

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: Unannounced & unaccompanied – responding to National Highways complaint

Visit no: 2 of 4 (no visit in first quarter)

Date: 1 August 2024

Time on site: 10:45

Time off site: 11:30

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 – 2nd 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

There was evidence of staining from the weighbridge to part way along the haul road, due flooded area by weighbridge. Spoke to John Hilton on the phone as the need address this flooding area has been raised before. JH explained work planned in the next few weeks to dig out the soakaway to hopefully resolve the problem. CT raised concern that it probably required pumping away due to the clay nature of the underlying material.

Extraction/Landfilling area progress

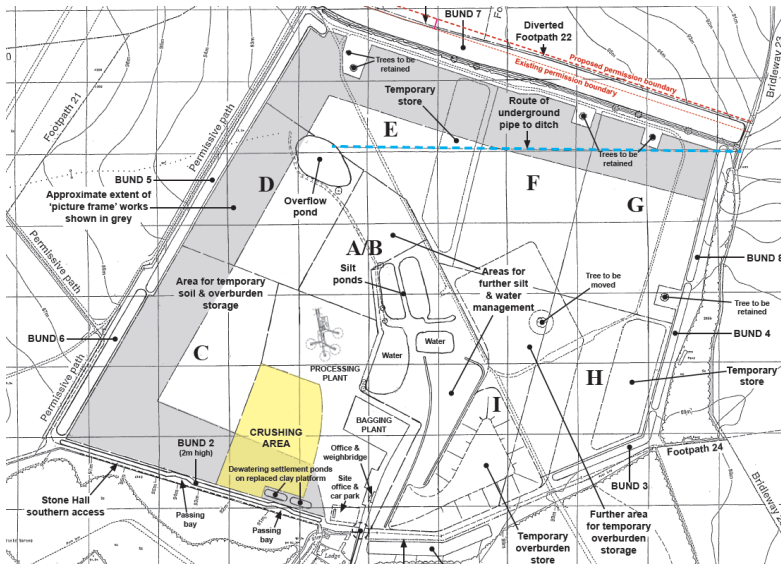
Extracting in last part of G and now moving into Phase H with landfilling in G. South section of H remain unstripped. Dust was rising from vehicles moving around the site, some could have been blowing out of the site. CT advised dust suppression inadequate JH confirmed by phone would address.

Phase E and F not checked.

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.

The bunds on the southern edge adjacent to water filter ponds had been trimmed.

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 trimmed to reduce weeds and improve appearance.



Restoration of Phases C & D

There was a crop of wheat growing, patchy in very in the SE corner, the yield per hectare should be provided upon harvest.

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.

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 – needs emptying

Comment: It did not appear there had been any action since the last visit in March 2024. The grid was full to the top, making it completely ineffective at stopping deer exiting from the site entrance, which was its original main purpose. It does also provide a last line of protection at stopping mud/debris being carried out onto the public highway. The fact below the grid is full is evidence it does capture some material. It is essential the collection area below the grid is emptied and maintained so that it is effective.

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

Comment: No checked

Guards on hedge along north edge adjacent bund 7 to be removed.

Comment: Not checked

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.

Comments: 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. Understood a scheme to be submitted shortly, but if not received MPA will need to move towards enforcement action.

Hedge by office car park – needs trimming in the autumn 2024

Flooding by weighbridge - Flooding occurs by the weighbridge which results in staining and sometimes in winter being carried out onto the public highway

Comment: Work planned in the next month

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.

Actions from this visit

See above those highlighted, disappointing that they remain outstanding

Ensure dust suppression is carried out in periods of dry weather

Provide crop yield when harvest taken

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.