

Our approach

Our commitment to mitigating the impact of our operations on the environment and near neighbours remains.

Ecology

As we are seeking to revise existing permissions at Westdown quarry our scheme is not subject to biodiversity net gain requirements. Nevertheless, our plans have always been shaped by the need to protect and enhance wildlife habitats.

Upfront offsite mitigation

We've retained proposals to create in excess of 44 acres of well-connected habitat to the north of Westdown quarry with woodland planting and the creation of species rich grassland to enhance biodiversity.

The area will also provide additional foraging and commuting habitat for bats, dormice and badgers, as well as new roosting opportunities for bats.

Upfront offsite mitigation to include creation of:

- 1,880m of native species hedgerow planting
- 2,100m of hedgerow translocation
- 9.1 acres of tussocky grassland
- 2.5 acres of native scrub
- 1.25 acres of ponds and scrapes
- 33.4 acres of species rich grassland

Restoration habitat gain:

- 11.6 acres of native woodland
- 15.6 acres of calcareous grassland and quarry faces
- 2.5 acres of native scrub

Progressive restoration

In addition to the retention of hedgerows and areas of woodland on the edge of the site, we'll also plant native broadleaved trees and shrubs on the 3m screening bunds and plant an 8m wide shrub belt for dormice and bats around the perimeter.

Our progressive approach means that the quarry benches will be restored and planted with a combination of calcareous grassland, trees and scrubs as the quarry is deepened.

A wide range of new habitats will be created during restoration, forming a diverse landscape, reflective of the area's natural character. We will also seek to enhance public access with permissive paths providing a circular walking route, with a viewing platform and information boards.

Traffic and transport

A new access road and junction onto the Bulls Green link road still forms part of our plans. 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 on current permitted levels of HGVs.

Environmental management

The topography of the area means that Westdown is well-screened. In addition, the creation of 3m high screening bunds means views into the quarry will be limited.

The potential impact of dust and noise from quarries is well-understood and is addressed through strict regulatory controls. Our approach remains unchanged and includes comprehensive monitoring to ensure the community remains protected.

