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SHELLINGFORD QUARRY WASTE RECOVERY PLAN TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT VARIATION APPLICATION EPR/BP3095EU/V006

For

MULTI-AGG LIMITED

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SHELLINGFORD QUARRY WASTE RECOVERY PLAN TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT VARIATION APPLICATION EPR/BP3095EU/V006

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Shellingford Quarry currently operates under Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Permit EPR/BP3095EU which provides for restoration infilling with imported inert waste of the quarry excavation in accordance with extant Planning Permissions, STA/SHE/8554/11-CM (MW.0021/11) STA/SHE/8554/12-CM (MW.0020/11) and P18/V2610/CM (MW.0104/18). The site is operated by Multi-Agg Limited (Multi-Agg).

The most recent Planning Permission (P18/V2610/CM), granted in September 2020, provides for the extraction of sand and limestone and the restoration infilling with imported inert waste, and indigenous soils, of the quarry excavation in the western quarry extension area.

This report presents a Waste Recovery Plan (WRP) for the restoration infilling with imported inert waste of the quarry excavation in the western extension area approved by Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM.

The WRP has been prepared in order to provide the information necessary for the Environment Agency to confirm that the permanent deposit of imported inert fill within the quarry excavation in the western extension area is a waste Deposit for Recovery (DfR) activity and not a waste disposal activity.

The WRP has been prepared having regard to Environment Agency guidance (updated on 29th June 2023).

It is considered that recovery operations coded R5 and R13 in Annex IIB of the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2006/12/EC) are applicable to the completion of the approved restoration infilling works in the western extension area.

An application will be submitted to vary the existing Environmental Permit EPR/BP3095/EU to accommodate the restoration infilling with imported inert waste in the western extension area as a DfR activity. The existing permit holder and permit variation applicant is Multi-Agg.

2. PURPOSE OF THE WORK

The EPR Permit application is to vary the existing Environmental Permit EPR/BP3095EU to accommodate the restoration infilling with imported inert waste in the western extension area as a DfR activity.

The volume of imported inert waste required for the restoration infilling with imported inert waste in the western extension area, approved by Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM (MW.0104/18) is *c.* 1.60Mm^3 which equates to a tonnage of *c.* 2.88Mt (using a conversion factor of 1.8t/m^3).

Drawing No. SHELLQMA2508-1 shows the site location and Drawing No. SHELLQMA2508-2 shows the EPR Permit variation application area within the context of the existing EPR Permit area. Drawing No. SHELLQMA2508-3 is the site plan which shows the total extent of the varied EPR Permit area being applied for.

The approved restoration scheme provides for the restoration of the western extension area to a mix of semi-natural habitats including woodland, hedgerows, species-rich grassland, trees and scrub and a waterbody, and areas of farmland. The latter will safeguard the best and most versatile soil resources on site.

All site restoration activities within the additional western mineral extraction area, being the subject of the Environmental Permit variation application, will be carried out in accordance with the approved Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (incorporating Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan) prepared in accordance with the requirements of Conditions 36 and 38 of extant Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM (Oxfordshire County Council).

It is important to note that the proposed scheme has been designed by professional specialists.

Specific objectives in relation to landscape, ecology and water management are outlined below.

- ***Landscape objectives:***
  - Introduce structural planting that reflects the best and most characteristic elements of the local landscape.
  - Establish vegetation on the restored landform at the earliest opportunity to reduce the visual presence of development.
  - Ensure the restoration scheme reflects the local landscape character.
- ***Ecological objectives:***
  - Reinforce connectivity between existing and restored habitats and the wider landscape.
  - Enhance biodiversity within the restoration scheme through the creation and management of areas of wetland, hedgerow and grassland habitat.
  - Control threats to biodiversity such as spread of invasive and non-native species.
- ***Water management objectives***
  - Ensure self-sustaining and effective water management of rainfall and groundwater.
  - Seek opportunities to benefit wildlife interest in the profiles of the restored water features.

Appendix 1 presents detailed scheme drawings approved by extant Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM (Oxfordshire County Council).

