



Grange Top quarry, Ketton

Our response to
queries about our
extension proposals

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Hanson has recently rebranded to Heidelberg Materials. The change is part of a global initiative, with all subsidiary countries becoming aligned with our parent company. The new Heidelberg Materials branding emphasises our commitment to drive down carbon emissions and pioneer opportunities for a circular economy as well as supporting collaboration. Everything else stays the same, including our commitment to running our operations to the highest standards and being a good neighbour.

Our application to extend Grange Top quarry will be submitted to Rutland County Council under the name of Castle Cement Ltd trading as Heidelberg Materials UK.

Overview

We would like to thank everyone who attended our public exhibition at which we set out our proposals to extend Grange Top quarry at Ketton and want to acknowledge all those who contacted us about our plans. The feedback we received from local residents and other stakeholders has been informative and constructive and has helped shape our final proposals.

After considering all the responses received, we wanted to provide clarification on key aspects of our proposals and set out where our plans have been adapted or refined. This document is broken down into the main topic areas or issues that were raised with us and highlights, where appropriate, what adjustments have been made to our plans. In addition, detailed updated maps, 3D visualisations and mineral extraction phasing plans are available on our website at:

www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/ketton-community-page

Our proposals to extend Grange Top quarry's extraction area into Field 14 and Northwest Land will ensure the supply of raw materials and the long-term future of the adjacent cement works. The plans have been developed to ensure that they enhance nature and mitigate impact on our neighbours. They will also provide transformative improvements to footways and bridleways as well as a new Ketton works access road which will reroute HGV traffic away from the villages of Ketton and Tinwell.

The next step for us will be to submit a full application to Rutland County Council (RCC), which we expect to do in November. RCC will then consult with statutory bodies and invite comments from residents before making its decision.



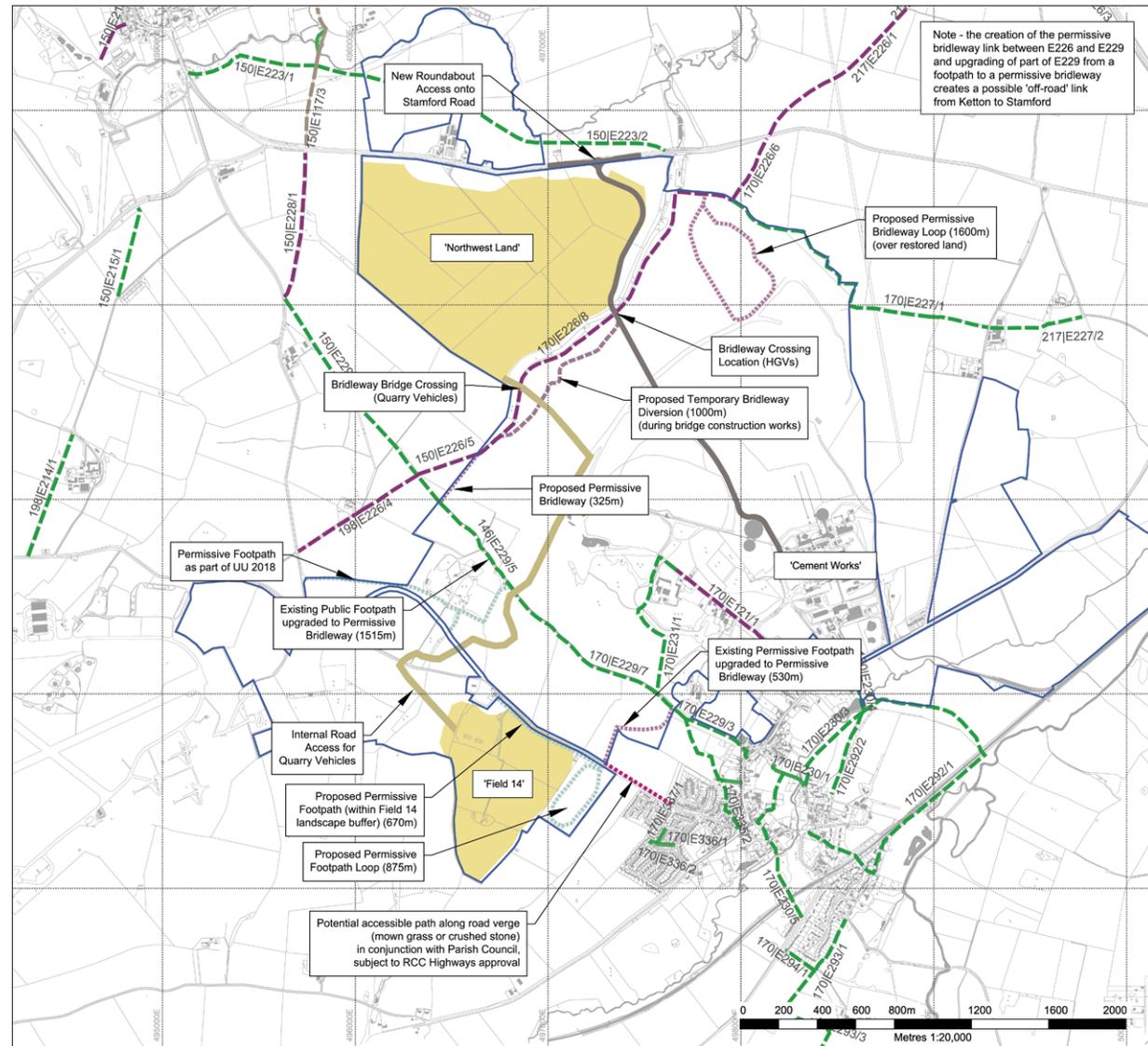
Field 14 and Northwest Land would provide around 25 years of limestone and clays, with all extracted materials used at our Ketton cement works

