

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 site, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Site Name: Birch Pit

File Ref: 13.421.13

Operator: Hanson

Site Representative: Ben Ayres (BA); Andy Johnston (AJ).

Also attended by Almudena Quiralte (Essex Landscape Officer)

Visit no: 1 of 3

Date: 09/07/24

Time on site: 12:30

Time off site: 14:35

Monitoring Officer: T Burns Tel No: 03330136440

Site Co-ordinator: As above Tel No:

Permission no's:

- **Permission no: ESS/45/18/COL**

Constraints:

• Weather: **Combination of Dry/ Windy / Light Rain / Snow**

• Noise

(officer perception): **Acceptable/ Not acceptable / N/A**

• Approach roads: **Combination: Dry / Dusty / Damp/ Wet / Muddy / Flooded**

• Ground: **Combination of 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 (Extraction void excavator long reach)/**
Not working
- In correct position: **Yes** / No / N/A
- Stockpiles: **Height = /Acceptable**
- Bunds: **Profiled** / Grassed / **Weeds** / NA

Actions from last site visit: Remain as per the last 2 monitoring visit as well as the update comments.

- Height of site stockpiles to be maintained to their designated heights. **Update: Kept on record as reminder.**
- Stockpiling area only to be used for stocking purposes. Update: Still outstanding. **Use of the land for screening purposes requires either to be regularised or for the machinery/plant to be removed.**
- Tidying up of the plant/machinery parts located within the stockpiling area; concrete batching plant and north western corner on perimeter of site where lake float raft elements are stored now outside the fencing line whilst various other pieces of metal and blue plastic barrels now becoming engulfed as sand from the stockpile area is blown by the wind over the redundant items. Three large drainage pipes upended and located in sand stocking area. **Update: Accumulations of redundant plant/machinery and odd items still stored in various points around site.**
- Demarcating boundary of aftercare/active as per the Plan B7m/178. **Update: Fence posts in and fencing carried out.**
- Measures to address tree planting along northern site boundary. Update: Appears most of the remaining trees transplanted either dormant or dead. Ground vegetation growth cleared as if someone has been in fenced off area and cut any growth to ground level. **Update: Replanting to be looked at.**

Inspection Results Summary:

- Site bellmouth clean at time of visit.
- Three front loaders parked up alongside the refuelling tanks.
- Stored portacabin remains in car park and earmarked for replacing existing toilet block. Despite reported at last monitoring visit that following conversation with site foreman this replacement was to be instigated shortly after that previous visit.
- in next week or so. Existing portacabins still in use. Redundant portacabin still to be removed off site. Office location beginning to look untidy with redundant portacabin and ISO container storage.
- Area around back of offices over grown so not possible to ascertain whether the previously recorded discarded metal items/pipework and other miscellaneous objects still insitu. Likewise not possible to view fully the banking where there had been recorded general litter comprising plastic bucket/plastic bagging/metal objects and smaller waste that appeared to have been deliberately tipped down the banking.
- Ground from the back of the offices westwards to silt lagoon despite having the red and white chain fencing in places the path, as was the rest of the site bunds and hedgerow planting areas heavily weed infested and trip hazards. Weeds growing on

safety path alongside site haul road opposite site offices meant you had to walk either on the road or up the banking.

