

WELCOME

to our virtual public exhibition on our proposals to update existing planning consents for Westdown quarry, Somerset.

Having your say

Due to current social distancing measures, we are unable to carry out our planned series of local face-to-face consultation events. So that we can share information and provide opportunities to receive feedback, we have developed an online virtual exhibition so local people can review our proposals. It forms part of our pre-application consultation activity and the feedback received will help shape our thinking, ahead of submitting final plans to Somerset County Council (SCC).

We are keen to hear what you think about our proposals. You can have your say by clicking on the link on the last page and/or by responding to our online survey, **click here**. Alternatively, you can email any questions you may have, and/or your response to our consultation, at: **consultation@hanson.com**

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the consultation or the materials we have provided, please contact us on our freephone number **0800 702 2594**.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is 11.55pm on the 4th December 2020.

About Westdown quarry

Limestone extraction in the East Mendips has a long history, helping to build Britain from Georgian crescents in Bath, to Hinkley Point C power station in Somerset. Today, most of the material extracted is used to make ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete products, as well as asphalt for use in highways. The limestone in the East Mendips is considered a locally and nationally significant aggregate resource.

To the west of Nunney, there is evidence of quarrying dating back 500 years. Westdown and Asham quarries are thought to have started operations in the 1940s – supplying aggregate to support post-war reconstruction. Although no activity has taken place at both sites since the 1980s, planning permissions for the extraction of limestone remain in place until 2042.

About Hanson UK

Hanson UK is a leading supplier of heavy building materials to the construction industry. We produce aggregates (crushed rock, sand and gravel), ready-mixed concrete, asphalt, cement and cement-related materials. We operate over 300 manufacturing sites and employ more than 3,500 people in the UK.

Our materials and services are helping to shape the future of the UK – from ensuring that roads can be built and maintained to supporting the foundations of buildings such as hospitals, bridges and off-shore windfarms.

Our aim is to be a leading sustainable business, trusted and respected by our stakeholders for the ethics we adopt and the products we supply. We are part of the HeidelbergCement Group, which leads the cement sector in climate protection and is one of just 179 companies worldwide that has been awarded a place on CDP's 2019 Climate Change A-list.

For more information, visit: www.hanson.co.uk

Overview of our proposals for Westdown quarry

We are now seeking to restart quarrying at Westdown – with a view to extracting 2 million tonnes of limestone aggregate a year between 2022 and 2042 – the end date for existing consents. Ahead of this we are consulting on our proposals to bring the existing planning permissions at Westdown in line with modern environmental standards.

These include:

- Extensive mitigation measures to reduce impact on local communities and the environment.
- The development of a comprehensive restoration scheme, which will see environmental enhancements to the former Asham Wood quarry (referred to as the Asham Wood void) as part of our restoration programme.
- Plans for new site infrastructure, including a new weighbridge, site office and staff welfare facilities.
- Proposals for a new, upgraded vehicle entrance to the site with access from the Bulls Green Link Road.

Combined with a future planning application for our nearby Whatley quarry, our proposals will not require additional vehicle movements in the area.

