

About Hills Quarry Products

Hills Quarry Products is part of The Hills Group, a 118 year old family owned business involved in the extraction of sand and gravel since the early 1900s and more recently in the production of quality assured ready-mixed concrete.

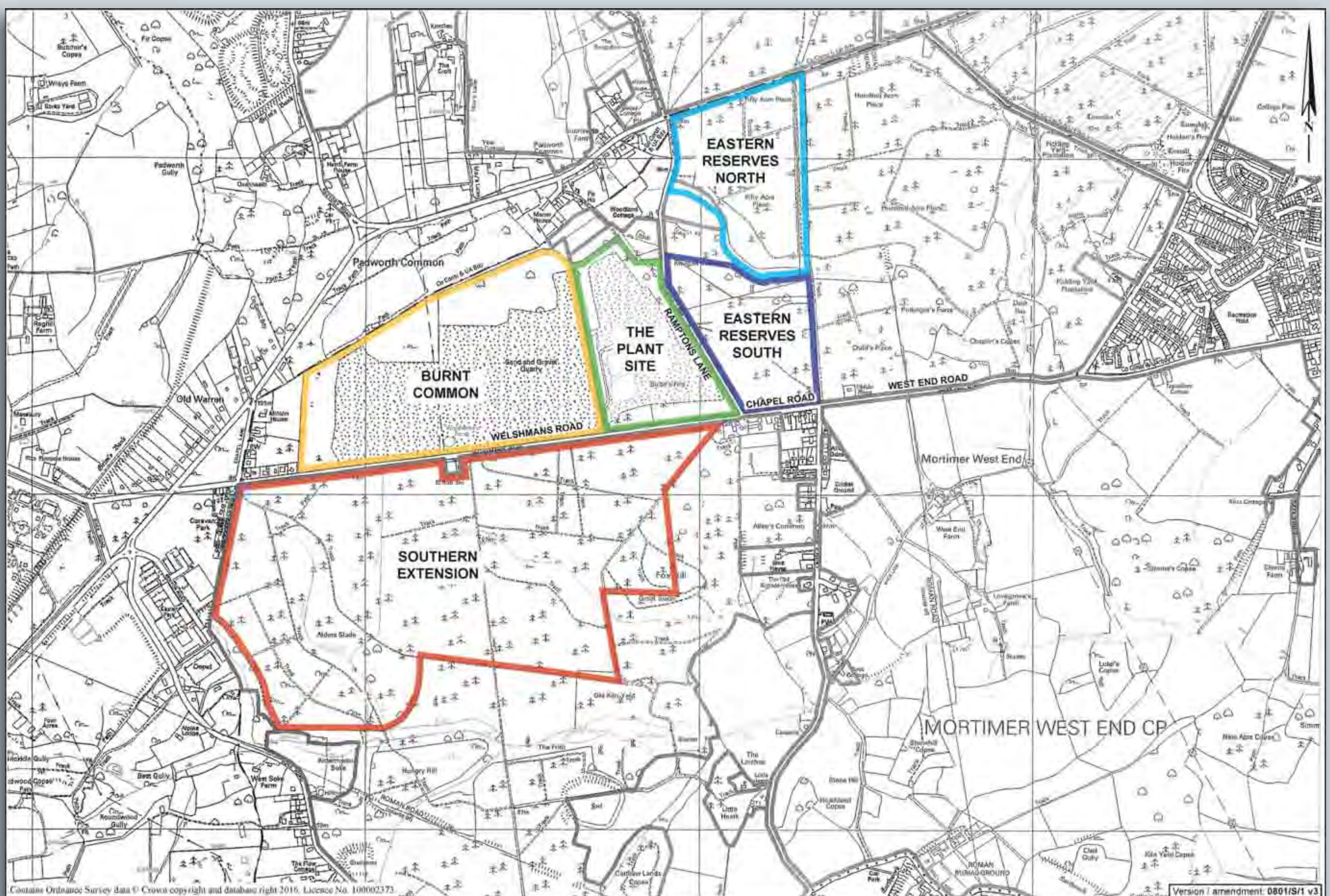
- We currently operate sand and gravel quarries in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Dorset
- We are active members of the Mineral Products Association, the industry body at the forefront of introducing new and improved practices
- We work in close partnership with local environmental bodies such as Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Cotswold Water Park Trust
- We have won awards for our restoration of former quarry sites and promotion of their biodiversity.



