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Scoping Request

for

**Southern and Northern Extensions and Progressive Restoration to
Morville Quarry, Morville, Shropshire**

Prepared By

Kedd Limited

On Behalf of

Shropshire Sand and Gravel Company Limited

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KD.MOR.D.002 – Location Plan

KD.MOR.D.014 – Current Situation

KD.MOR.D.015A – Block Phasing

KD.MOR.D.016 – Concept Restoration

1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Shropshire Sand and Gravel Company Limited (hereafter referred to as the Applicant), to seek Shropshire Council's (SC) Scoping Opinion for Northern and Southern extensions and progressive restoration to Morville Quarry (the Site). The Site is illustrated on the Site Location Plan (Drawing No. KD.MOR.D.002).

1.1.2 The site is located to the east of the village of Morville, within the authority area of Shropshire. The existing quarry, and its extension areas, are bound to the north by the A458 and to the south by Telegraph Lane. The extension areas current land use is agricultural land, as illustrated on the Current Situation Plan (Drawing No. KD.MOR.D.014), and described in detail within Section 1.2 of this Scoping Request.

1.1.3 This Scoping Request has been prepared to identify the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development which will need to be assessed in detail within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and reported within the Environmental Statement (ES) which will accompany the planning application.

1.1.4 The proposal includes the following elements:

- Southern and Northern Mineral Extensions to Morville Quarry;
- Retention of the existing quarry access onto Hangmans Lane leading to Telegraph Lane;
- Creation of a crossing point across Hangmans Lane for quarry access into the proposed Northern Extension area. Priority vehicle traffic will remain with users of Hangman's Lane;
- Retention of existing infrastructure and the provision of a new updated processing & soil wash plant within the existing Morville Quarry;
- Restoration of the existing Morville Quarry area & Southern Extension to a mix of Agricultural Land, Species Rich Grassland, Waterbodies and Woodland utilising site indigenous soils and overburden material, together with clay material from soil wash processing; and,

- Restoration of the Northern Extension Area utilising inert and site indigenous soils and overburden material, back to original ground level, and restoring to a mix of Agricultural Land and Species Rich Grassland.

1.1.5 To assist SC in arriving at a considered view, details of the proposed development and a Site description are outlined below, along with a broad assessment of any potential environmental effects and their significance. In addition, other considerations material to the preparation and determination of a planning application are also discussed.

1.2 Site Location and Setting

Site Location

1.2.1 The Site Location is shown on drawing reference KD.MOR.D.002. The Site itself is effectively formed of three parcels; the existing Morville Quarry, the Southern Extension (Area A), and the Northern Extension (Area B). The Site is currently accessed via a bellmouth onto Hangmans Lane, which in turn provides access to Telegraph Lane to the south, connecting onwards to the A458 in the west. The total red line boundary covers 58.2Ha.

Existing Morville Quarry

1.2.2 The existing Morville Quarry area covers ~10.68Ha. It is currently operational and is undergoing progressive restoration of its southern and western quarry faces. To the north east of the operational quarry is an area of agricultural land, situated between the quarry and the A458. The boundary with the A458 is tree lined, as with the Southern parcel's northern boundary. The existing quarry footprint is separated from the proposed Northern Extension by Hangmans Lane connecting to the A458 in the north and Telegraph Lane to the south.

1.2.3 Beyond the A458 to the north and Telegraph Lane to the south is further agricultural land. North West of the site, along Hangmans Lane, is the residential property of 'The Hollies'.

Southern Extension Area A

1.2.4 The Southern Extension Area consists of an existing agricultural field unit (~8Ha). The area is bound to the north by a similar agricultural hedged field and subsequently outbuildings, associated and housing to the Boars Head Farm complex, beyond which

is the A458 providing connections as far as the Birmingham conurbation in the east, and Shrewsbury / Mid Wales to the west. The eastern boundary comprises a hedge lined boundary. The southern boundary consists of a hedgerow, a further agricultural field and a hedgerow separating the site from Telegraph Lane. Finally, the western boundary of the parcel is bordered by the existing Morville Quarry footprint, agricultural land and Public Right of Way (PROW) Footpath 0132/7/1. The land use of the Southern parcel is largely agricultural land, separated by hedgerows. There is also 'Tiddle Brook' and subsidiary ditches which enters the site from the northern boundary, travelling south then east out of the site through the eastern boundary.

