

Our approach

Our aim is to minimise the impact of reopening Westdown quarry on our neighbours and the landscape.



Landscape and visual amenity

The surrounding topography means that Westdown is already well screened and there are few existing views into the quarry. We will supplement this with three-metre-high embankments, to protect the view and minimise noise and dust. These will be seeded and planted with native shrubs and trees.

Traffic and transport

We will create a new access road and junction onto the Bulls Green Link Road so we do not cross an important bat corridor or disturb the existing bridleway. HGVs will use designated freight routes, so quarry traffic will be kept away from neighbouring villages, and we're happy to formalise our commitment that there will be no increase in current permitted levels of HGVs.

Final design of the junction will be shaped by discussions with the local highway authority, with the safety of all road users being paramount.

Dust and air quality

The potential impact of dust from quarries on air quality is well understood and addressed via stringent regulatory controls. At Westdown these controls, plus the additional measures we are planning, will ensure communities remain protected.

A Dust Management Plan, supported by a comprehensive monitoring scheme, will be implemented to control emissions.

Water management

Our proposals include a range of steps to prevent the pollution of nearby water sources, which will be set out in a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). Stringent monitoring will also take place.

Noise

The noise levels from normal quarrying operations will adhere to established environmental standards – equivalent to the level for a normal conversation – and well within the government's recommended limit for mineral operations measured at a property.

Operational noise will be reduced by the installation of screening embankments and any effect will naturally reduce as quarrying moves in a south easterly direction from the existing quarry workings towards the A361.

Lighting

A full lighting strategy will be developed based on ensuring safe working conditions in all areas of the site, while also minimising light pollution and the visual impact on the local environment, ecology and community.

Soil

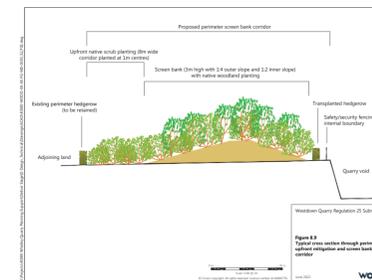
A significant part of the site has been previously disturbed by quarrying activity, but there will be some loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land as extraction extends to parts of the site that are currently farmed.

Soils from these areas will be progressively stripped and used to create the screening embankments as well as in the restoration of the Asham quarry void (see right).

Our proposals also include the preparation of a Soils Handling and Management Plan to ensure soils are carefully stored, managed and used.



▲ Our proposals include the creation of an off-site up front mitigation area providing new connective habitats



▲ Mitigation measures include the creation of screening embankments with native planting

Ecology

Reopening Westdown quarry will not threaten the integrity or biodiversity of Asham Wood SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. Our plans have always been shaped by the need to protect and enhance wildlife habitats.

Key aspects of our proposals to protect fauna and flora include:

- Retention and enhancement of native hedgerows on site boundary
- Additional native hedgerow planting to support bat foraging
- Installation of dormouse boxes
- Woodland planting on perimeter embankments
- Creation of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats through progressive quarry restoration.

More recent updates include a commitment to additional upfront off-site mitigation to create at least 44 acres of well-connected new habitat with:

- Increased woodland planting
- The translocation of existing hedgerows
- Native scrub perimeter planting
- Additional foraging and commuting habitat for bats, dormice and badgers
- Provision of new roosting opportunities for bats
- Creation of species rich grassland.

These additional measures will support Westdown's ecological connectivity to the wider landscape in the short, medium and long term.

We will develop a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) in conjunction with input from relevant stakeholders to hone our approach.