Mortimer Quarry – location

The area marked Southern Extension is the area which Hills is extracting sand and gravel from (outlined in orange).

- The area marked 'eastern reserves north' has been extracted and is currently under restoration (outlined in light blue)
- The area marked 'eastern reserves south' will continue to be used for water management (outlined in dark blue)
- The area marked as 'Burnt Common' (outlined in yellow) is not part of the Englefield Estate and is currently under restoration.



Mortimer Quarry – figures

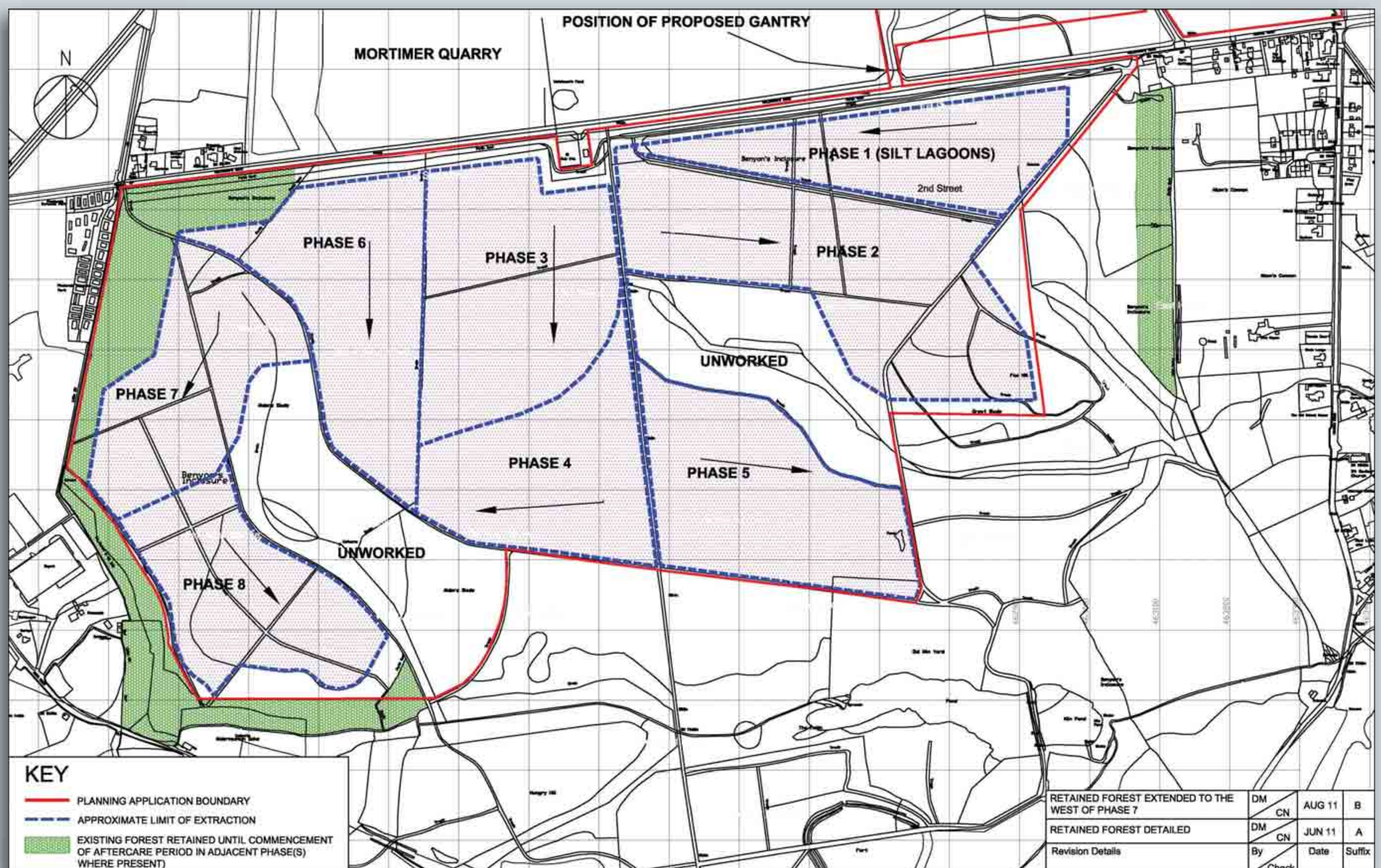
The siting of quarries is a matter of geology as minerals can only be extracted where they naturally occur.