- 1.2.5 Beyond the Southern parcel to the north, east and south west is further agricultural land. To the south east of the parcel is an area of restored former mineral workings, and to the south of Telegraph Lane (south east of the Site) is the existing Bridgwalton Quarry footprint.

Northern Extension Area

- 1.2.6 The Northern Extension area (~12.81Ha) is formed of one parcel of agricultural land, triangular in shape. The site is bound on all sides by variable quality hedgerows with three field accesses, to the north east, south east and west. The A458 borders the Site to the north, Hangmans Lane to the east, and Telegraph Lane to the south. The junction of Telegraph Lane / A458 is located at the western tip of the site.

Receptors and Designations

- 1.2.7 The nearest residential receptors to the site include the residents of:

- Boar's Head Farm;
- The Hollies (located on Hangmans Lane);
- 'The Ley' on the A458 adjacent to the Sites northern boundary;
- 18-19 Morville Heath (A458) ~35m north;
- The Old Vicarage ~165m west;
- Houghton Ridge ~240m north west;
- 2 Henley Farm Cottages ~100m north;

- Heathcote ~100m north;
- The Lye Farm ~300m south;
- Bridgwalton Farm ~330m east;
- Footbridge Farm ~460m east; and,
- Tasley Urban Extension (21/05023/OUT) – There is a currently undetermined planning application for up to 550 dwellings located ~1.13km east of the Scoping Development at the nearest boundaries.

1.2.8 Bridgnorth is located ~1km east of the site at its closest residential property, with the town centre ~2.5km east of the proposed Southern Extension area.

1.2.9 Within 2km of the Site there is one nationally designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Devil’s Hole Morville which is designated for its importance for studies of primitive fish. The site contains sources of fossils of primitive fish that illustrate a sequence of evolutionary changes that occurred through the passage of Silurian – Devonian periods of the Paleozoic Era.

1.2.10 There are three area of Ancient Woodland, classified as ‘Ancient & Replanted Woodland’ and two as ‘Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland’. All areas form one woodland belt ~420m south of the development site known as Aston Hill Woods. In total the designations cover ~23.8Ha.

1.2.11 One Scheduled Monument (SM) is located within the 2km study area of the Site, this being the Medieval cross in St Gregory’s Churchyard. There are also a total of 23 Listed Buildings within 2km, consisting of 20 Grade II, two Grade I and one Grade II* listings. The closest of these being Evcall House and No’s 29 & 30 within Morville village ~230m west of the Site.

1.2.12 The final designations within 2km of the Site is the Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden ‘Aldenham Park’. The designation covers 12.8Ha of land, approximately 1km north west of the Site.

1.2.13 The Flood Map for Planning Website (<https://www.flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk>) shows that the majority of the site is within Flood Zone 1 which is the area at the lowest risk of flooding, a probability of 1 in 1,000 annual probability of fluvial or sea flooding. However, there is a linear belt along the eastern boundary of

the proposed Site which is within Flood Zone 3, the highest risk of flooding with 1 in 100 year annual probability of fluvial or sea flooding.

1.3 Planning History

- 1.3.1 Planning permissions date back to 1958 for the working of sand at Morville Quarry (MB58/1698/S/BR) across approximately 4.2 acres. There have been a number of mineral extension permissions granted over the lifetime of the quarry – firstly in 1962 (62/3070) and in 1993 (SC/MB1990/0509/BR). A third extension application, in 1999, (MB1999/0172/BR) was refused by Shropshire Council.
- 1.3.2 The extant planning permission at Morville Quarry is 11/01890/EIA, which was granted in April 2011. The permission allows for the recovery of remaining mineral reserves using the existing site access and infrastructure with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation.
- 1.3.3 In 2019, a Discharge of Condition application was permitted, discharging nine conditions which formed part of the 11/01890/EIA permission. These conditions were in respect of: noise monitoring, mitigation measures, wheel bath facility, stockpiling areas, details of quarry plant, ecology – great crested newt survey, mitigation for loss of nesting opportunities, site investigation and restoration of habitat creation areas.

2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The proposed development is an extension of mineral extraction both east and west of the current quarry workings as well as a new updated processing plant within the existing quarry working area, which can also operate as a soil wash plant.

2.1.2 The following drawings are submitted in support of the proposed development:

- Location Plan – KD.MOR.D.002;
- Current Situation - KD.MOR.D.014;
- Block Mineral Extraction Phasing Proposals - KD.MOR.D.015A; and,
- Concept Restoration - KD.MOR.D.016.

