

APPENDIX A
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An application for an environmental permit to authorise the deposition of waste on land as a recovery activity for the restoration of Willington Lock Quarry, St Neots Road, Bedford to agriculture and nature conservation

Non-technical Summary

- 1.1** MJCA is commissioned by Breedon Trading Limited (Breedon) to prepare an application for a bespoke Environmental Permit for the deposition of waste on land as a recovery activity in order to restore the mineral extraction area at Willington Lock Quarry, St Neots Road, near Bedford (the site) to agriculture and nature conservation. The Environment Agency (EA) have confirmed that the activity comprises recovery.
- 1.2** Willington Lock comprises a new area for the extraction of sand and gravel within the wider Willington Quarry Complex. Willington Quarry Plant Site located 1.3km west of the site was operated as a centralised unit which was used to process mineral from the adjoining and nearby mineral extraction areas over a number of decades. Restoration has been carried out at Willington Quarry Plant Site in a progressive manner and as such various areas of the Willington Quarry Complex have already been restored through the importation of inert waste materials.
- 1.3** The site is located approximately 2.9km east of the eastern extent of Bedford and approximately 760m east north east of Willington and 925m south west of Great Barford. Mineral extraction operations commenced at the site in March 2021. The site is centred approximately on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 125 505 and covers an area of approximately 26.6ha. The location of the site is shown on Figure ESSD 1 for reference. The site will be accessed from a new access onto St Neots Road which will join an internal access track. A bailey bridge will be created over the River Great Ouse to gain access to the site.
- 1.4** The closest property to the site is the Grade II listed building Old Mills Cottage which is located 220m north east of the site. Mill Farm is located approximately 370m west south west of the site and Mill Farm Cottages and Barford Road Farm are located approximately 375m west south west of the site. The River Great Ouse runs from west to east along the northern boundary of the site. The site and surrounding area

is shown on Figure ESSD 2. National cycle route 51 crosses the site in an east to west direction located in the central area of the site. The Ouse Valley Way (Public footpath no.3) crosses the site from east to west providing a river valley walk between Great Barford and Willington. It is understood that during the mineral extraction and restoration operations Footpath 3 and National Cycle Route 51 will be diverted. Footpath 3 will be diverted round the northern boundary of the site and National Cycle Route 51 will be diverted round the eastern, northern and western boundaries of the site. To the north of the site Footpath 3 and National Cycle Route 51 will follow the same route. The existing fields are bounded by existing hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees.

- 1.5** The Willington Lock site is located in the administrative areas of Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council. Planning permissions references CB/17/05654/MW and 17/03351/EIAWM for the *'Extraction of sand and gravel; installation of mineral processing plant, construction of a quarry access onto St Neots Road; installation of a temporary access road crossing the River Ouse; restoration of extraction area partly using the imported inert material'* were issued on 21 May 2019 by Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council respectively. The mineral extraction area at the Willington Lock site is located in the administrative area of Central Bedfordshire Council. A copy of the planning permissions together with plans showing the boundary of the planning permissions are presented in the Environmental Site Setting and Design (ESSD) Report included in this Environmental Permit application.
- 1.6** The site covers an area of approximately 26.6 hectares. Approximately 867,000 tonnes of sand and gravel will be extracted from the site. The site comprises 4 phases. Phases 1 and 2 are located in the southern area of the site and Phases 3 and 4 are located in the northern area of the site. The restoration of the site to agriculture and nature conservation interest will necessitate the importation of approximately 447,000m³ of inert restoration materials. Plans showing the restoration of the site are presented in the ESSD Report. There is a high pressure gas main aligned east to west which passes beneath the site. It is understood that Breedon consider that it is highly unlikely that the gas pipeline will be removed or relocated, although ultimately this is a decision which will be taken by Cadent who operate the

pipeline. Given that there will be a significant cost to divert the pipeline apparatus it may be that the most cost effective solution will be for Cadent to leave the apparatus in-situ and to recompense Breedon for loss of profits through retention of a 'pillar of support'.