1. Public Rights of Way

Introduction

Our proposals include substantive enhancements to Public Rights of Way (PROW) and have been designed to give priority to recreational users.

With over 3.5km of new permissive footpaths and bridleways, plus more than 2km of permissive and public footpaths upgraded to bridleways, our plans will greatly improve local connectivity. This includes, for the first time, the delivery of a complete off-road link between Stamford and Ketton.



Our plans include a number of new and upgraded public rights of way for recreational use

1. Public Rights of Way continued

Q. We were asked if we could create an additional footpath between Wytchley Warren Cottages, to the north of Field 14 on Empingham Road, and Ketton.

Our response:

We have adjusted our plans to include a 670-metre-long permissive footpath along Field 14 to form part of a continuous link from Wytchley Warren Cottages to the village. This footpath will be situated on the inside edge of Field 14 – within the proposed landscape buffer – with hedging and planting on both sides.

In addition, and subject to approval from the local highway authority, following a request from the Parish Council, we are also now proposing the creation of an informal accessible footpath along Empingham Road, between Wotton Close and the existing quarry boundary. We do not own the adjacent farmland so the options here are more limited, but we believe that a crushed stone or mown grass pathway along the highway verge would help provide easier access to and from the village.



Users of the public rights of way will be kept safely away from areas where mineral extraction will take place

Q. Users of the bridleway E226 near Northwest Land queried if blasts would impact on horse riders using the proposed bridleway bridge crossing.

Our response:

At no time does the bridleway E226 cross over land that will be subject to mineral extraction with blasts. The closest the bridleway comes to quarry activity is where the proposed bridleway crosses over the quarry haul road linking Northwest Land and Field 14.

Furthermore, a landscape buffer will be established between bridleway E226 and the edge of mineral extraction which will be planted with trees, shrubs, and grassland. This will provide at least a 60m buffer between the south east section of Northwest Land and the bridleway – a greater distance than exists currently.

