

Coggeshall, Feering & Kelvedon Flood Alleviation Scheme Environmental Considerations

Environmental Standards

The Minerals Working and Active Landfills Environmental Award Scheme is operated by Essex County Council to benchmark and assess the environmental standards achieved by operational sites.

Since commencing quarrying operations at Bradwell Quarry in 2000, Blackwater Aggregates have been awarded the Gold Level Award, i.e. the highest achievable, reflecting a very good standard in all aspects surveyed in respect of compliance with planning control and the commitment to minimising the potential environmental impact of the mineral and/or landfill operations at the Site.

The creation of the “off-line” flood storage area through Blackwater Aggregates’ normal quarrying operations would follow the established principles of environmental best practice, returning the Site back to agricultural use and creating a floodplain grassland and biodiverse habitat. The creation of the flood alleviation scheme would seek to minimise any impact of its development on local residents and the environment.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment will seek to minimise and mitigate impacts from the proposed quarrying operations across the Off Line Flood Storage Area and the construction of the On Line Dam to a standard equal to the conditions benchmarked and approved by the Minerals Planning Authority for Blackwater Aggregates’ existing quarry operations.

Environmental Statement(s) will be prepared to assess impacts on: Hydrology and Flood Risk; Hydrogeology; Landscape and Visual Impact; Ecology & Biodiversity; Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Transport; Land Use; Noise; Air Quality and Dust; Social Impacts; Lighting; Sustainability and Climate Change; Health Impacts; and Cumulative Impacts.

Transport

The proposed application boundary includes the existing quarry access road to the A120; however, it also includes other areas of Bradwell Quarry which could potentially allow a future connection to the new A120, if it comes forward. All HGV vehicular access to and from the site would be via either the existing or new A120.

Aggregate bearing material recovered from the flood storage area would be transported to the Bradwell Quarry processing plant via a haul road which will cross Cuthedge Lane using either an at grade crossing point or tunnel.

Access to the site for private vehicles used by Blackwater Aggregates’ earthworks staff and their general support vehicles such as fuel deliveries and maintenance vehicles will be via the former Coggeshall Quarry access road and/or via Cuthedge Lane adjacent to Haywards Cottage. This access will not be used by low loaders and HGVs carrying plant and equipment to the site.



Image of an existing haul road within Bradwell Quarry

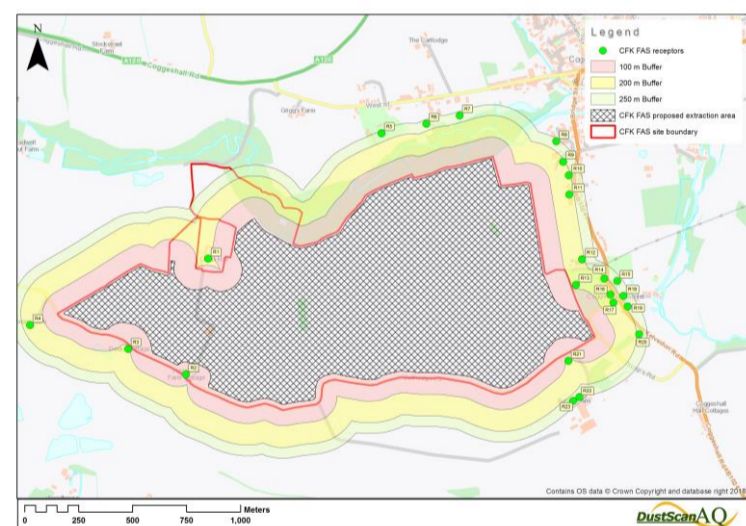
Dust

From the experience of the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM’s) Working Group, adverse dust impacts from sand and gravel sites are uncommon beyond 250 m from the nearest dust generating activities (e.g. extraction areas, processing areas and haul roads).

It is commonly accepted that the greatest impacts will be within 100m of a source and this can include both large (>30 µm) and small dust particles.

Low levels of dust and air quality impacts may arise from the quarrying operations. The potential to impact on nearby properties will be assessed. Impacts will be limited to within 250m of the point of dust emission source.

A Dust Management Plan will be developed to provide site specific monitoring, management and control procedures to ensure that no significant impacts result from the creation of the Off Line Flood Storage Area.



250m Dust Assessment

Noise

Baseline noise monitoring will be carried out at the most sensitive residential properties within the immediate vicinity of the site, namely: Curd Hall; Herons Farm; Deeks Cottage; Haywards; the Essex Way; and the fringe(s) of Coggeshall and Coggeshall Hamlet. The fully attended noise monitoring visits will be carried out during Blackwater Aggregates’ normal working hours. Measurements will be supplemented with historical data as appropriate.

The location of the proposed noise monitoring points will be agreed with representatives of Essex County Council (or their noise consultant).

Modelling of noise associated with key phases of the proposed works will be undertaken and this will include typical and worst-case operations as necessary.

Local amenity will be protected by minimising work in sensitive areas and creating ‘buffers’ between residential areas and mineral workings. A minimum of a 100m ‘buffer zone’ from the working area to the façade of a residential property is normally required to minimise the impact of working on local amenity.

Stand-offs or ‘buffer zones’ of 100m have previously been applied to heritage assets and residential properties around Bradwell Quarry, and in certain circumstances, where properties are either owned by, or under the control of Blackwater Aggregates, at their closest point the operational face of the quarrying operations has been within 35m.

The buffer zones provide (and have proven to provide) effective protection to the properties and heritage assets from ground borne vibration.

Quarrying Operations

Earthmoving and quarrying operations will be carried out between 07.00 and 18.30 hrs Monday to Friday and 07.00 to 13.00 hrs on Saturdays