Existing Morville Quarry

2.1.3 As can be seen on the Current Situation Drawing (KD.MOR.D.014), the existing quarry is accessed off Telegraph Land via Hangmans Lane. The entrance to the quarry is via a tarmac surfaced roadway / gravelled track leading to the plant site as a single track. A wheel wash being located adjacent to Telegraph Road which HGV's transporting mineral products to point of use / sale utilise before exiting the site on the public highway.

2.1.4 The existing quarry plant site comprises a welfare office and weighbridge, storage portacabins, a mobile screeding / processing plant, 'as dug' mineral stock piles awaiting processing and processed stock piles. Mineral is currently being extracted within the north western area of the quarry by an excavator which loads 'as dug' mineral into a dump truck which then transports the material to the dry screening / processing plant.

2.1.5 Mineral products are then temporarily stockpiled and / or loaded directly onto HGV'S for transportation off site to point of sale. Morville Quarry in combination with Bridgwalton Quarry (which as discussed is also owned and operated by Shropshire Sand and Gravel) have a HGV vehicle limit of 350,000 tonnes per annum of mineral sale. The individual / combined sales vary between the two quarries but does not exceed this limit.

2.1.6 Currently there is approximately 120,000 saleable tonnes of mineral remaining in Morville Quarry. Production and sale being reduced over the last six months to 85,000t, to allow time for the production and determination of a planning application for the extension over the next 18 months.

Proposed Phasing & Mineral Reserve

2.1.7 The Proposals Plan and associated progressive phasing areas are illustrated on Drawing No. KD.MOR.D.015A. In summary the Application Site comprises the retention of the current site with its vehicle access point and which will have been fully extracted, with a restoration formation level at its base of (~88maOD). This level being generally between ~8 to 17m below adjacent (off site) levels to the west, north and east, so contained within a void, to be utilised as the plants site area. Within this area a new mineral processing and soil wash plant will be located.

2.1.8 There will also be two separate mineral extraction areas, one to the south (Area A) and one to the north (Area B). The Southern Area currently forming 'part' of Shropshire Councils' Preferred Allocated' areas for mineral extensions. The area is allocated within the adopted Shropshire SAMDev Plan, and proposed to be a 'saved' allocation within the forthcoming Shropshire Local Plan currently at examination. Whilst the Northern Extension Area does not form part of an allocated site, it is located within a Sand and Gravel Safeguarding area, with drilled and proven mineral.

2.1.9 The Block Proposals drawing illustrates the whole of the proposed extension application. It should be noted that all areas will not all be worked / disturbed at any single point in time. The proposal will involve phased working and restoration to minimise the operational area of land disturbed at any one point in time. Mineral will be extracted both above and below the ground water table within the Southern Extension Area and above ground water within the Northern Extension Area.

2.1.10 The localised geology within the Application Site provides for both sand and gravel, coarser sand / building sand and a finer sand deposit. The combined deposit is therefore suitable for producing a variety of mineral products but does require blending. Therefore, extraction will take place concurrently within the Northern and Southern Extensions to provide a blend of material.

Based upon drilling works and geological investigation and assessment of the mineral deposit it is assessed that the combined extension areas will release:

- Approximately 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel. Sales will be based upon 250,000 tonnes per annum over a 12 year period;
- To ensure the sustainable use of mineral the proposed new processing / soils wash plant will be able to generate approximately 3.4 million tonnes of recycled mineral through the importation and wash / process of soils and inert materials. This would be based upon 170,000 tonnes per annum over a 20-year period;
- Total site and recycled mineral sales from Morville will therefore be 420,000 tonnes per annum over a 12-year period and 170,000 tonnes per annum over an 8 year period (from purely recycled mineral sales) once the full extraction of in-situ mineral has been completed; and,
- From approximately Year 6 of the proposed development, once a sufficient extracted void has been created in the Northern Extension Area, inert restoration material will be imported to supplement this areas restoration back to original ground levels in combination with dried silt from soil washing and the indigenous currently in-situ soils. This will require approximately 0.8million tonnes over 14 years, equating to the importation of ~ 57,000 tonnes of inert material per annum.

2.1.11 The Southern Area will be restored utilising a combination of in-situ soils and silt materials gained from the mineral processing.