Approved restoration surface contours for the western mineral extraction area, which is the subject of the Permit variation application, are shown on Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-16 in Appendix 1 and also on Drawing No. SHELLQMA2508-8.

Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-17 in Appendix 1 shows a series of cross sections through the approved restoration landform in the western extension mineral extraction area.

A further important benefit of the activity is the diversion of non-recyclable inert waste from landfill disposal to a more beneficial end use.

It is considered that there is a clear benefit from the activity.

3. PLANNING PERMISSION

The works, involving the importation and placement of inert fill material within the western extension area, are approved by Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM. The Planning Permission decision document is provided in Appendix 2.

4. QUANTITY OF WASTE USED

The fill capacity required for the western excavation area associated with the EPR Permit variation application is *c.* 1.6Mm^3 which equates to a tonnage of *c.* 2.88Mt (using a conversion factor of 1.8t/m^3). This is indicated as the volume of fill material required to achieve the approved restoration landform provided for by Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM. A lesser volume of fill material would not deliver the approved scheme.

The scheme was designed by Malford Environmental Consulting having specific regard to the requirements for delivering the intended benefits associated with restoration of the western extension area to a mix of semi-natural habitats including woodland, hedgerows, species-rich grassland, trees and scrub and a waterbody, and areas of farmland. The latter will safeguard best and most versatile soil resources on site.

The development scheme drawings for the western extension area of the Shellingford site approved by extant Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM are presented in Appendix 1. Approved restoration surface contours for the western mineral extraction area, which is the subject of the Permit variation application, are shown on Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-16 in Appendix 1.

Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-17 in Appendix 1 shows a series of cross sections through the approved restoration landform in the western extension mineral extraction area.

The maximum thickness of imported inert fill to be placed in the additional western mineral extraction area will be 15m.

The ability of the scheme to successfully deliver the identified important ecological habitats and associated benefits is contingent upon the site being restored in the approved manner and to the approved restored surface levels provided for by the Planning Permission.

There is no source of on-site fill material available for use in the restoration. Accordingly, there is a requirement to import 1.6Mm^3 of inert fill material to achieve the approved restoration in the western mineral extraction area. This requirement was identified in, and formed part of, the original Planning Application. The scheme has been approved and accordingly the importation of the inert fill material is provided for by extant Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM.

The application is submitted on the basis that that the minimum amount of waste is being used to achieve the intended benefit and that the permanent deposit of 1.6Mm^3 imported inert fill in the additional western mineral extraction area at the Shellingford site is a waste deposit for recovery activity and not a waste disposal activity.

5. MEETING QUALITY STANDARDS

5.1 Is the recovered waste material suitable for its intended use?

The recovered waste will be imported inert fill material sourced from construction sites within the general Oxford area. To ensure that the recovered waste material is suitable for its intended use, the works will be managed by staff having the appropriate level of technical competence with relevant qualifications gained from one of the accepted industry schemes. Waste Acceptance Criteria inspection procedures will be in place to ensure that the inert fill material used in the works is as described on Waste Transfer Notes, is permitted by the Environmental Permit and is fit for purpose (Appendix 3).

The waste types provided for by the EPR Permit variation application remain unchanged from those listed in Schedule 2 (Table S2.1) of the existing Environmental Permit EPR/BP3095EU (it should be noted that the waste types provide for the importation of uncontaminated wastes from brownfield developments). The waste types are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Waste types