- Planning permission was granted in 2015
- Hills began working the quarry in June 2018
- Two million tonnes of sand and gravel will be extracted over 10-12 years = 200,000 tonnes per year
- The quarry covers just over 88 hectares of which around 58 hectares will be worked
- The remaining 30 hectares are used for non-working standoffs, soil storage bunds and habitat protection areas
- Sand and gravel is excavated using a loading shovel, placed on a conveyor system which crosses Welshmans Road via a temporary gantry and takes the materials to the processing plant
- Using conveyors reduces vehicle movements and minimises dust and noise.



Mortimer Quarry – phases

The excavation of minerals is undertaken in phases and at Mortimer, sand and gravel is currently being extracted from Phase 1 (see below) with Phase 2 due to begin in autumn 2019.



As we progress through each phase of the quarry, we repeat certain activities many times over, such as ecological mitigation, archaeological investigation, timber harvesting, soil stripping and restoration.


Environmental considerations


Hills Quarry Products recognises the importance of protecting the local environment for future generations, enhancing the landscape with sensitive restoration and providing opportunities to open the countryside to local people where possible.

Significant investment has been made into assessing the full environmental impact and providing solutions as to how these can be prevented or, where not possible, mitigated to acceptable levels.

Environmental impact assessments include detailed reports on:

- Transport
- Flood risk
- Biodiversity
- Archaeology
- Noise and dust
- Landscape
- Agriculture
- Geology





Environment and Community Policy


The Hills Group is a significant regional provider of products and services within the waste management, quarry products and house building sectors¹.

We are a family owned company that takes its responsibilities to our staff, customers, suppliers, local communities as well as the wider environment very seriously.

We recognise that our activities impact on the environment and are committed to managing and continually improving our environmental performance.

The Hills Group will:

- Ensure that environmental impacts are assessed throughout the planning, design and delivery of services to prevent pollution, minimize negative impacts and maximize positive impacts.
- Comply with all environmental legislation, regulations and other requirements relevant to our business activities to which we subscribe.
- Continually improve our environmental performance through setting and reviewing objectives and targets and regularly measuring the performance achieved.
- Implement environmental management systems to measure compliance and performance, and enable prevention of pollution and nuisance to local communities, wildlife and the wider environment.
- Continually improve energy efficiency of our activities coupled with waste reduction and increased recycling.
- Provide sufficient resources and training to achieve policy objectives and foster an understanding of environmental responsibility amongst our stakeholders.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity throughout our activities and landholdings where practicable.
- Listen to and respond to the needs of employees, local communities and other key stakeholders.
- Communicate this policy to everyone working for and on behalf of the company and other interested parties.


Mike Hill
Chief executive, The Hills Group Ltd
(01 May 2018)

¹Activities include: recycling services; energy recovery from waste; collection, treatment and disposal of waste; mineral extraction, processing and delivery; production and delivery of ready-mixed concrete; road haulage; and the construction of houses.