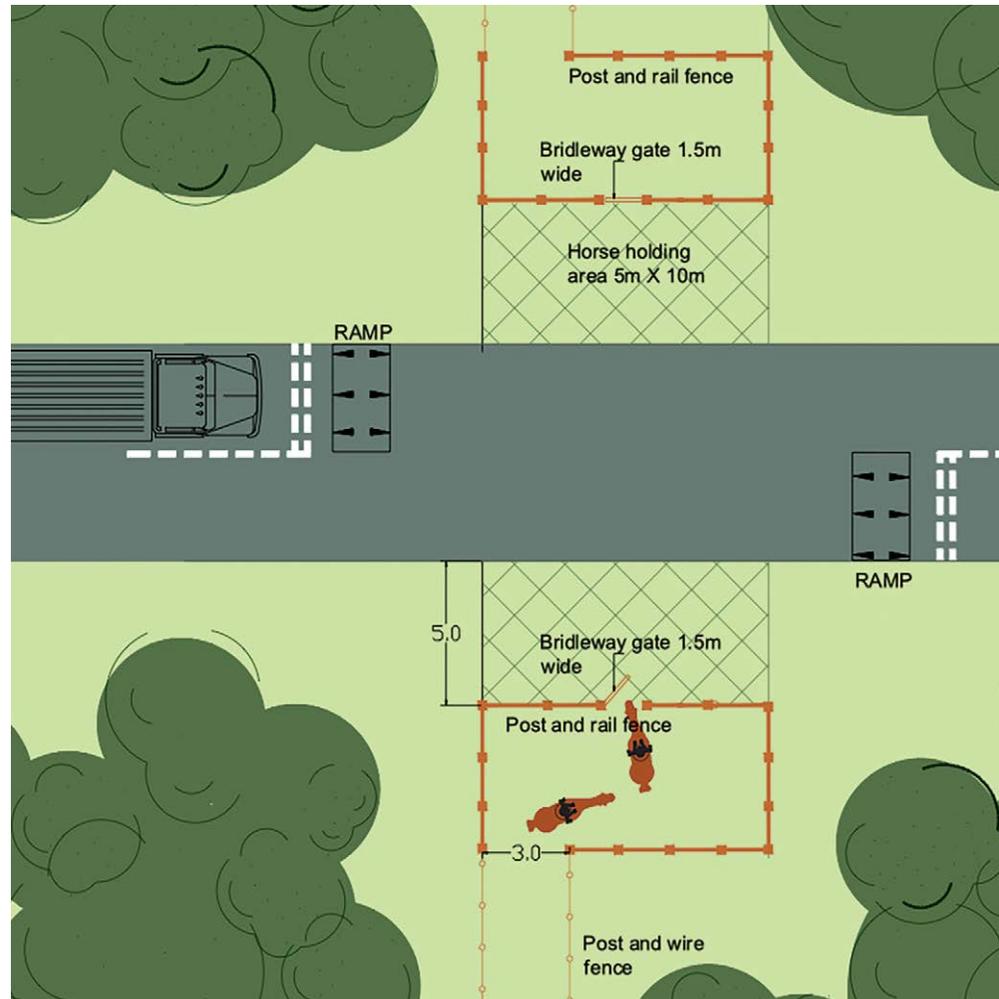
This part of Northwest land will also be extracted in phase 1 – and so will be restored first, with additional planting providing further screening.

1. Public Rights of Way continued

Q. We were asked about the design of the crossing where bridleway E226 intersects the works access road.

Our response:

The original crossing design was developed in line with the British Horse Society's best practice advice. However, in light of feedback, especially from dog-walkers, we have amended the design so that it now includes gates. This will help to ensure the safety of riders and their horses, as well as other bridleway users.



