

Greetham Quarry Environmental Permit Application

Closure and Aftercare Plan

Mick George Limited

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Prepared on Behalf of Tetra Tech Environment Planning Transport Limited.

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DRAWINGS

G17/1/19/04 (Revision C) – Restoration Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 REPORT CONTEXT

- 1.1.1 This section of the Environmental Permit Application corresponds Appendix 4, Question 7 of Part B4 of the application forms, specifically detailing the Closure and Aftercare Plan for Greetham Quarry.
- 1.1.2 This Environmental Permit application has been prepared by Tetra Tech on behalf of Mick George Limited (Mick George).
- 1.1.3 The aim of this report is to ensure that the site can be maintained to avoid any pollution risk up to the point of permit surrender, when the site no longer poses a pollution risk.
- 1.1.4 This plan will be updated on a regular basis to take account of revisions to working practices and results of any monitoring undertaken.

2.0 CLOSURE AND AFTERCARE PLAN

- 2.0.1 The purpose of the closure and aftercare plan is to ensure that the regulated facility can be maintained to avoid any pollution risk up to the point of the Environment Agency (EA) accepting the surrender of the Permit, when the site is no longer likely to cause a hazard to the environment. This will include the monitoring requirements of the aftercare phase and the necessary measures required to fulfil landfill completion.
- 2.0.2 The aftercare period extends from the time of final restoration to when pollution control measures are no longer required. At this site, this will include groundwater and landfill gas monitoring installations. The aftercare stage will include sampling and monitoring of groundwater and landfill gas in accordance with a reviewed Environmental Monitoring Plan.
- 2.0.3 As detailed on the restoration scheme (Drawing Number G17/1/19/04 Revision C) the site will be restored to agricultural land and calcareous grassland. The calcareous grassland will also include exposed rock faces (or crags) and screen areas comprising loose tipped limestone quarry waste with randomly spaced limestone boulders to provide a variation in habitat.

Restoration

- 2.1.1 Suitable inert material will be imported to the site to aid in the progressive restoration of the site alongside on site quarry waste, topsoils and sub soils material that will be stripped and retained on site to facilitate the restoration of the site. The material deposited at the site will be strictly inert and be accepted in accordance with waste acceptance procedures set out in Appendix B – Operating Techniques of this application.

Aftercare

- 2.1.2 Aftercare for the proposed calcareous grassland and agricultural land will be undertaken. The calcareous grasslands require a management regime of cutting, the frequency and timing of which will, in part, dictate the type of vegetation community that forms. In year 1 aftercare management of the seeded/hay-strewn areas will include the following operations:
- Mowing of the developing sward: the first cut will be undertaken when the sward reaches 100 - 150mm height with the sward being cut back to 50 - 75mm. The arisings will be taken off-site or dispersed across the mown area;
 - Repeated mowing as required during the rest of the year following the above prescription;

- No hay cropping will be undertaken during year 1; and
- Patches of invasive species developing within the sward (creeping thistle, spear thistle, ragwort) will be treated via “weed-wipe” or similar applicator with an appropriate herbicide.

2.1.3 In years 2 to 5 following establishment of the sward during year 1, aftercare management in subsequent years will adopt a traditional agricultural regime involving the following operations:

- Hay crop taken in late July – early August following seed set: the precise timing of the cut will depend on seasonal weather; and
- Patches on invasive species developing within the sward (creeping thistle, spear thistle. Ragwort) will be treated with “weed-wipe” or similar applicator with an appropriate herbicide

2.1.4 The aftercare for the agricultural land will involve the monitoring of the soil structure throughout the five year aftercare period. Soils will be sampled and analysed periodically throughout the aftercare period with the results being used to determine the amounts and types of any nutrients that are deemed necessary to fulfil the long term aims of the soils rehabilitation. Care will be taken to ensure that no work, other than previously approved authorised cultivations, is allowed to take place during periods deemed to be out of the normal accepted cultivation window. Annual aftercare meetings will be arranged to review progress.

2.1.5 Annual review meetings will be held with the Mineral Planning Authority if requested, where the previous year’s operations will be discussed and the proposals for the following year presented for approval. The operator will maintain records combined into an “aftercare terrier” for the re-instated land and which will include the following details recorded annually:

- Details of soil replacement depths and areas restored to topsoil level in the previous twelve months
- Proposed species/variety/mixture used and the seeding rate;
- The amounts/types of herbicides used with the dates of application;
- Details of any secondary treatment undertaken;
- Cultural operations undertaken; and
- Results of the grassland monitoring for species establishment.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.0.1 The Closure and Aftercare Plan demonstrates that the proposed activity at the Greetham Quarry can be managed and maintained to avoid any pollution risk up to the point of surrender, when the site will no longer pose a pollution risk.

DRAWINGS

G17/1/19/04 (Revision C) – Restoration Plan