Waste types	
Exclusions **Wastes having any of the following characteristics shall not be accepted:** **Consisting solely or mainly of dusts, powders or loose fibres** **Hazardous wastes** **Wastes in liquid form**	
Waste Code	**Description**
17	**CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTES (INCLUDING EXCAVATED SOIL FROM CONTAMINATED SITES)**
17 01	**concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics**
17 01 01	concrete (2)
17 01 02	bricks (2)
17 01 03	tiles and ceramics (2)
17 01 07	mixtures of concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics other than those mentioned in 17 01 06 (2)
17 05	**soil (including excavated soil from contaminated sites), stones and dredging spoil**
17 05 04	soil and stones (excluding topsoil and peat) other than those mentioned in 17 05 03 (1)
19	**WASTES FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, OFF-SITE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND THE PREPARATION OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND WATER FOR INDUSTRIAL USE**
19 12	**wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste (for example sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising) not otherwise specified**
19 12 09	minerals (for example sand, stones) from the treatment of waste aggregates that are otherwise naturally occurring minerals – excludes fines from treatment of any non-hazardous waste or gypsum from recovered plasterboard (2)
20	**MUNICIPAL WASTES (HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND SIMILAR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WASTES) INCLUDING SEPARATELY COLLECTED FRACTIONS**
20 02	**garden and park wastes (including cemetery waste)**
20 02 02	soil and stones (excluding topsoil and peat) (1)
(1) For the purposes of waste acceptance, soil includes naturally occurring sands and clays (2) Selected construction and demolition waste (C & D waste): with low contents of other types of materials (like metals, plastic, organics, wood, rubber, etc). No C & D waste from constructions, polluted with inorganic or organic dangerous substances, e.g. because of production processes in the construction, soil pollution, storage and usage of pesticides or other dangerous substances, etc., unless it is made clear that the demolished construction was not significantly polluted. No C & D waste from constructions, treated, covered or painted with materials, containing dangerous substances in significant amounts. If it is unsure whether the waste fulfils the definition of inert waste, or is uncontaminated, then testing of the waste must be undertaken to confirm compliance with the criteria for inert waste as specified in The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 as amended. The origin of all waste must be known.	

5.2 Will the proposal be completed to an appropriate standard?

The works will be undertaken by an experienced operator (Multi-Agg) and will be managed by staff having the appropriate level of technical competence with relevant qualifications gained from one of the accepted industry schemes. Robust Waste Acceptance Criteria and Procedures will continue to be implemented to ensure that the inert fill material used in the works is as described on the Waste Transfer Notes, is permitted by the Environmental Permit and is fit for purpose.

The works will continue to be undertaken in accordance with principles of best practice including British Standard BS 6031:2009 (Code of practice for earthworks).

A method specification for the placement and compaction of imported inert fill is presented in Appendix 4.

Management of the completed restoration scheme will be in accordance with the management plan (Shellingford Quarry, Western Extension, Oxfordshire – Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Including Biodiversity Management and Monitoring). Malford Environmental Consulting, November 2020) approved by extant Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM and presented in Appendix 5.

5.3 Engineering and Monitoring

An Artificial Geological Barrier (AGB) will be constructed on a phased basis across the floor and side slopes of the western excavation area, as has been constructed within the currently permitted existing permitted inert landfill area. The AGB will comprise a compacted layer of suitable indigenous quarry material (overburden material and processing fines) and/or suitable selected imported inert waste material and will have a minimum thickness of 1m and a permeability no greater than 1 x 10^{-7}m/s.

The AGB will be constructed in accordance with the approved original Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Plan (PGW&A Report reference SQL/CQA Plan/1) and the Addendum CQA Plan (GWP Report No. 190508) approved by the Environment Agency.

The risk assessments provided in Appendix H of the Environmental Permit variation application have established that the deposit for recovery activity within the additional western mineral extraction area, approved by extant Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM, will not cause environmental harm.

The imported fill material will be inert and robust Waste Acceptance Criteria and Procedures will continue to be implemented at the site to ensure that this is the case (see Section 5.2 and Appendix 3).

There will be no significant potential for the imported fill material to impact adversely on groundwater or surface water quality or to generate gas.

Groundwater monitoring is discussed in Section 5.1.3 of the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA) (GWP Report No. 250716) and surface water monitoring is discussed in Section 5.1.4.

Based on the findings of the Landfill Gas Risk Assessment (LGRA) (GWP Report No. 250213), no gas monitoring is required and none is proposed as the risk screening revealed no potential for significant gas generation. The existing Environmental Permit EPR/BP3095/EU does not require gas to be monitored at the site.

No aftercare monitoring will be required given that the imported fill material will be strictly inert and will not cause environmental harm.