We have updated the design of the proposed bridleway crossing

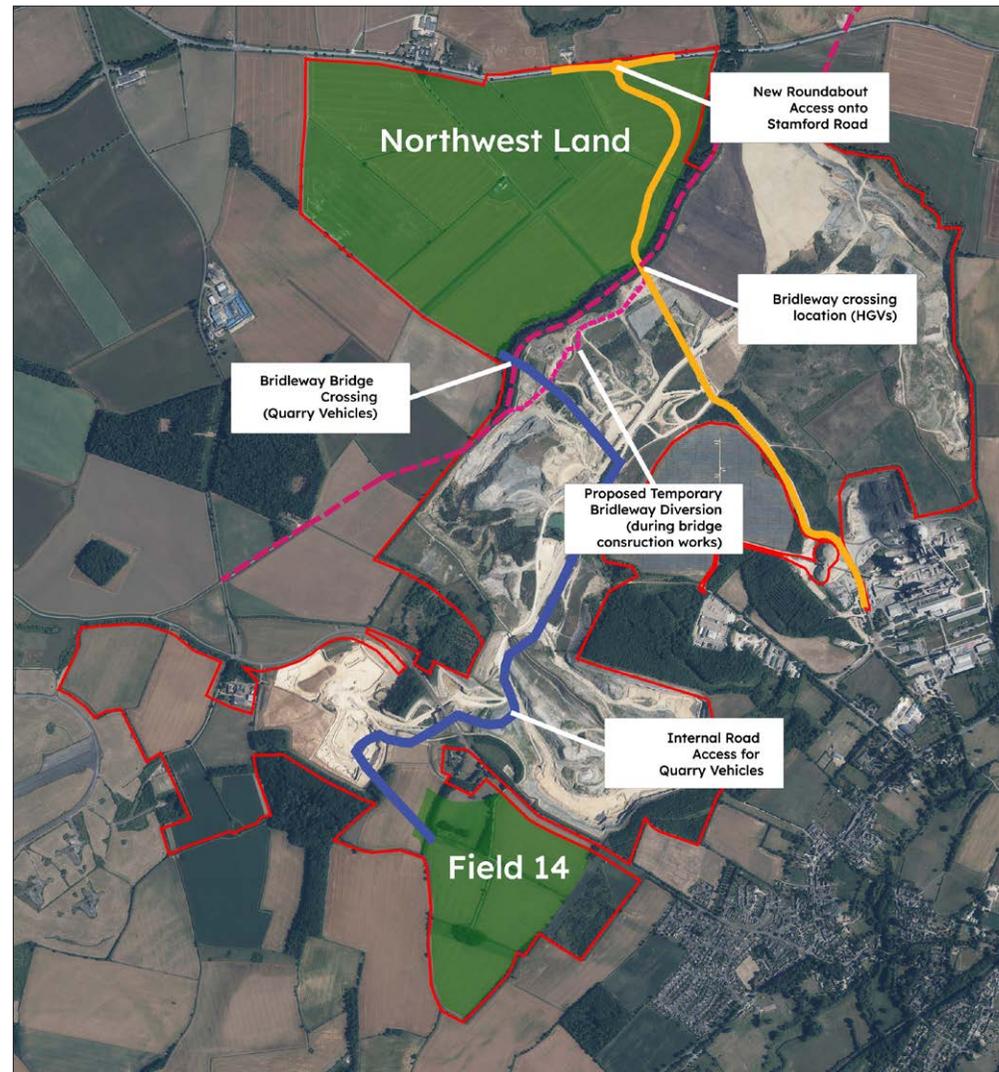
2. Access and highways

Introduction

Our proposals include a new 3km works access road linking the cement plant with the A606. Plans include a junction with a roundabout west of Shacklewell Hollow, with associated landscaping of grassland verges, re-aligned hedgerows and additional tree planting.

This substantial investment will reduce Heidelberg Materials HGV traffic on the A6121 High Steet/Stamford Road passing through Ketton and Tinwell. It is proposed that all works traffic will use this new access road and our plans to extend Grange Top quarry will not see an increase in current levels.

Our proposals also see the development of a new haul road between Field 14 and Northwest land for use by quarry plant and machinery only. A new brideway bridge will be created where the existing E226 brideway crosses the on-site haul road to ensure the safety of horses, their riders, pedestrians and other users.



In response to discussions with Rutland County Council, our proposals include a £10 million works access road linking Ketton cement works to a new roundabout on the A606.

