriculture and nature conservation with improved bio-diversity. Once restored the site will be reinstated to agricultural land to the south with historic and new hedgerows. Due to the nature of the operations a combination of conservation wetlands over previous silt lagoons and water features will run parallel with Sheepwash Brook with wet woodland, broadleaved woodland and reeds bounding the water features. The plant site restoration provides opportunity for bare substrate and seasonal scrapes.

It is considered the restoration of East Leake Quarry offers enhanced ecological habitats whilst maintaining elements of the Nottinghamshire/ Leicestershire Wolds.



For Further Information Please Contact

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