Mortimer Quarry – ecology

Before any quarrying takes place, ecological mitigation measures have to be undertaken – in other words, we ensure that any reptiles are moved to suitable protected areas away from the quarry workings.

- So far a total of 295 slow-worms, 177 common lizards, 16 grass snakes and two adders have been relocated by ECOSA (our ecology partners)
- As the quarry workings progress, ecological surveys continue to be carried out to re-assess the required mitigation in each phase.



Mortimer Quarry – archaeology

Archaeological surveys have to be undertaken before quarrying can start. Any finds are recorded and/or preserved.

Thames Valley Archaeological Services carry out the work on site to record any finds as the top soils are removed and placed into soil storage bunds.

To date nothing has been found at Mortimer Quarry.

Finds from other Hills' quarries (pictured below) include skeletons and fossils.



Mortimer Quarry – forestry

When the ecological and archaeological surveys are completed, the trees are harvested and the mineral extraction can begin.

When the trees are harvested, they are used to make a wide variety of different items including timber frame houses, floorboards, doors, fences, chipboard panels and many other items we use every day.

Once the trees have been harvested and the mineral has been dug, each phase will be restored and trees planted to create a more diverse woodland, along with some areas of ponds and open habitat.



Restoration of the site follows excavation on a progressive basis. This keeps the area of open ground to a minimum and reduces visual impacts, dust and noise.

- The site will be restored to a more biodiverse mix of woodland and heathland habitats
- A ten year aftercare programme will commence following the completion of the restoration.



Awards

We have won numerous awards for our restoration work.

2015 Cotswold Water Park

MPA Special Award for Hills' contribution to restoration for wildlife conservation and recreation

2007 Langford Lakes

MPA Chairman's Trophy for restoration of former gravel workings to a nature reserve (in conjunction with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)

1999 Isis Lakes

QPA Award for restoration of sand and gravel quarry to wildlife habitat with residential development (in conjunction with Watermark)

1996 Manor Farm

QPA Award for restoration of sand and gravel quarry to wildlife habitat and leisure use

1994 Spinnaker Lake


Sand & Gravel Association Award for restoration of sand and gravel quarry to leisure use.


Health and safety

Hills Quarry Products takes its responsibilities towards health and safety very seriously.

The commitment shown by competent and well qualified employees across the company is evidenced through our good safety record.

Quarrying is rated as one of the most dangerous industries in the UK and Hills ensures that working safely remains one of the top priorities across all operational sites.





The Hills Group is a significant regional provider of products and services within the waste management sector; the quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and the construction of new homes.


The chief executive and directors of The Hills Group recognise that they have a moral and legal duty of care towards protecting the health and safety of employees and others who may be affected by the Group's activities.

In order to discharge their responsibilities the chief executive and directors of The Hills Group will so far as is reasonably practicable:-


- Carry out The Hills Group of businesses' operations in compliance with applicable Group and divisional health and safety policies and procedures, UK health and safety legislation and any other requirements to which Hills subscribes to that relate to health and safety hazards;
- Provide such resources to ensure that the standards described in this policy statement are achieved and maintained;
- Provide an organisational structure that clearly defines the responsibilities for health and safety and ensures that the systems and procedures relating to this policy statement are rigorously applied;
- Systematically identify all hazards and their associated risks and take such steps as are required to reduce risks to an acceptable level in order to prevent injury and ill health;
- Ensure that all persons employed have reasonable experience and/or the training necessary, to achieve the level of competence required to ensure their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their work activities;

Health and Safety Policy


- Continually improve Hills' health and safety performance through setting and reviewing targets and objectives and regularly measuring the performance achieved;
- Eliminate, so far as is reasonably practicable, unacceptable behaviour such as bullying, interpersonal conflicts at work, racial and sexual harassment which causes unnecessary stress in the workplace;
- Ensure that any company who is contracted to carry out work on behalf of The Hills Group is able to demonstrate that it pays due regard to health and safety matters;
- Bring this policy statement to the attention of all employees and others (as required) and to seek their co-operation in supporting The Hills Group Board in its objective of achieving and maintaining a healthy and accident free work place.