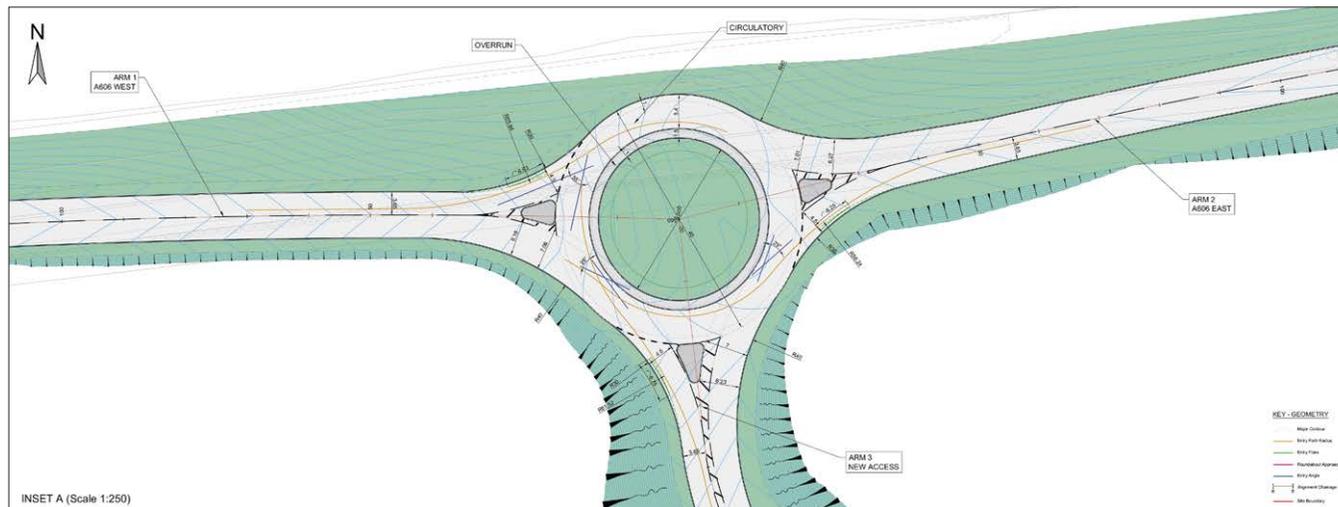
2. Access and highways continued

Q. We were asked about the safety implications of installing a roundabout on the busy Stamford Road A606 – a road with fast moving traffic.

Our response:

The new works access road will traverse the edge of Northwest Land, with a roundabout installed at its junction with the A606. The proposed roundabout design, with single lane approaches and wide visual splays to ensure maximum visibility, aligns with the modern safety standards required for this type of road. The road and roundabout have been designed to meet both national and highway authority design specifications.

Design of the proposed roundabout on the A606



Q. We were asked about the implications of the new works access road on traffic through Empingham.

Our response:

The overwhelming majority – 95% – of traffic accessing our Ketton works via the new access road will come from/be heading towards the east, in the direction of Stamford and A1.

Some members of staff already use the A606 to travel to work so this of course won't change. Our independent traffic studies have highlighted that there would be just five additional works-related HGVs a day on current levels. This is the equivalent of a marginal increase of just 0.5% on the volume of mostly non-works related traffic currently using this route.

We believe our proposals will have a negligible impact on the highway network in the village of Empingham. In contrast, a new works access road will mean that 345 HGV movements a day, plus 290 other vehicles will no longer need to travel through Ketton and Tinwell.

3. Quarry blasting

Introduction

The mineral sector in the UK has stringent controls in place, including relating to blasting, with levels set to ensure that there is no risk to people or property. Grange Top quarry already complies with these strict blasting protocols in its existing permission and will continue to do so for the proposed quarry extension areas.



Quarry blasting is highly regulated: it has well-defined limits on ground and air vibration based on scaled distance, peak particle velocity (PPV), air pressure and frequency. Since our public drop-in event we have carried out additional blast vibration monitoring at several properties in Ketton (see page 10)



3. Quarry blasting continued

Q. We were asked about the impact of blasting on those living near Field 14, including possible damage to property.

Our response:

Quarry blasting conditions at the quarry already include well-defined limits on ground and air vibration based on scaled distance, peak particle velocity (PPV), air pressure and frequency. The ground vibration levels at residential properties relating to Grange Top quarry blasts are restricted to a limit of 6mm/s PPV, at 95% confidence; the industry standard on this logarithmic scale for this type of quarry. The average PPV for blasts at Grange Top are well within this limit and all our blasts are fully compliant.

To provide further reassurance to near neighbours we have instigated further vibration monitoring in several properties in the vicinity of Wytchley Road since our public event. The monitored readings have been of such a small magnitude that there has been no trigger for PPV levels at these properties. The monitoring is on-going, and we will include the findings within our planning application.

Blasting at Field 14 is expected to take place around once per month. We recognise that vibration can be felt or heard below the regulatory levels and are aware that the way in which people experience blasts can differ. This can be shaped not only by vibration but also by air pressure, frequency and even the weather. For example, air over pressure (AOP) can be responsible for the noise associated with blasts – and it is often the movement of air and not vibration that is ‘felt’. Similarly, low cloud can exaggerate blast sound,

We are also mindful that some domestic properties can exhibit cracks that owners may wrongly attribute to blasting activities. There are many reasons why properties will develop cracks, for example: fatigue and ageing of wall coverings; structural overloading; and foundation settlement, particularly after times of prolonged dry spells. Importantly, there are no cases in the UK where structural damage to a property has been linked to quarry blasts. Consequently, we are confident that the regulatory limit, which we always adhere to, is significantly below the level which could cause damage to properties, structures or people.

