

➤ WESTDOWN QUARRY RE-OPENING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How many jobs will the re-opening of Westdown Quarry create?

The re-opening of Westdown Quarry will create an additional 40 full time jobs for local people as well as a number of indirect jobs through the employment of a range of contractors.

Westdown Quarry contains a lot of wildlife. Will this be destroyed or is Hanson going to protect it?

The proposals for Westdown Quarry have been developed with the environment at the forefront of our minds. Indeed, the design has been informed by extensive baseline survey work including field surveys on protected wildlife species such as bats, badgers, great crested newts, breeding birds, invertebrates and dormice, which has been carried out over the past three years.

Importantly, we aim to reduce the impact of our activities on the environment and local community as much as we can and lots of measures to protect local people and the environment have been built into the quarry design. Independent consultants (Wood Group UK Ltd) are currently carrying out a rigorous environmental impact assessment looking at the effects that our proposals will have on:

- The local landscape and views of the site;
- The effects of noise, dust and blasting on nearby residents;
- Local wildlife;
 - The water environment;
 - Agricultural land and soils; and
 - The historic environment (including any buried archaeology).

Importantly, we have also developed a restoration plan for the site which looks to make it a haven for wildlife, improve opportunities for public enjoyment of the site and make it a safer place to be.

There is public access through Westdown at the moment – will this stop?

It is envisaged that two public bridleways at Westdown Quarry will not need to be diverted but that appropriate safeguarding measures will be provided to ensure there is no conflict between the users of these routes and the reopening of Westdown Quarry.

Will I be able to see or hear the quarry once it starts up again?

Various screening bunds will be provided along the perimeter of the quarry to limit views into the quarry from surrounding areas and provide appropriate noise mitigation. Importantly, the quarry will need to work to strict environmental standards which require noise and dust to be minimised.

Will the quarry generate a lot more traffic?

No. The combined traffic numbers from the existing operational Whatley Quarry and that from Westdown Quarry will not exceed those numbers permitted from Whatley at present. Furthermore, all vehicles accessing and leaving Westdown Quarry will follow an agreed route along the Bulls Green Link Road to the A361.

Will the quarry generate a lot of dust?

No. As a large and experienced operator of quarries, Hanson implements a number of best practice measures to ensure that dust does not cause any nuisance to nearby people. Such measures include a wheelwash for all vehicles leaving the site and dampening down of the haul road especially during dry periods. These standard best practice techniques will also be backed up by planning conditions which will require the quarry to operate to modern, stringent air quality standards.

There are a lot of quarries in the local area.

Why do we need another one?

From its neighbouring rail-linked quarry at Whatley, Hanson presently supplies many local and UK wide markets particularly in the south-east of England with limestone aggregate and related products.

The rail link at Whatley means that this quarry is only one of a handful across England that has the capacity to supply wider UK markets – and most notably, those markets in London and the south east of England, where geology dictates that the vast majority of crushed rock requirements must be met by imports of material from other English regions. The ability to supply these markets with material delivered via rail means that Whatley Quarry is considered a strategic aggregate quarry.

With an increasing demand for limestone from a range of national construction projects, – most notably the recently approved High Speed 2 rail link from London to Manchester, there will be greater emphasis on rail linked quarries like Whatley to supply these more distant markets. This means that Hanson needs to carefully consider a strategy for ensuring that Whatley can continue to supply aggregates to the more distant, nationally significant construction markets, whilst still meeting the very important needs of the local south-west markets.

To achieve this, Hanson is seeking to secure the long-term resumption of permitted limestone extraction from Westdown Quarry. This would allow Whatley to focus on meeting the needs of the UK wide, rail-borne markets, as material from Westdown would supply the local road-borne markets.