

***PANSHANGER QUARRY,
Hertfordshire***

***Proposed enhanced restoration of
Phases F & H***

***Fact Sheet
March 2015***

A EXISTING SCHEME

- planning consent granted May 1980 for the existing operations across 420 hectares. The original consent was subject to a Review of Mineral Planning Permissions under the Environment Act 1995. The new schedule of conditions was issued by Hertfordshire County Council in 2003
- this consent included erection and operation of a processing plant and ancillary facilities
- mineral extraction activity began in the mid 1990s and is ongoing
- the only remaining area to be dug is Phase G, south of the A414, which would be worked in 2017
- the total consented remaining mineral reserve is approx 0.4 million tonnes
- existing HGV movements (exported mineral only) typically = 74/day (38 in and 38 out)
- potential maximum HGV movements (based on exported mineral only) typically = 110/day (55 in and 55 out)
- restoration is to agriculture, open water and woodland. 210 hectares is being restored to a country park and nature reserve, controlled via a legal agreement and management plans. Phases F, H & G will be restored to 3 bowl shapes, some 4 metres below original levels
- planning consent requires the entire site to be restored by 31 December 2031.

B PROPOSED SCHEME

- phase G not to be extracted and remain as high quality agricultural land
- planning application area, including haul road = 22.7 hectares
- restoration area = about 15.4 hectares
- total volume of inert restoration materials required = 0.94 million m³ (1.6 million tonnes)
- importation rate = 150 - 200,000 tonnes a year, (88,000 - 118,000 m³) a year
- typical HGV movements = 80/day (40 in and 40 out)
- potential maximum HGV movements = 120/day (60 in and 60 out)
- duration of importation of inert restoration materials = 8-10 years (depending on level of input)
- importation to cease by December 2026, with Phase F completed by 2021
- minimum stand-off to residential premises = 210 metres, as defined by existing activity on site
- hours of operation – as existing: 0700-1800 Mon-Fri and 0700-1300 Sat
- importation operations to be regulated under an Environmental Permit (issued by the Environment Agency) as a disposal activity.

C PROPOSED RESTORATION

- phase G not to be extracted and remain undisturbed as high quality agricultural land
- creation of 14 hectares of informal parkland as grassland and trees – at close to original ground level – managed for landscape value
- planting and maintenance of new native varieties of trees traditionally planted in parkland landscape
- conservation grassland created = 7 hectares

- woodland edge habitat created = 1.5 hectares
- new species rich hedgerow created = 130 metres
- creation of permissive access routes as per existing consented scheme.

D BENEFITS

If consented, the scheme would create additional benefits including:

- maintaining the already permitted Phase G (south of the A414 and north of the Old Coach Road) as undisturbed agricultural land – because all operations would remain north of the A414
- earlier restoration of the processing plant site and release of the existing quarry access road at the earliest opportunity, ie 2017. HGVs would use the new access
- long term enhancements to the landscape and cultural heritage settings at and around Phase H.
 - These would include restoration to informal parkland as grassland and trees at near original ground levels
- reducing vehicle movements along Panshanger Lane, north of the proposed new access, once that new access is established
- creating a more natural visual effect on the southern edge of the Chisel Shelf woodland – because Phase F would be restored to a meadow
- enhancing biodiversity along the southern perimeter of the Chisel Shelf and the grassland – by planting species-rich acid grassland and woodland fringe vegetation. Dead wood receptors (hibernacula) would be provided for reptiles and bare, sandy substrates would be created to encourage invertebrates to colonise the area
- creating a permissive route along the internal haul road, providing an earlier north-south link via the underpass from Panshanger Park to Cole Green, south of the A414.

Panshanger Quarry

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