Q. We were asked if blasting could impact on the windmill due to working of Field 14.

Our response:

The windmill is located well outside of the Field 14 extraction area. For the reasons set out above it will not be impacted by blasting.



Views to the Windmill, which sits outside the Field 14 extraction area, will be protected

4. Visual impact

Introduction

Our approach to managing the landscape and visual impact of extending Grange Top is to retain, wherever possible, existing vegetation and to carry out additional planting, which over time, will enhance the local landscape's distinctive character.

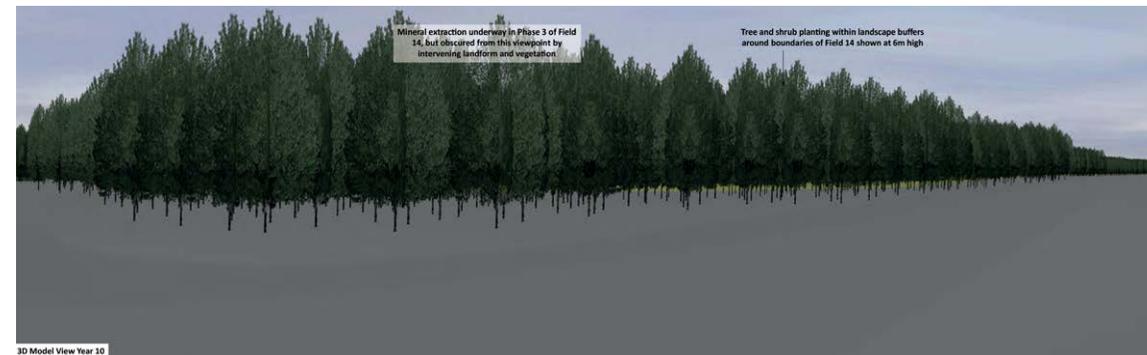
Mineral extraction has purposefully been phased to use the area's topography to retain natural screening for as long as possible. This will be supplemented with the development of screening bunds and planting along site boundaries in the initial site set up phases to protect views and minimise noise and dust. Progressive working and restoration also mean that the visual impact of quarrying at any single point in time is minimal, so that the overall character of the area is safeguarded.

Since our public exhibition we have developed a series of 3d visualisations from several representative viewpoints from around both Field 14 and Northwest Land. These show current views and what they will look like at key stages in our project – site preparation, at year 10 and at full restoration. The locations include:

- Towards Ketton from Collyweston; (viewpoint 1).
- Looking across Field 14 from Empingham Road; (viewpoint 6).
- Looking across Northwest Land from A606 east of Shacklewell Hollow (viewpoint 11a).
- At Shacklewell Lodge gateway looking in both directions (viewpoint 9a and 9b).
- View looking towards Ketton from Loves Lane, Empingham (viewpoint 14).

The 3D visualisations can be seen in full at:

www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/ketton-community-page/our-grange-top-expansion-proposal



Views into Field 14 today (top) and 3D visualisation (above) showing how the same view will look 10 years into mineral extraction