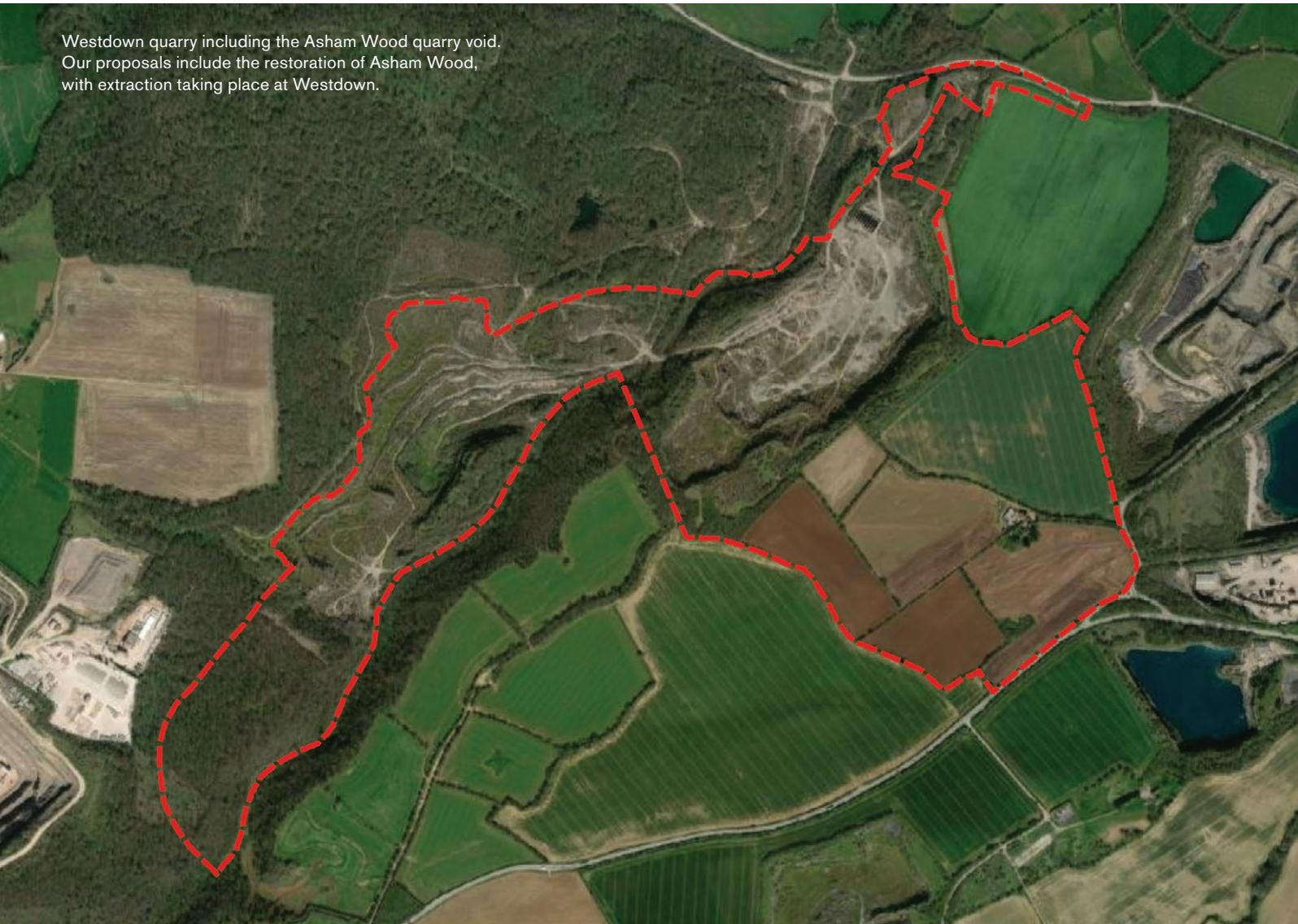
Our approach for Westdown and Whatley quarries

Westdown quarry has permission for mineral extraction until 2042 and this consultation is focused on updates to the existing planning consents, including a new site restoration plan.

At nearby Whatley quarry, we are developing a further planning application to release additional mineral reserves by reworking the existing staggered quarry benches and deepening the quarry floor. These proposals will be subject to the usual consenting processes, including the opportunity for local people to comment.

We will share more information on this in early 2021. Combined, our operations at Westdown and Whatley will help secure supplies of limestone aggregate needed for construction, including vital infrastructure projects. Importantly, as Whatley is one of a few rail-linked quarries in the UK, we can implement a 'rail-first' approach for the movement of material to national markets from Whatley, with aggregate from Westdown earmarked for local and regional demand.

Westdown quarry including the Asham Wood quarry void. Our proposals include the restoration of Asham Wood, with extraction taking place at Westdown.



Economic and community benefits

The re-opening of Westdown quarry will create additional 40 full time high skilled jobs for local people plus jobs in the supply chain. In addition, our proposals will generate opportunities for apprenticeships and staff training/career progression.

