

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: Jonathan Hayward SRC. John Hilton SRC info by email after visit.

Visit no: 3 of 4 (no visit in first quarter)

Date: 22 Nov 2024

Time on site: 10:00

Time off site: 11:15

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 heavy staining from the weighbridge along most of the the access road. Please to note works have been undertaken to prevent flooding by the weighbridge. Disappointed that the cattle grid at the site entrance remains fall – this should be jet washed out regularly, as the last measure to prevent mud on the road.

Extraction/Landfilling area progress

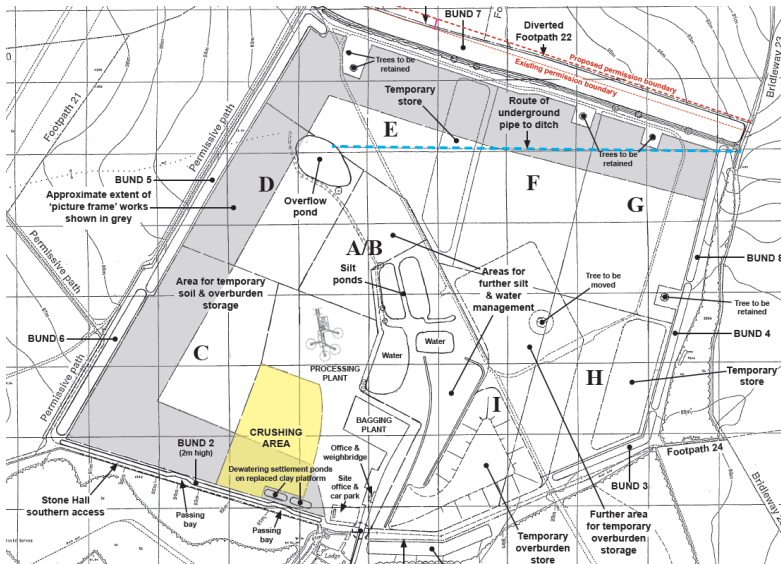
Extracting now largely in Phase H with landfilling in Phase G.

Phase E and F not checked, but J Hilton confirmed post visit that it is planned to complete estoration ie placement of topsoils within phases E and F to create an area worth entering into aftercare by end of summer 2025,. Also J Hilton confirmed that the bund of subsoil on Phase H likely to start being moved in 2025.

Stone Hall remained unoccupied. Tt 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 strimmed.

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 strimmed to reduce weeds and improve appearance.



Restoration of Phases C & D

The crop of wheat had been harvested (51t of wheat). The area had been prepared ready to reseed with wheat this autumn. .

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: The southern hedge on the access had been trimmed.

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. This remains outstanding.

Hedge by office car park – hedge has been trimmed

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 completed an area was dry

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.

If restoration details for the site and aftercare for non-agricultural areas aren't submitted by early 2025, the MWPA will have no other option but to consider formal enforcement action

An agricultural aftercare meeting will be held in April 2025, prior to this an aftercare report for 2024/2025 should be provided.

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.