2.1.12 The Northern Area B is a single land unit, which after a Phase 1B and Phase 2B soil strip will be extracted by deepening, during Phases 3B, 4B and 5B, to a datum of 86maOD. Although this limits the opportunity for progressive restoration it will progressively take place during the operational period. To ensure the outer and higher elevations of Area B are assimilated / temporarily restored into the local site context, it is proposed to place stripped soils along the northern boundary of the site both in bunds and also an integrated site internal landform batter slope, which will be cultivated and seeded with a species rich grassland mix and maintained as temporary restoration.

2.1.13 All restored land will be subject to 5-Year Aftercare and Management regime by the Applicant (operator) before being finally handed back to the landowner for long term agricultural production and habitat management.

Proposed Restoration

2.1.14 The Concept Restoration scheme for the Application Site is illustrated on Drawing No. KD.MOR.D.016.

Existing Morville Quarry

- 2.1.15 The existing Morville Quarry will be restored to agricultural land within the main central body of the site. It will include an ephemeral water body to manage and hold any surface water. The surrounding / peripheral restoration slopes will be cultivated and planted with species rich wildflower meadow bordered by both native woodland and hedgerows.
- 2.1.16 Existing vehicle entrance and internal quarry access track will be retained for management purposes. The temporary access across Hangmans Lane will be removed and planted up.

Southern Extension Area

- 2.1.17 The scheme has been designed to integrate the landform and ground water aspects of the extracted mineral, adjacent undisturbed land, retention and enhancement of landscape structural elements including hedgerows and woodland blocks, together with maximising the soil resources to achieve best and most versatile land characteristics for agricultural production and the creation of new sustainable wildlife habitats to promote Biodiversity Net Gain. The Southern Extension area will be progressively restored as mineral extraction operations progress to ensure the exposed / operational footprint of the quarry is kept to a minimum.

Northern Extension Area

- 2.1.18 It is proposed to restore the Northern Extension area back to agricultural land at original ground level. Due to the nature of the infilling restoration within the Northern Extension area, progressive restoration will not be possible. As stated previously, the bund and the temporary initial batter slope to the perimeter of this extension area will be seeded with species rich grassland to ensure a temporary biodiversity benefit during the operational phases prior to restoration.
- 2.1.19 The proposed restoration land use within the Northern Extension Area is a mix of Species Rich Native Hedgerows to the perimeter, with Agricultural Land being the main land use within the area. A buffer of Species Rich Grassland will sit between the hedgerow and the agricultural area.

Overall Restoration Land Uses

2.1.20 The restored land uses for the whole site being:

| Restoration Landform/use | Area (Ha) |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Agricultural land | 28.45 |
| New Native Woodland | 3.75 |
| Planted Bund | 1.15 |
| Species Rich Wildlife Grassland | 10.08 |
| Reedbeds / Aquatic Marginals | 2.48 |
| Shallows and Waterbodies | 7.12 |
| Total Restoration Land Area | 53.03 |
| | |
| Species Rich Native Hedgerow | 2.22km |

3 THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

- 3.1.1 The need for an Environmental Assessment is considered under the terms of the Town and County Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 3.1.2 The proposed development would fall within Category 2a (extractive industry) of Schedule 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017. Category 2a defines all Quarry/extractive development to be caught by the thresholds and require Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 3.1.3 The Practice Guidance for Environmental Impact Assessment (last updated March 2019) provides guidance on screening Schedule 2 development. Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 4-107-20170728 sets out that if the project is listed in Schedule 2, the Local Planning Authority should consider whether it is likely to have significant effects on the environment. Paragraph 018 sets out that this means taking account of the selection criteria in Schedule 3 – the characteristics of the development, it's location and the types and characteristics of any potential impact.
- 3.1.4 To assist in the screening process, indicative threshold criteria has been produced (Annex to the main Guidance). In regard to Quarries / Category 2a development, the indicative threshold to require Environmental Impact Assessment is (in regard to sand and gravel quarries) if the quarry site will exceed 15 hectares or the extraction of over 30,000 tonnes of mineral per year. The likelihood of significant effects will tend to depend on the scale and duration of the works, and the likely consequent impact of noise, dust, discharges to water and visual intrusion. Given the volume of extraction – 0.35million tonnes per year – it is our view that the development exceeds these thresholds and therefore an application will require Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 3.1.5 SC is requested under Part 4, Paragraph 15 of the EIA Regulations to provide guidance on the Scope of the information to be provided in the Planning and Environmental Statement.
- 3.1.6 To assist you in the formulation of the Scoping Opinion, the following sections provide a broad outline of potential environmental effects and the proposed technical considerations / assessment that will accompany a Planning Application. Consideration is also given to the potential benefits and other relevant considerations.