Michael Hill
Chief executive – The Hills Group
and on behalf of Hills Waste Solutions

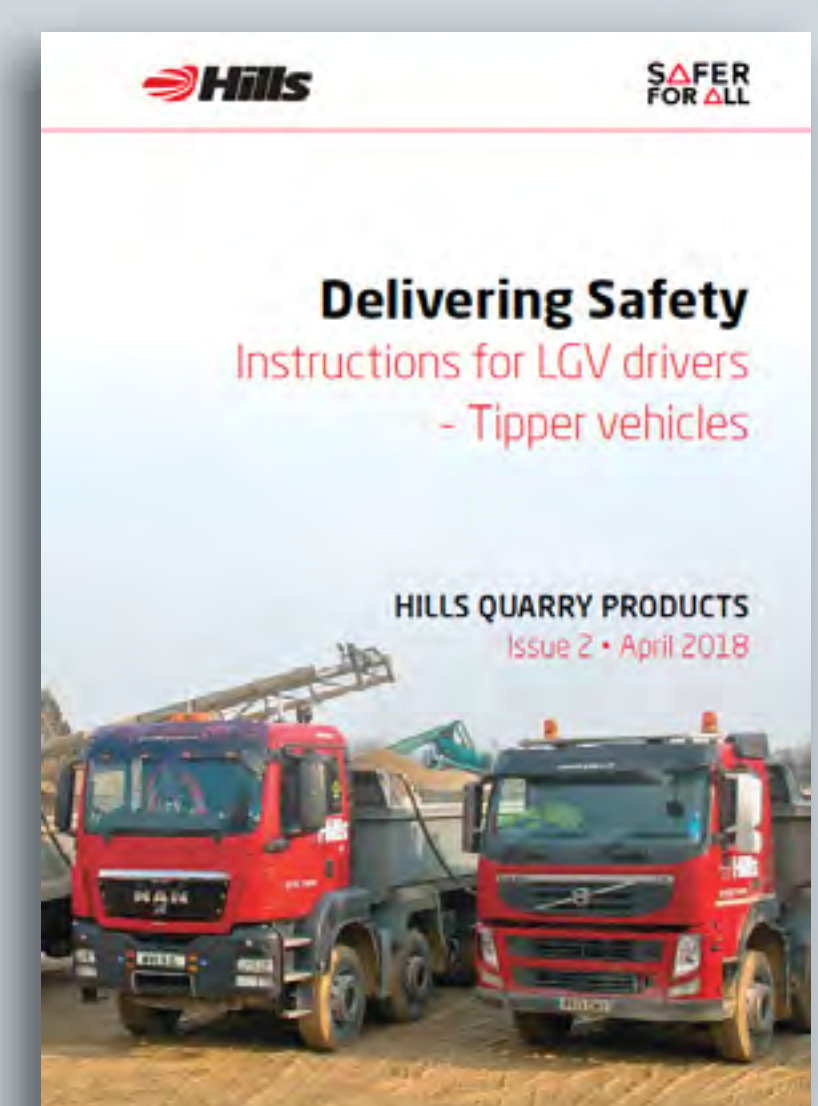


Nick King
Group director – Homes



Peter Andrew
Group director – Quarry Products

(01 May 2018)



Working with the community

Hills knows the importance of being a good neighbour and has formed liaison committees at their sites, including Mortimer, as a forum to discuss the site with elected representatives of the local community.

Quarries can be good educational facilities. Hills regularly gives access to local interest groups and schools who are interested in gaining a fascinating insight into the geology, fossils and prehistory of the local area together with learning more about the important role that quarries play in modern day life.