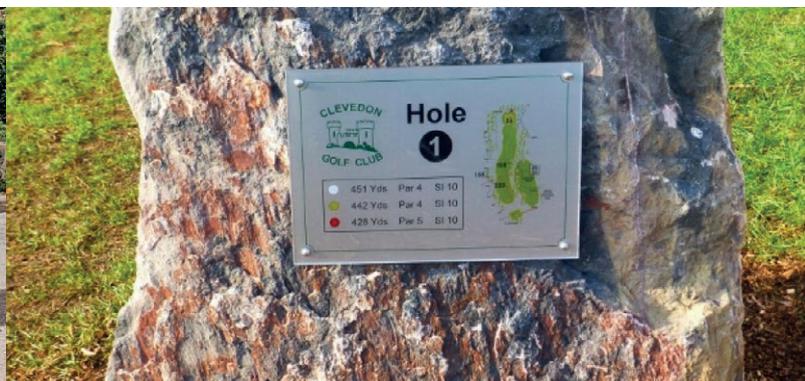
Our plans to reopen Westdown quarry will also deliver highway improvements, safer access for pedestrians and horse-riders and an extensive restoration programme with ecological and biodiversity enhancements. Furthermore, legal agreements, to be determined as part of the planning process and linked to the findings of the EIA, are also anticipated.

Working with the community

We plan to set up a joint local liaison group for Westdown and Whatley quarries, with participation from site personnel, as well representatives from the local community and other relevant groups.

Hanson operates liaison groups, with agreed terms of reference and regular meetings, at many of our sites and they facilitate dialogue as well as allowing local people to ask questions about our operations and stay up to date on key issues. More information on the current liaison group for Whatley quarry can be found at: www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/whatley-quarry-community-page

We aim to support the communities that live near our sites. This includes hosting educational visits and open days when possible, as well as volunteering, litter picking and supporting community projects.



Mineral extraction

We are proposing to extract around 2 million tonnes a year, with the mineral processed on site before being transported to local markets:

Operations

- A new weighbridge, site office and staff welfare and parking facilities will be developed to support the operations.
- Limestone will be extracted through modern drilling and blasting techniques, designed to minimise noise and dust.
- In line with modern approaches to quarrying and to minimise impact, we are proposing to limit the operating hours – even though current permission for Westdown does not require this:

Extraction, haulage, servicing, maintenance and testing of plant:

- 06.00 – 20.00: Monday – Friday; and
- 06.00 – 12.00: Saturday and Sunday.

No operations other than water pumping will take place outside these hours, except in an emergency.



Mitigation

- Landform screening will be created through the development of mounds – or planted screening bunds – along the perimeter of the quarry. These will help to mitigate noise as well as reduce views into the quarry and protect the character of the surrounding countryside. The planted perimeter mounds will also provide ecological benefit through the creation of new habitats for a range of species including bats and dormice.
- As an experienced operator of quarries, we implement a range of best practice measures to ensure that noise, dust and blasting does not cause a nuisance to nearby people. Our plans for Westdown quarry include measures such as a wheelwash for all vehicles leaving the site, as well as dampening down of the haul road during dry periods and on-site water suppression using water bowsers.

For more information on best practice techniques, [click here](#).

The requirement for other additional mitigation measures to support our operations at Westdown quarry will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will inform the Environment Statement (ES) that will accompany our planning submission.

Traffic and Transport

Our proposals include a number of transport-related aspects:

- A new access point to be constructed off the Bulls Green Link Road. This will ensure site traffic can enter and exit the quarry safely, with the closure of the former access point improving safety for all road-users.
- Existing public rights of way to remain in situ. Our studies indicate that the two public bridleways on the eastern and western side of the site will not need to be diverted, as appropriate measures can be provided to ensure their ongoing safe use.
- All vehicles, to and from the site, will follow the existing established route along to the A361.
- We will continue to ensure the local road network remains clean with regular road sweepings.
- The combined road traffic numbers from both Westdown and Whatley quarries will not exceed present permitted levels.