4 POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND BENEFITS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 It is considered that the potential effects on the environment that could result from the proposed development are as follows:

- Landscape and visual effects;
- Ecology and nature conservation effects;
- Effects of transport and access;
- Noise effects;
- Air quality and dust effects;
- Effects on archaeology and cultural heritage;
- Impact on the water environment;
- Effects on public rights of way;
- Effects on soil resources and land use; and,
- Climate Change

4.2 Landscape and Visual

4.2.1 A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be carried out which will assess the likely effects of the proposed mineral development (inclusive of restoration) on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity.

4.2.2 The aim of the assessment will be to understand the baseline landscape and visual resources and receptors within the Site / local area and to assess their value and sensitivity to change, resulting from the proposed development type. From this baseline position, the LVIA will assess the specific magnitude of effect of the detailed development proposed on landscape and visual resources / receptors including iterative consideration, landscape mitigation and enhancement measures to determine the Level of Significance of Effect on Landscape and Visual matters (which could potentially be adverse or beneficial).

4.2.3 The LVIA will be undertaken with reference to best practice guidance, as set out in the following documents:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, 2013 (GLVIA3).

4.2.4 Assessment work will be carried out in respect of landscape orientated planning policies and designations, landscape character, visual amenity and the potential for cumulative effects.

Landscape Orientated Designations and Planning Policies

Landscape Character

4.2.5 The Landscape Character is described at three levels. These being National Level, County/District Level and Local / Site level in order to fully appreciate the component elements, features, interactions and susceptibility to change. All of these areas will be considered as part of an EIA.

4.2.6 The National Level Character Area (NCA) in which the Site is located is 'Mid Seven Sandstone Plateau' – Character Number 66. At the westernmost tip of the Northern Extension Area the site borders NCA 65 – 'Shropshire Hills'. For robustness of the LVIA, considerations of both NCA characteristics shall be included.

4.2.7 At District Level the Site is located within 'Estate Farmlands' Landscape Character Area within the Shropshire Landscape Typology document from 2006. The Site is also in proximity to 'Riverside Meadows' to the west and 'Timbered Plateau Farmlands' to the north / east.

4.2.8 At the local level, the Site's current situation and landscape has been detailed within Section 1.2 of this Scoping Request.

4.2.9 All of the above in addition to known opportunities for landscape enhancement will be given consideration in formulating the final restoration scheme to accompany the Application.

Visual Amenity

4.2.10 The LVIA will assess the effects on both the wider visual envelope of the proposed development and specific views on the visual amenity experienced by localised

receptors. The findings from the LVIA along with other environmental topics including ecology will inform any mitigation required and will be integrated into the phased working and restoration scheme for the Site as well as the overall Concept Restoration and its management.

4.3 Ecology & Nature Conservation

- 4.3.1 An assessment of the potential ecological impact of the proposed development area would be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines produced by IEEM 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment'.
- 4.3.2 A Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) will be carried out initially comprising a desk study collating and analysing information from the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website; Shropshire Ecological Data Network (SEDN) and pre-existing site information. This will be supplemented by Field survey (on-site visit). Results will be collated to identify key plant species and habitat. Additional specific surveys will be recommended as part of the PEA.
- 4.3.3 As part of the 2011 planning application a Phase 1 Habitat Survey was conducted on the land comprising the existing Morville Quarry footprint. The survey identified 11 habitat types onsite, as well as 25 bird species including Sand Martins. In addition the site is noted to be of local importance for invertebrate population. Only rabbit activity was identified in respect of mammal species.
- 4.3.4 With regard to protected species, Great Crested Newt (GCN) and Breeding Birds surveys were undertaken. The site was found to be poor or below average suitability for GCN, with no record of GCN activity recorded. The Breeding Birds survey identified a further 12 bird species to those already recorded, however none were identified as having breeding behaviour. There were a total of 26 species identified onsite, and 38 in the surrounding area. Overall it was assessed that the bird population was only of local significance.
- 4.3.5 Mitigation has been included within Conditions 26 and 27 of the extant planning permission for both GCN and Breeding Birds.
- 4.3.6 For the proposed development, the results of survey work will be used in creating the final scheme design. The ecological chapter would describe and assess the potential ecological impacts of any detailed proposals supplied. Direct effects on ecological resources resulting from activities that are an integral part of the project would be

considered and the indirect and cumulative effects would be examined. The duration of the effect (e.g. permanent or temporary and short, medium or long-term), and sensitivity of receptor would also be taken into account.