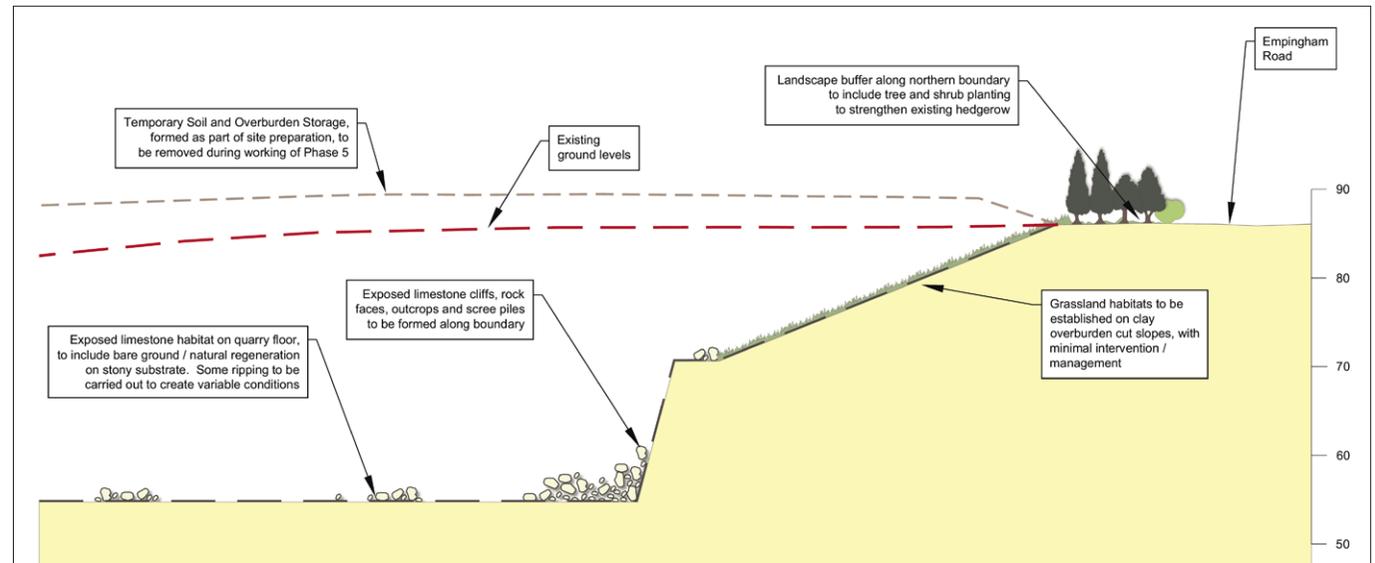
4. Visual impact continued

Q. We were asked what the view into Field 14 would be like.

Our response:

Views of quarrying into Field 14 will be minimal for several reasons. It is already well screened on its south-eastern boundary as a result of our previous planting, and this will be supplemented by the thickening of existing hedgerows as well as additional tree and shrub planting. A landscape buffer will also be created along the eastern boundary, made up of existing trees, plus additional planting, while, in addition, to the north, a further landscape buffer will include a 3-5 metre-high landscape screening bund to protect views from Wytchley House and Empingham Road.

Importantly, the need to remove overburden, with the creation of cut slopes, to access the limestone, means that quarry operations will be further screened from view as extraction will be taking place up to 30m below the level of Empingham Road. (See photomontage: Viewpoint 6 and illustrative cross section right.)



Field 14 will be screened along its northern and eastern perimeters

4. Visual impact continued

Q. We were asked about views into the site, particularly from Empingham, looking towards the works in a south easterly direction.

Our response:

The topography of the land means that views into Northwest Land are restricted. The village is set down at a lower level compared to the proposed extension area and this means the intervening ground, as well as existing trees and hedgerows along the A606, will hide most of the quarry from view.

In addition, the proposed mineral workings will be further screened by planted screening bunds after the initial phases. See images, right, looking towards Ketton from Loves Lane, Empingham (from Viewpoint 14).



Images depicting views towards Northwest Land from Empingham today (top) and showing how the same view will look (above) 10 years into mineral extraction

4. Visual impact continued

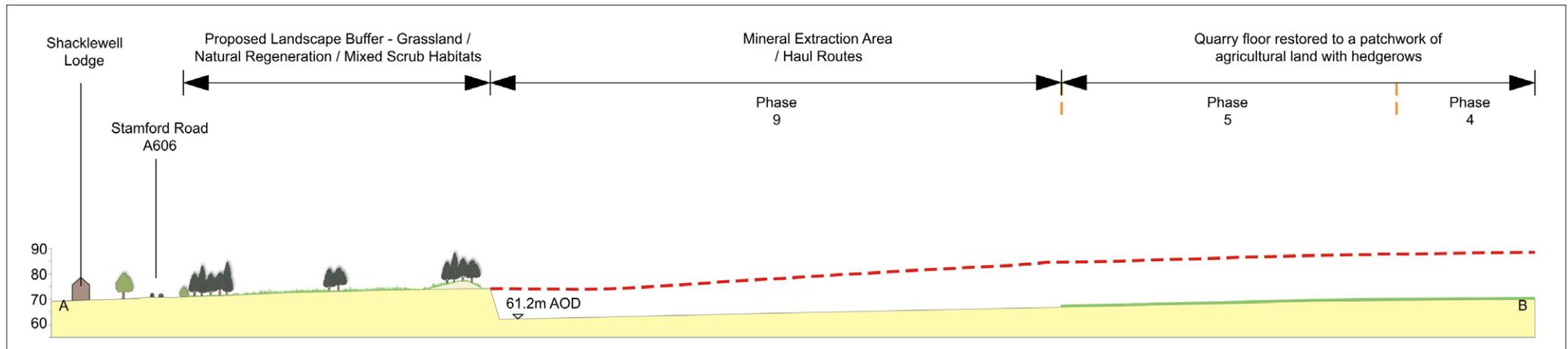
Q. We were asked about the proximity of mineral extraction in the Northwest land area to properties along the A606 and to nearby PROW and, in particular what the visual impact would be.