Limestone uses:

In addition to its main use in the construction industry, limestone is also a vital material used in:

- Pharmaceuticals
- Fibreglass
- Steel manufacture
- Sewage treatment
- Water purification
- Food additives
- Plastics
- Insulation

Location of upgraded site access

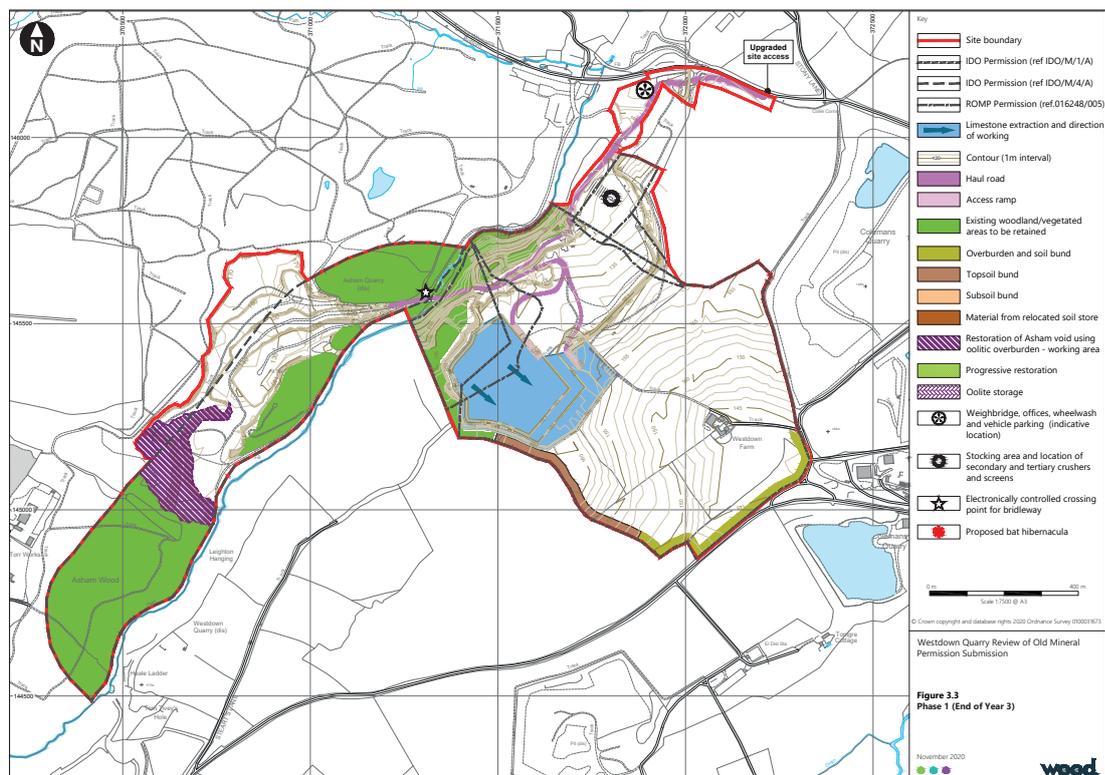


Expected phasing of activity at Westdown quarry

- Mineral extraction will start within the north/north-western part of the quarry, before moving in a south/south-easterly direction over time.
- The existing woodland, known as Asham Wood, will be protected.
- The former Asham Wood quarry will be progressively restored. This will feature the creation of additional areas of woodland, shrub and grassland.
- Planting to provide screening close to the site's internal road is also proposed and, over time, the development of a wooded and shrub perimeter to the Westdown quarry void will provide further habitat connectivity and landscape diversity.