4.4 Traffic

4.4.1 Current traffic movements associated with the Site relate to the ingress and egress of HGVs from the bellmouth off Hangmans Lane on the western boundary of the existing Morville Quarry. Hangmans Lane in turn provides access onto Telegraph Lane to the south, and onwards to the A458 junction west of the Site.

4.4.2 At present, Morville Quarry and Bridgwalton Quarry, both of which lie off Telegraph Lane and are operated by the Applicant, have a combined output of 350,000 tonnes per annum. As part of the proposals, Bridgwalton Quarry is to be mothballed, and all extraction focus to be placed onto Morville Quarry and the proposed extensions. Mineral sales combining both site indigenous sand and gravel and recycled mineral products from soil washing utilised in the blending process will not exceed 420,000 tonnes per annum. From ~years 6 onwards ~57,000 tonnes per annum of inert material for restoration purposes will be imported into the site to help restore the Northern Extension Area.

4.4.3 A Transport Assessment will be produced to consider the impact of vehicle movements associated with the development, the suitability and safety of the road network and consideration of any other relevant developments proposed within the area which could result in a cumulative impact.

4.5 Noise

4.5.1 An assessment of the potential impact of noise will be undertaken taking into consideration proposed operations, noise sensitive receptors, existing mitigation measures and noise limits in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

4.5.2 The existing noise conditions (11/01890/EIA) state:

Condition 7a – Noise levels measured as LAeq 1h (free field) shall not exceed the following levels at the nearby noise sensitive locations during normal quarrying operations.

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Noise Limit LAeq (1hr)</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>The Hollies</i> | <i>47</i> |
| <i>The Ley House</i> | <i>52</i> |
| <i>Bridgwalton Farm</i> | <i>45</i> |
| <i>The Lye Farm</i> | <i>45</i> |

b – Notwithstanding condition 7a, noise levels shall not exceed 70dB(A) LAeq 1h (free field) at The Hollies, Morville Heath Farm, Bridgwalton Farm, and The Lye Farm during temporary operations such as soil stripping. The increase in noise levels allowable for temporary operations shall not apply for more than 8 weeks in total any one year.

c – A noise monitoring scheme to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the noise limits specified in conditions 7a and 7b above shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to the Commencement Date and the approved measures shall thereafter be implemented in full.

4.5.3 Condition 7c required the submission of a Noise Monitoring Scheme (NMS). A scheme was approved, and therefore the condition discharged as part of permission 19/04461/DIS.

4.5.4 In support of a forthcoming planning application, a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be produced to consider any potential impact to the properties listed within Condition 7 and the NMS, as well as any other properties / receptors which are deemed sensitive to the proposed development.

4.5.5 Should it be required, the NIA will suggest mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the scheme. A review of the NMS will be undertaken and if necessary, amendments will also be made to include for additional noise sensitive receptors and any other changes deemed necessary by a suitably qualified Noise Consultant.

4.5.6 The review shall include for:

- Baseline attended noise surveys at sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the extension area. If a suitable and secure location can be identified, unattended noise surveys may also be undertaken.
- A baseline assessment of noise levels which would include the baseline noise levels collected from the surveys and noise data from the Site's existing mobile and processing plant;

- Analysis of baseline noise data using modelling to calculate noise levels associated with the proposed operations;
- The assessment will also consider whether the extension will lead to the identification of further noise sensitive receptors which may require ongoing monitoring; and,
- Where appropriate, outline mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce the noise impacts from Site activities to within acceptable levels at the nearest sensitive receptors.

4.5.7 In addition to the NMS, the following best practice measures are proposed to suppress noise emanating from the site and ensure that static and mobile plant will be suitably noise attenuated and maintained:

- Checks of mobile plant will be carried out including inspection of vehicles transmission, exhaust and hydraulic systems;
- Should ancillary diesel driven equipment be employed, the equipment will be suitably silenced to ensure that noise generated by such equipment does not give rise to an increase above the agreed permissible noise levels; and,
- No mobile plant will operate with intrusive audible reversing alarms, in line with best practice guidance reversing warnings will be 'white noise' type alarms.