- 1.7** Based on information reviewed on Defra's MAGIC website the closest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is Sandy Warren SSSI which is located approximately 6.6 km to the south east of the site. There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar Sites, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) or National Nature Reserves (NNRs) located within 2 km of the site.
- 1.8** Based on the geological information presented on the British Geological Survey maps of Bedford (sheet 203) and Biggleswade (sheet 204) the area in the vicinity of the site is underlain by superficial deposits comprising Quaternary alluvium and river terrace deposits of the Ouse Valley Formation. The alluvium consists of clay and silt with peat layers and underlies the majority of the site. The river terrace deposits comprise silt, sand and gravel and underlie the southern corner of the site. The geology which underlies the site can be seen on Figure ESSD 8.
- 1.9** The sand and gravel river terrace deposits are water bearing and have a moderate to high hydraulic conductivity. The underlying Oxford Clay Formation has a low hydraulic conductivity supporting the groundwater in the overlying sand and gravel deposits. The alluvium and river terrace deposits are designated as a Secondary A Aquifer by the Environment Agency. A secondary A aquifer is defined by the Environment Agency as "permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers." The Oxford Clay Formation is designated as unproductive strata by the Environment Agency. Unproductive strata is defined by the Environment Agency as "rock layers or drift deposits with low permeability that have negligible significance for water supply or river base flow".
- 1.10** Based on information provided by the Environment Agency the site is not located within a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) for a public drinking water

supply. The nearest SPZ is a Zone I and II located approximately 7.5km west of the site.

- 1.11** Based on the Environment Agency catchment data explorer website the site is located in the catchment of the River Great Ouse. Several water bodies are located in the vicinity of the site with a lake located approximately 75m east of the eastern boundary of the site and a lake located approximately 100m north west of the north western boundary of the site. On Ordnance Survey maps a drain orientated south west to north east is located approximately 15m south east of the site at the closest point adjacent to the south eastern side of Barford Road. The watercourses and waterbodies in the vicinity of the site are shown on Figures ESSD 1 and ESSD 10.
- 1.12** Based on information provided by the Environment Agency there are twelve surface water abstractions located within approximately 2km of a point located approximately at the centre of the site. The surface water abstraction licences include both single points of abstraction and reaches in the waterbody. The nearest surface water abstraction is licence number 6/33/12*S/0019 for a surface water abstraction point located approximately 165m south of the site with the water recorded as being abstracted from the watercourse near Willowhill Farm for 'General Agriculture: Spray Irrigation – Direct'. The approximate locations of the abstractions located within approximately 2km of a point located approximately at the centre of the site are shown on Figure ESSD 9.
- 1.13** In the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) included with this application consideration is given to the potential for accidents, odour, noise and fugitive emissions having regard to the proposed site operations and the presence and location of sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the site. Operations at the site will be undertaken in accordance with the control measures described in the ERA. Company operational, maintenance, inspection and accident management procedures will be put in place to minimise the risk of nuisance or accidents at the site. It is concluded in the ERA that the operation of the facility has a low or very low risk of adverse impact on the surrounding environment. A programme of environmental monitoring will be carried out to confirm the results of the ERA. The results of the monitoring will be reported to the EA on a regular basis.

- 1.14** Based on the results of the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA) included with the application it is considered that there is no significant risk from the proposed deposition of inert waste to groundwater quality in the vicinity of the site. Based on the environmental setting and the inert nature of the materials that will be deposited at the site active long-term site management will not be necessary in order to prevent long term groundwater pollution. A programme of environmental monitoring will be carried out to confirm the results of the HRA. The results of the monitoring will be reported to the EA on a regular basis.
- 1.15** The inert waste types that will be accepted at the site the subject of the Environmental Permit are presented in the Environmental Permit application. Waste acceptance procedures will be in place to minimise the risk that unacceptable waste materials will be accepted at the site including procedures for the rejection of non-conforming loads. The receipt, handling and storage of waste materials will be the subject of procedures in the Company management system which is the subject of Breedon's ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS). A summary of the EMS is included with the Environmental Permit application.
- 1.16** Breedon is committed to ensuring that members of its staff are technically competent to undertake waste operations and uses the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management/Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (CIWM/WAMITAB) scheme for these purposes. The training standards set out in the CIWM/WAMITAB scheme, as relevant to the operation of a facility for the deposit of waste on land and waste operations in general, are adopted for training purposes.