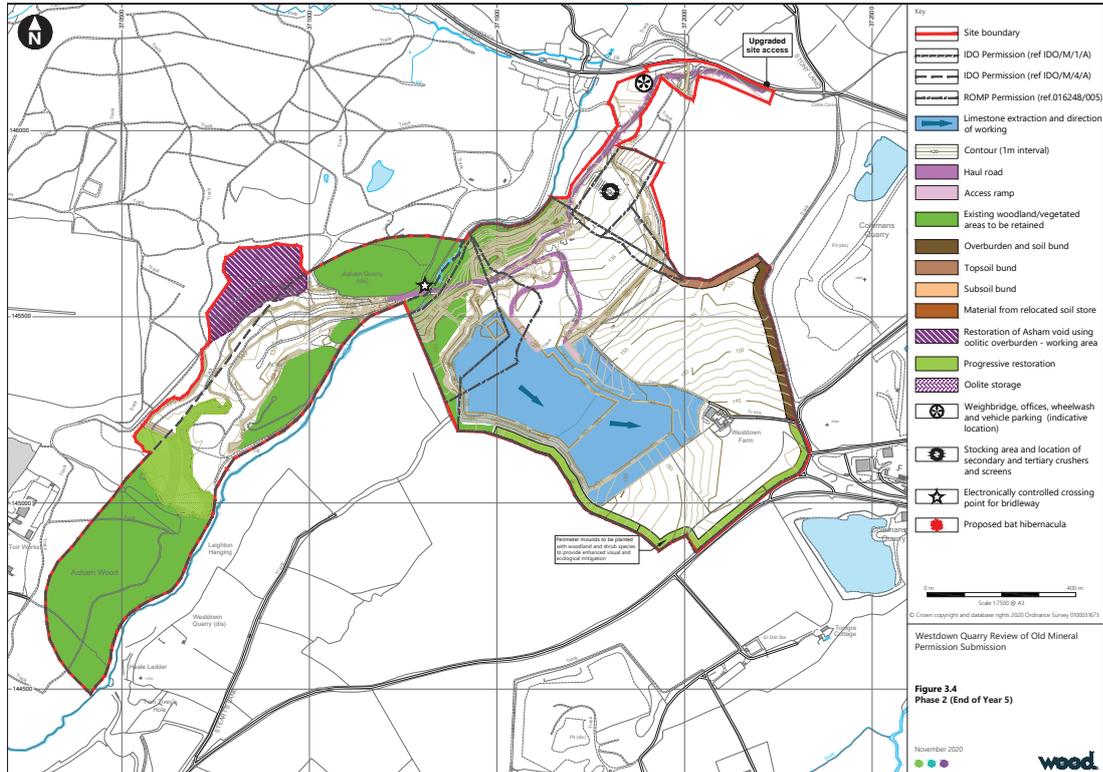
Westdown quarry phasing plans

Phase 1

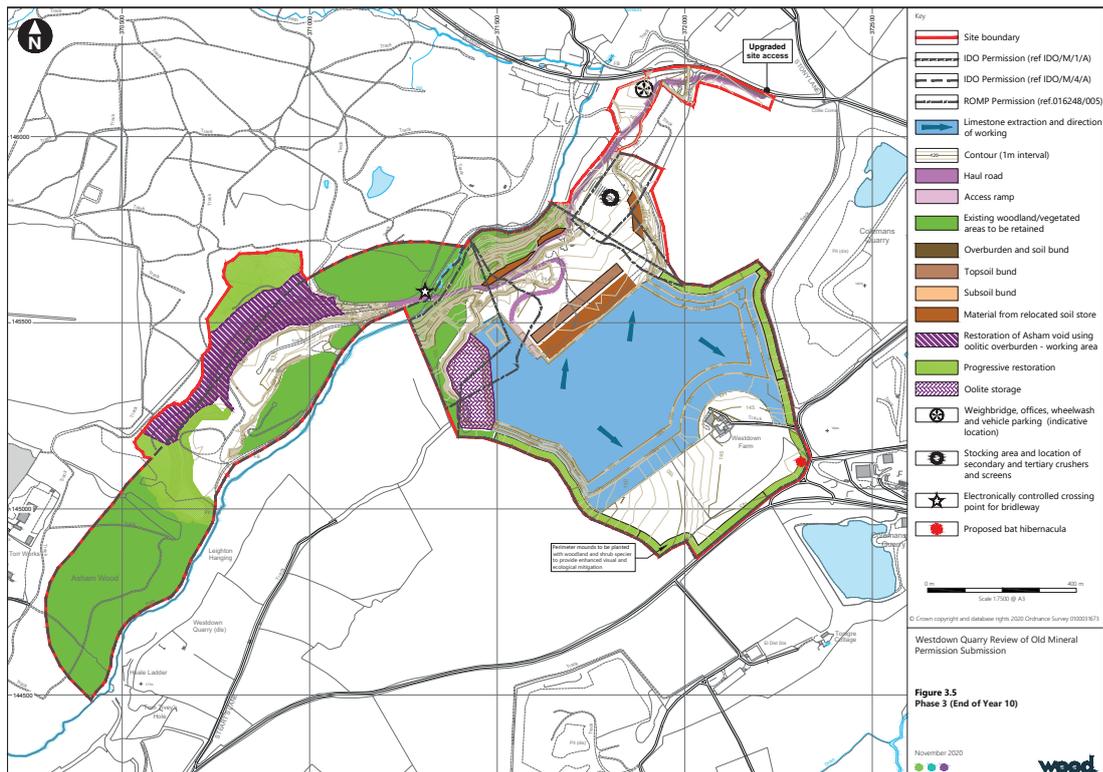


Westdown quarry phasing plans

Phase 2

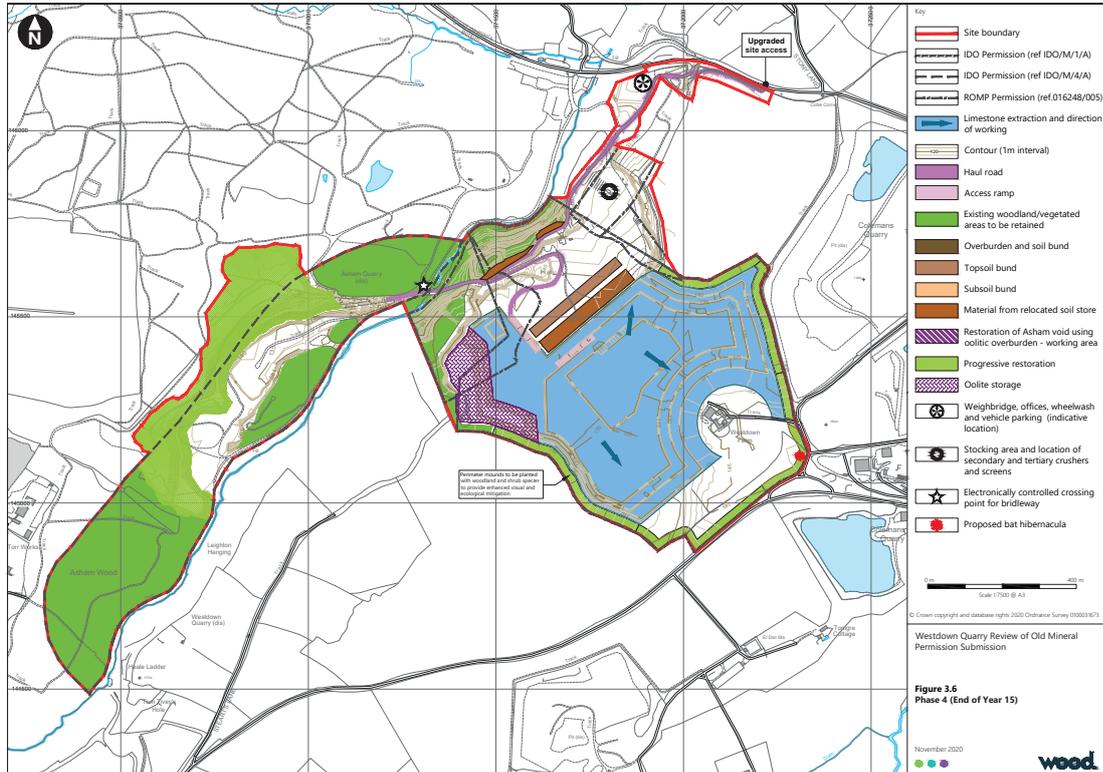


Phase 3

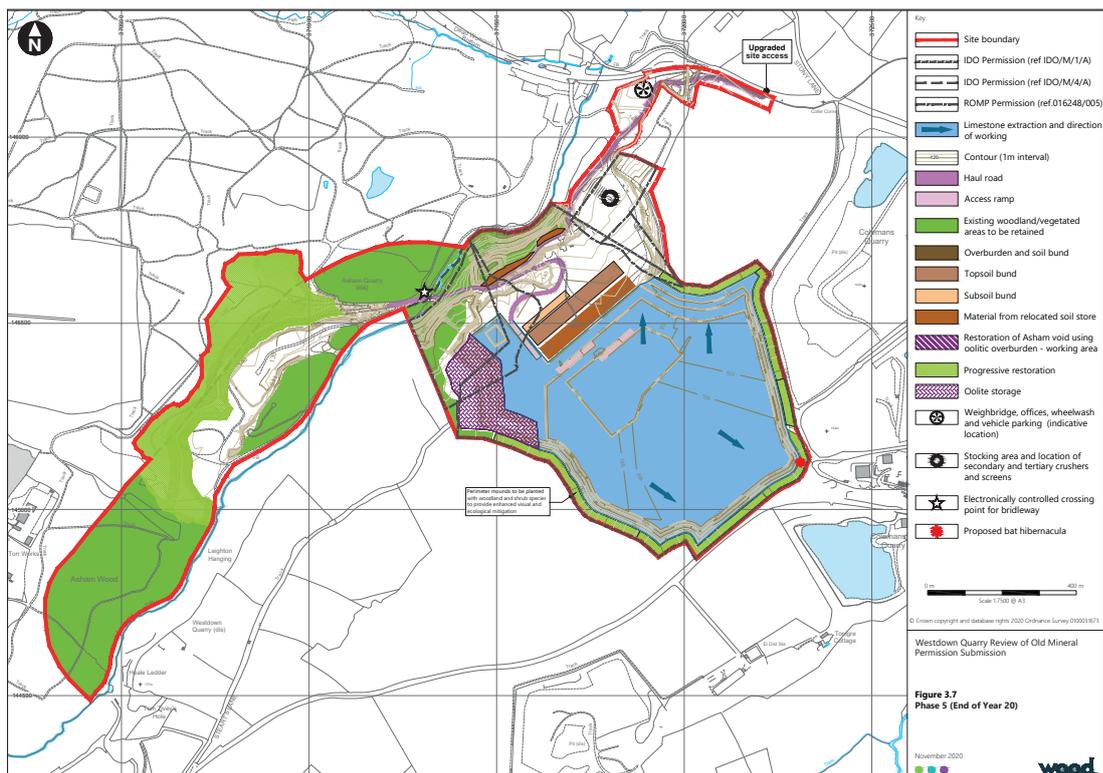


Westdown quarry phasing plans

Phase 4



Phase 5



Landscape and ecology

Design approach

The scheme design has been shaped by our aims to reduce the impact of quarrying activities on the community, landscape and the environment, and to protect and enhance these in all that we do.

Our proposals have been informed by extensive baseline survey work and the need to mitigate impact on both local people and the environment. Independent consultants are currently carrying out a rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) looking at the effects that our proposals will have on:

- Local wildlife, including protected species
- Local landscape/views of the site
- Local roads and traffic
- Effects of noise, dust and blasting
- Water environment
- Agricultural land and soils
- Historic environment

For more information on our EIA, [click here](#).

Plans include:

- Designing the development of the quarry so that impacts are mitigated from outset (see next page).
- Proposed screening planting along the site boundaries to mitigate noise and protect views into the site.
- Protection for the existing Asham Wood area, which is an ancient semi-natural woodland.
- Existing Public Rights of Way remain in place with mitigation to ensure ongoing safe use.