4.6 Air Quality and Dust

4.6.1 The primary focus of the AQ / Dust Assessment will be dust. The assessment will set out consideration of potential dust impacts from the proposals, the existing management and monitoring controls on dust, and any required additional mitigation / monitoring measures. The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) 'Guidance on the Assessment of Mineral Dust Impacts for Planning' to consider the impact of operational phase dust emissions and air quality. This will include consideration of mineral extraction, processing, storage, transport from the quarry to the processing area and loading onto HGVs.

4.6.2 The impact of dust and the potential effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures will be assessed having regard to potential sensitive receptors. The effectiveness of current dust control measures associated with the existing mineral extraction

operations will also be considered, where these are relevant to the proposed operations. The assessment will include recommendations for any additional mitigation, if deemed necessary.

4.6.3 In considering the risk of dust impacts, details of any complaints received from the Local Authority as well as meteorological records will be considered.

4.6.4 All dust monitoring data will be appropriately analysed, and the results presented within a report, which would be submitted with the ES. There is no Dust Monitoring Scheme currently implemented onsite. The AQ/ Dust Assessment will provide for suitable mitigation measures to be incorporated within the final scheme.

4.6.5 It is proposed to employ the same operational methods within the extension areas to the existing quarry working areas. Therefore, the following best practice measures are proposed to suppress impact on air quality and dust generation:

- Mobile plant will be regularly serviced and equipped with effective exhausts to prevent fume emissions;
- Haul roads will be adequately maintained;
- Water bowser will be used during dry conditions to suppress dust on the access road and other trafficked areas, as currently required by Condition 9 of the 11/01890/EIA planning permission;
- Vehicle speeds will be controlled on the access road and other trafficked areas;
- All vehicles will be inspected and cleaned as appropriate prior to leaving the site;
- All vehicles leaving the site shall be suitably sheeted;
- A road sweeper will be employed in the unlikely event that dust or mud from the site has been deposited on the public highway;
- Regular inspections of the public highway will be undertaken to identify the need for any cleaning requirements with observations logged;
- Drop heights will be minimised when loading and unloading vehicles;
- Temporary operations such as soil stripping, bund formation and final

restoration will typically be undertaken using an excavator, dump trucks and dozer with due regard given to weather conditions and type of material being handled to reduce dust generation;

- Peripheral screening bunds should reduce dust pick-up by wind;
- New screening bunds will be erected as soon as possible; and,
- Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather.

4.7 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

4.7.1 There are no known statutory designations within the proposed extension area.

4.7.2 As stated in paragraph 1.2.11 above, one Scheduled Monument (SM) is located within the 2km study area of the Site, this being the Medieval cross in St Gregory's Churchyard. There are also a total of 23 Listed Buildings within 2km, consisting of 20 Grade II, two Grade I and one Grade II* listings. The closest of these being Evcall House and No's 29 & 30 within Morville ~230m west of the Site.

4.7.3 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) supported by Geophysical Survey of the Site will be undertaken to identify the likely presence and significance of any potential archaeological remains within the proposed Site area. An assessment of any impacts in the proximity of the heritage assets will be undertaken.

4.7.4 The Desk-Based Assessment will be used as a baseline study for assessing the potential impact the development may have on any identified archaeological and cultural heritage resources. A Site walkover will also be undertaken to verify the findings of the desk-based research and identify any previously unknown cultural heritage features.

4.7.5 A DBA was produced in support of the extant planning permission at Morville Quarry. It highlighted that Morville was an important settlement in the Saxon period, but declined following the development of Bridgnorth in the Medieval period. There was limited development of Morville or Morville Heath post Medieval period, with most recent changes in field patterns post – WWII. There was also evidence of potential human settlement in the vicinity of the site during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