- AJ expressed view that he would like to see the roadside hedge managed and layed. Previous cut branches remain stacked behind on site side and along hedgerow line. AJ expressed view that the stacking and an inner fence line made management of the hedge from the site side difficult although road side trimming could be undertaken.
- As previously recorded the lagoon nearest highway remains. Considerable amount of exposed silt which AJ and BA again confirmed plans for recycling the silt. As with other aspects of the site where soil use/overburden requirements and tipping void space as result of silt lagoon clearance was being assessed in light of the future southern extension programme. AJ noted that overburden from the southern extension was being looked at for use in the restoration of the western quarry phases.
- Wildflower meadow in bloom across the previously restored land between the silt lagoon and conveyor line. Gorse continuing to spread on soil bund slopes. Perimeter hedgeline to Palmers Cottages growing out into site and in need of tree guard removal.
- Perimeter tree belt planting on western perimeter due for thinning. Tree guards also to be addressed.
- Last remaining mineral, forming an island, being worked from the void with the long reach excavator sitting on top. Base of void uneven with islands of overburden surrounded by water and establishing vegetation.
- Final Phase of mineral between void and retained hedgerow covered with thistle as are the bunds to the north which prevented viewing of the transplant planting on the perimeter.
- Stockpiling area fairly empty other than for the continued build up of miscellaneous discarded items and skips within the corner of the storage area where the proposed bagging facility is to be situated. Additional items including old drag line bucket and a portacabin located on the north western perimeter of the storage area.
- Along the north eastern edge of the stockpiling area a bund has been created from the pulling back of material that previously lay around the base of the tree line and existing track that forms the northern boundary.
- Just in from the bunding silt/overburden material has been tipped and graded out. Not sure whether this material is awaiting further reprocessing.
- Old silt lagoon that had been topsoiled a few years ago showing signs of settlement across most of the central surface. AJ confirmed this land to be, along with the more northern silt lagoon now with established vegetation and mostly willow trees have been earmarked for return to the landowner. Following walk through of the northern former silt lagoon, this land has settled a metre or two plus from the restored land further north. AJ and BA to discuss options for return/marrying in of the lagoon with the more northern land.
- Extent of the sand stockpiling area in this extreme north eastern corner of the site questioned. Potential for pulling this boundary into the site proper could be option. Powerscreen still in location just to south of the north eastern sand stockpiling area.
- Processing plant being serviced by two cranes. Barrel washer being replaced. BA noted that opportunity of having the cranes on site could see some movement of the redundant plant/machinery around the site.
- Concrete plant did not appear operational at time of the visit.

Compliance with Conditions:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 4 Prior Archaeology

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: No soil stripping until scheme agreed.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA: Partial discharged.

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 5 CEMP - Biodiversity

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: No further clearance of vegetation and/or topsoil stripping until scheme agreed.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA: Scheme discharged.

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 6 Ecology

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme within 6 months of the date of the permission for an Ecological Design Strategy.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 7 Time Limit

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Prior to entry into any phase of working ecological surveys.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 9 Arboriculture

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme within two months of the date of the permission for an Arboricultural Method Statement.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA: Scheme discharged.

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 10 Waste Importation

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: prior to importation scheme required.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 14 Revised Working Scheme

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Within two months of the date of the permission.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA: Scheme discharged.

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 21 Noise Monitoring

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Within 6 months of the date of the permission.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 26 Dust Suppression

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Within 3 months of the date of the permission

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 27 Additional Dust Control

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme required prior to removal of the screen bunding or reinstatement activities of the silt lagoon.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 28 Lighting

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme required for artificial lighting.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 49 Soil Replacement

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Notification required prior to commencement of the final subsoil placement on each phase, or part Phase.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 51 Restoration

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme required within 6 months of the date of the permission

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 52 Landscaping

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme required within 6 months of date of permission.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 54 Agricultural Aftercare

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme within one year of the date of the permission.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Permission/Condition No: ESS/45/18/COL; Condition 55 Amenity Aftercare

Scope of Condition and Action to be taken: Scheme within one year of the date of the permission.

Action to be taken by **Operator** or MPA/WPA:

Actions to be taken before next site visit:

- Height of site stockpiles to be maintained to their designated heights.
- Stockpiling area only to be used for stocking purposes.
- Tidying up of the plant/machinery parts located within the stockpiling area; concrete batching plant locations and far eastern stockpiling footprint. Rubbish behind offices to be cleared.

Note: The actions noted in this report are required to ensure adequate progress is made and to avoid potential enforcement action against a breach of planning control.

Date of Next Meeting: 17th October 2024 @ 10:00

Report Date: 09/07/24