Restoration

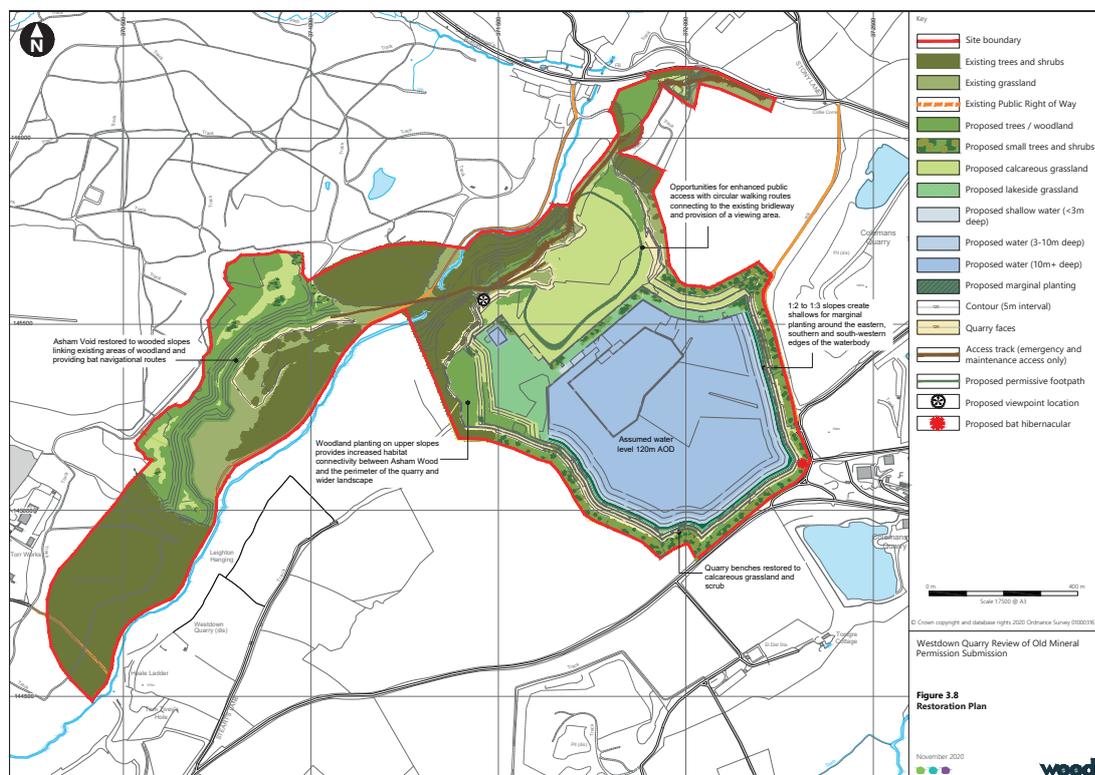
Restoration strategy

Our restoration proposals are being developed with ecology and landscape objectives at the forefront. They set out our comprehensive vision of how Westdown quarry, including the Asham Wood quarry area will be progressively restored as the scheme progresses.

The programme, which will be implemented in phases includes:

- The reinstatement of land through the creation of small areas of woodland, shrub and open grassland in the Asham Wood quarry area.
- A wooded/shrub perimeter to the Westdown quarry void to provide habitat connectivity especially for bats, badgers and dormice.
- Water based restoration within the main Westdown quarry void.
- Areas of chalk and limestone grassland to provide landscape and habitat diversity.
- Improved public access/enjoyment.

Proposed restoration plan



**Thank you for attending our virtual exhibition.
We hope you have found it useful and that it
answers your questions about our proposals
for Westdown quarry.**

Having your say

Your feedback is important to us. Please take a moment to fill out our online feedback forms, to access **click here**.

Alternatively, you can send your feedback by emailing: **consultation@hanson.com**

The deadline for responding is 11.55pm on the 4th December 2020.

Next steps

After the consultation period, our team, supported by Wood Group UK Ltd, will review all feedback received from local people, as well as from statutory stakeholders and regulators.

After finalising our plans, it is our intention to submit proposals to Somerset County Council (SCC) in January 2021. The next part of the process will involve SCC inviting comments from local residents and community groups on our submitted proposals before making its decision.

Future updates on our proposals will be posted on our new Westdown quarry community webpage at: **www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/westdown-quarry**

