

# Site monitoring report

Please find detailed below the report for the site monitoring undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**Site Name:** Sheepcotes Farm, Sheepcotes Lane, Little Waltham, Chelmsford

**File Ref:** 23 421 51

Operator: SRC

Visit no: 1

**Monitoring Officer:** Tom Sycamore, accompanied by Chloe Budd, Rob Slater, Mark Baister.

**Tel No:** 03330 321896

## Permissions:

ESS/01/18/CHL – Construction of an agricultural reservoir

ESS/01/18/CHL/NMA1 – Revised alignment of the site access road

ESS/01/18/CHL/NMA2 – Additional drainage ditch with crossing points

## Constraints:

Weather: **Dry** / Windy / Rain / Snow

Noise: **Acceptable** / Not acceptable / N/A

Approach Roads: **Dry** / Dusty / Wet / Muddy / Flooded

Ground: **Dry** / Dusty / Wet / Damp / Muddy / Flooded / Frozen

Access: Obstructed / **Not obstructed**

Wheel Cleaning: **Washer** / Spinner / Sweeper / Not working

Hose: In use / Not in Use / **N/A**

Machinery: **Working** / Not working

Stockpiles: Height = **Various**

Bunds: **Profiled** / Grassed / **Weeds** / **Soil**

## Inspection results summary:

- Arrival on-site at 10:30 – met with Site Manager (John Hilton) and Planning & Estates Manager (James Sutton). Road sweeper was on-site at time of arrival.
- Processing plant operational, though no mineral currently uncovered for extraction whilst archaeology works being undertaken.
- Archaeology works were taking place in the north-east corner at time of visit following recent approval and discharge of revised written scheme of investigation (ref: ESS/01/18/CHL/27/2). This follows initial non-compliance with archaeology condition which has now been rectified. Some late iron age findings had been discovered. Topsoil bund constructed round area of archaeology works which will be removed afterwards.

- Phase 1 of extraction has been completed. Works moving in counter-clockwise direction. Overburden in the eastern side of the site was being worked down to reveal next stage of mineral, expected to hit ballast within a week or two.
- Current rate of extraction is approximately 800 tonnes/day Monday-Friday, with maintenance works on Saturdays.
- Walked down to south-eastern corner of site and inspected convoluted grades and mix of mineral types and benches. Continued to walk down to south-western corner of site into phase 1 area where extraction has been completed. Clay beginning to be used for lining of the reservoir.
- No reported complaints from neighbouring property to the south-west. Previously received a noise complaint when extraction was taking place in phase 1. It is assumed that as works have moved east, noise has been less of an issue for neighbour.
- Proceeded to walk back to plant and stockpile area and examined the processing plant and stockpiles of different grades of gravel.
- Confirmed with site manager that weighbridge has been replaced as discussed at last meeting. Drawing of new weighbridge will need to be submitted to Mineral Planning Authority (MPA). The previous weighbridge detail is included on approved drawing (Drawing no. M16.181.D.008). This can be submitted as a non-material amendment (NMA).
- Noise monitoring has been submitted in July. Next monitoring due in 6 months time.
- Discussed adjacent farmer enquiring about reinstating access to field from site and sharing site access as their existing access onto A131 is proving dangerous when pulling out in tractors. As mentioned in previous monitoring report, this would introduce an agricultural use which is a separate use to the quarry and will therefore need permission. The farmer would likely need to make an application to Chelmsford City Council to use the access. The farmer should contact Chelmsford City Council planning department to discuss. The access is planned to be removed as part of site restoration. Retaining the access post-development would be contrary to restoration plan. Advise that if shared access is desired by farmer, this should not include a permanent retainment of site access.

**Action to be taken before next visit:**

- Submit new weighbridge details to MPA as NMA.
- Inform adjacent farmer that they should contact Chelmsford City Council regarding shared access.

**Compliance with conditions:**

- Ongoing noise monitoring (condition 19)