6. OBLIGATIONS TO DO THE WORK

6.1 Obligations

As described in Section 2 the restoration of the Shellingford Quarry western extension area, is subject of Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM, granted by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) on 24th September 2020 (Appendix 2). This places a legal obligation on the applicant to complete the approved restoration within the western mineral extraction area, whether with waste or non-waste material. This alone demonstrates that the waste is being used as a substitute for a non-waste material.

Condition 1 of Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM states that:

"The development shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the particulars of the development, plans and specifications contained in the application except as modified by conditions of this permission. The approved plans comprise…."

Condition 1 lists, amongst others, the phasing plans for extraction and restoration and the approved restoration scheme for the western extension together with the planning application, Environmental Statement and working scheme description. The plans referred to in Condition 1 are discussed in further detail in Section 6.2.

In granting Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM, OCC has imposed specific obligations in relation to restoring the site according to approved plans. In respect of specific obligations the EA states in the recovery guidance:

"Obligations may specify the scheme you have to carry out. If you have specific obligations to complete the scheme you propose, the Environment Agency will normally accept recovery where your waste recovery plan includes:

- *evidence of the obligation*
- *plans and cross sections that show your proposal matches the obligation on you*

- *evidence* that the waste is suitable for the intended purpose"

Section 6.2 refers to each of these points in turn.

6.2 Evidence of the obligation

Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM confirms the specific obligations in respect of restoring the site according to the approved plans.

Condition 1 of the Planning Permission (Adherence to Approved Details) states that:

"The development shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the particulars of the development, plans and specifications contained in the application except as modified by conditions of this permission. The approved plans comprise: [inter alia]

- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 1 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-8 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 2 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-9 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 3 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-10 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 4 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-11 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 5 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-12 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 6 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-13 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 7 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-14 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Illustrative stage of development: Stage 8 Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-15 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Proposed Restoration Landform Drawing No. SHELQEXT1807B-16 Rev A dated 02.08.2018*
- *Restoration Proposals Drawing No. 2459-5-2-DR-0001-S5-P3 dated June 2"*

The reason for the condition is to ensure the development is carried out as proposed.

Condition 6 of the planning permission states:

"The site shall be progressively restored with restoration taking place following extraction and infilling, in accordance with approved plan General Phasing and Direction of Working and Extent of Mineral Extraction Area SHELQEXT1807B-3 Rev A."

The reason being to ensure that the development is carried out as proposed, environmental impacts are minimised and that restoration takes place in a timely manner (OMWCS M10).

Conditions 1 and 6 of the Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM places a legal requirement for Multi-Agg to progressively restore the western extension. The construction of the proposed scheme would technically be feasible using imported primary source non-waste material. However, use of such material would be inappropriate and would not be consistent with sustainability principles given that imported inert waste requiring disposal to landfill and is fully in accordance with the aspirations set out in various HM Government waste management documents including:

- Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management;
- Waste Management Plan for England: December 2013; and
- Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011.

7. SUMMARY

This report presents a Waste Recovery Plan (WRP) for the proposed works (Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM which provides for, *inter alia,* site restoration using imported inert fill material within the western mineral extraction area).

Completion of the approved site restoration scheme, involving the restoration of the additional western mineral extraction area requires 1.6Mm^3 (approximately 2.88Mt using a standard conversion factor of 1.8t/m^3) of imported inert fill material.

This WRP accompanies an application to vary existing Environmental Permit EPR/BP3095EU to accommodate the additional placement of imported inert fill material under a deposit for recovery activity within the approved western quarry excavation area to allow the approved works to be completed.

The existing Permit holder and Permit variation applicant is Multi-Agg Limited.

It is considered that the approved works satisfy the waste recovery tests and that this WRP confirms that the permanent deposit of imported inert waste in the western extension area at the Shellingford site to achieve the proposed restoration scheme is a waste recovery activity and not a waste disposal activity.

GWP CONSULTANTS
JANUARY 2026

APPENDIX 1

Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM development and restoration drawings

APPENDIX 2

Planning Permission P18/V2610/CM Decision Notice

APPENDIX 3

Waste Acceptance Procedures

APPENDIX 4

Method Specification

APPENDIX 5

Malford Environmental Consulting Shellingford Quarry, Western Extension, Oxfordshire – Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. November 2020