Our response:

The initial works in Northwest Land will include the construction of 3-5m high screening bunds within a landscape buffer along its north edge abutting the

A606. This stand-off zone between the road and mineral workings will be planted with native trees and scrubs as part of the site set up. Mineral extraction closest to the A606 will not take place until the later phases (phases 7-9), by which time these trees and other landscaping will be of a height to fully screen the quarry workings.

These measures mean that the quarry proposals would be relatively well concealed from nearby properties as well as users of the nearby PROW. See illustrative cross section below. 3D visualisations are also available on our **website** – Viewpoints 9a and 9b.



Operations in Northwest Land will be screened from nearby properties and users of the public rights of way

5. Ecology and restoration

Introduction

Our plans have been developed to enhance fauna and flora and boost biodiversity – in line with both current regulations and best practice.

Our proposals include the retention and augmentation of existing hedgerows, grasslands and woodland, as well as the effective use of soils and overburden resource. Where these materials are removed during mineral extraction, a proportion will be placed into new permanent landforms and some will be returned to the quarry floor to form areas of arable and pastureland. Other parts of the quarry restoration will focus on developing exposed limestone habitats, with cliffs, rock faces, scree and bare ground.

Using a progressive restoration approach means that as soon as extraction is completed in one phase, restoration can begin. This means substantial parts of both Field 14 and Northwest Land will be restored by the time mineral extraction has finished.



Final restoration plan for Grange Top quarry

5. Ecology and restoration continued

Q. We were asked if the 12.5-hectare (ha) reed bed that has naturally developed along the western edge of the existing quarry could be retained.

Our response:

This section of Grange Top quarry, known as Field 7, was initially earmarked to be restored as pasture within the approved quarry restoration scheme for the existing parts of the quarry. However, we appreciate that it has developed into an attractive wetland area and is now a valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife. Consequently, considering feedback, we have adapted our quarry extension plans. We are now including proposals to adapt the previously consented restoration scheme so that the reed bed can be kept in situ.



Q. We were asked about the impact of our proposals on Shacklewell Hollow.

Our response:

Shacklewell Hollow SSSI is 60m away from our mineral extraction area for Northwest Land and our proposals have always included measures to ensure that it is protected.

Our scheme includes the development of an extensive landscape standoff area between the eastern edge of Northwest Land, where the new access road will be situated, and Shacklewell Hollow. Screening will be provided by 3-metre-high bunds, which will be grass seeded and planted. In addition, as the new works access road will be sited in a cutting @4-metres lower than the surrounding area, it will be hidden from view, further screening and protecting Shacklewell Hollow SSSI from site traffic.

For completeness and to underscore our approach we have removed Shacklewell SSSI from the redline boundary that will accompany our planning application.

Our proposals at a glance

Scheme benefits

Our proposals to extend quarrying into Field 14 and Northwest land will:

- Secure the supply of materials to ensure the long-term future of Ketton cement works.
- Maintain supplies of cement from Ketton – a local, regional and nationally significant resource for the construction sector.
- Provide on-going employment for 240 people, plus many more in the local supply chain.
- Redirect HGVs away from Ketton and Tinwell villages through the development of a new works access road.
- Provide extensive screening to mitigate visual impact and to protect the landscape's character.
- Provide additional footpaths and bridleways, plus improvements to ensure safe access for horse riders and bridleway users.
- Deliver extensive biodiversity uplifts and enhancements to flora and fauna.

We will ensure the extensive range of documents accompanying our planning application to RCC will be made available to view via our website at **www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/ketton-community-page** once the council has validated our submission and initiated its own consultation.

Please note that feedback on RCC's consultation will need to be made via its website.

Operating hours

The proposed operating hours for both extension areas would be the same as currently for Grange Top quarry:

- 07.00 – 19.00 Monday to Friday
- 07.00 – 13.00 on Saturdays



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