3 - The Proposed Development

The mineral extracted from Dewars Farm Quarry is limestone, which is an essential natural resource used in the construction industry to build homes, schools, roads and other types of development. It can only be dug where it is found, which is why quarrying has taken place in this area for many years.

The limestone at Dewars Farm Quarry will soon be exhausted and therefore new reserves are required to continue supply to the local market. The agricultural land to the north-east of the existing quarry has been identified as suitable for mineral extraction.

The extension area is expected to yield approximately 3.5 million tonnes of limestone. The site will be worked in small areas or phases, thereby minimising the area worked at any one time. Once excavated, each phase will be restored using a combination of on-site materials and imported inert materials (recovered from local construction projects). The site will be returned to agricultural land, with added ecological habitats and biodiversity enhancement.

It is expected that the site can be worked and restored within approximately 10 years.

The extracted limestone will be processed within the existing quarry. The site access, offices and other ancillary services will be retained in their current position to serve the extension area. The quarry will continue to operate as per the existing site with the same operating hours and continue to operate to the same high standards to reduce any potential impacts to the environment and local community.

Proposed Extension Area

Restoration earthworks following extraction

Current stone extraction within the existing quarry

There will be screening mounds located around all of the site boundaries, these will be created from the topsoil stripped from the land, stored and then used to restore the land. Arrangements will be made to safely cross the public right of way that runs along the southern boundary of the extension area so that the right of way can still be utilised for the duration of operations.

Baseline surveys/assessments have been undertaken for a wide range of issues that the development could potentially affect which include:

- Landscape and visual impact
- Ecology
- Noise
- Air quality
- Highways and traffic
- Soils and agriculture
- Archaeology
- Water environment

The results of these assessments have helped us to design the scheme and reduce any potential impacts to an acceptable level.

View of the proposed extension area from the south-eastern corner of the site

View across restored land within the existing quarry

Dewars Farm Quarry Extension

SMITHS BLETCHINGTON