WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Welcome to Smith & Sons (Bletchington) Limited's exhibition about our proposals for an extension to Whitehill Quarry at Burford. We'd like your feedback on our extension proposals and these boards provide an outline of the plans together with details of the technical work done which have helped us to design the scheme.







The existing quarry



The proposed extension area

THE LOCAL OPERATOR







We are a local family run company that has been working in Oxfordshire for more than 100 years. We acquired Whitehill Quarry in 1990 and work the quarry for its limestone which provides a range of aggregate materials as well as building stone and some agricultural lime for Oxfordshire and the surrounding areas. Projects we have supplied range from East-West Rail Phases I and II, rail improvement works on the Chiltern line at Piddington, works at RAF Brize Norton and numerous housing and amenity schemes at Witney and Carterton. Whitehill Quarry provides local jobs for some 5 people and spends around £1million in the area each year including salaries, business rates and buying services from other local companies. We also like to support local community organisations in whatever way we can.



OUR PLANS



The quarry has been worked over many years to the lateral limits of its planning permission. The northern part of the quarry is now being restored and extraction is focusing on the lower limestone benches moving southwards. While we have some remaining permitted reserves, we need to secure a long term supply in order to continue delivering much needed limestone into the local construction markets.





OUR PLANS



Our new plans involve working a field to the south east of the existing quarry where we estimate some three million tonnes of limestone are potentially available. At an extraction rate of 200,000 tonnes a year, this would last around 15 years with a further 5 years for restoration works using imported materials. The existing access onto the A40 would continue to be used for site traffic and the southern part of the existing Whitehill Quarry would be used while the extension is worked to provide additional operational space for temporary plant operations and storage of materials.



There are 6 working phases with working starting in the top north western corner and moving round in an anticlockwise direction using the same machinery and processing plant as in the existing quarry.

There will be screening bunds around all the site boundaries together with new hedgerow planting. Arrangements will be made to temporarily divert the Bridleway that runs to the east of the current quarry and crosses where the existing quarry and extension area meet ensuring it can continue to be used during working. This will see a diversion round the eastern side of the extension area physically separated from the quarry operations by a screening bund.