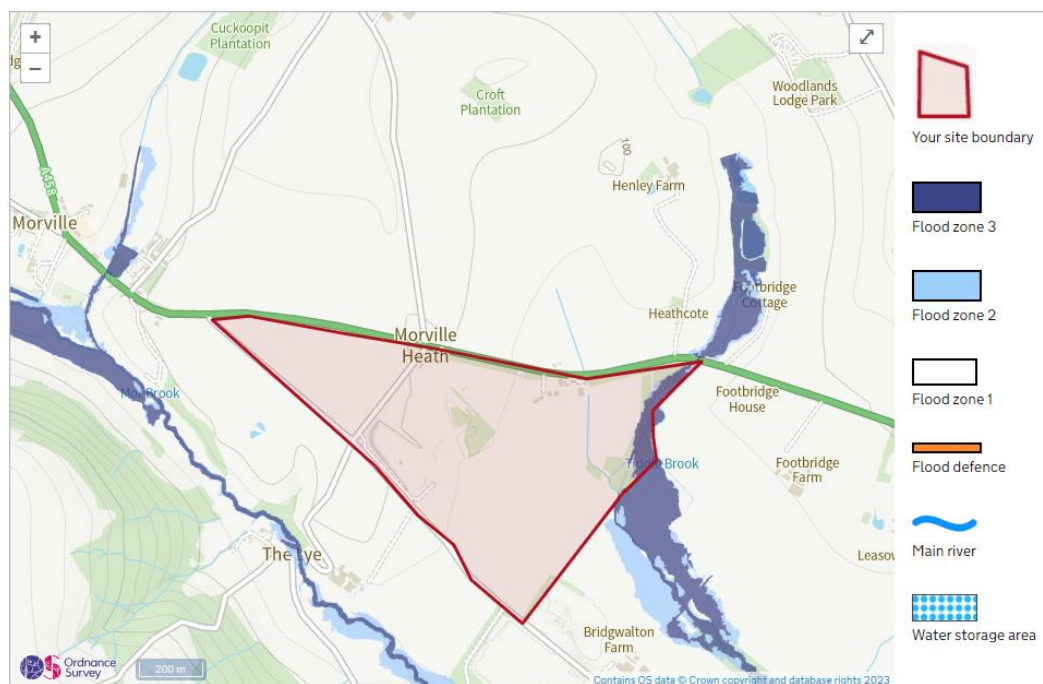
4.7.6 If required, consideration of potential mitigation measures to minimise any adverse impacts that are identified would be outlined and amendments to the scheme design made accordingly. This could include continuation of current mitigation methodology within the proposed extension area, if that is deemed suitable / required.

4.7.7 In the event that it is considered necessary to undertake any physical site work, the scope and extent of the work would be discussed and agreed in advance with SC's Archaeologists.

4.8 Water Environment

4.8.1 As stated at paragraph 1.2.13 above, and illustrated on Figure 1 below, the vast majority of the Site falls within Flood Zone 1, apart from a small linear belt along the eastern boundary which is within Flood Zone 3.

Figure 1 – Flood Map for Planning (<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>)



4.8.2 In addition to the Site being partially within the highest risk Flood Zone, it is proposed to extract mineral from both above and below the water table. Due to the importance of needing to understand the water environment at the Site and the potential impact of the proposed development, it is proposed to produce both a Hydrogeological & Hydrological Impact Assessment (HHIA) and Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).

Impact Assessment

- 4.8.3 There will be an assessment of the potential impacts of the development, involving groundwater assessment, Flood Risk Assessment and assessment upon the water environment. With regard to the proposed depth of working, the requirement for dewatering as with the existing quarry shall be investigated for necessity / suitability.
- 4.8.4 There will be assessment of likely direct effects upon the water environment of the proposed extraction and subsequent restoration. Including, as appropriate, calculation of radius of influence of extraction upon the extant groundwater table, alteration in recharge rates and resultant alteration of surface water and groundwater flow patterns and rates. This will be conducted with cognisance of the results of the hydraulic testing and assessment of surface flows undertaken in the locality.
- 4.8.5 There is no current Surface Water Monitoring Scheme or Groundwater Monitoring Scheme implemented onsite, resultingly groundwater boreholes and sampling locations will be installed across the extension areas to provide a baseline understanding of the water environment. An assessment of the potential indirect effects of alteration in groundwater and surface water flow patterns will be included as part of an Impact Assessment. Assessment of potential indirect effects of alteration in groundwater and surface water flow patterns will also be considered (i.e. upon ecologically sensitive receptors, licensed abstractions etc. & formulation of precautionary mitigation / monitoring programme as necessary).

Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)

- 4.8.6 The FRA will include an appraisal of flood risk and any flood levels for the application area. The FRA will also take account of the proposed restoration of the application area to ensure that there will be no long-term effects. The FRA will therefore include an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed restoration profiles on the hydrological environments, drainage and flood risk.
- 4.8.7 The Site-specific FRA will be compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance 'Flood Risk and Coastal Change'.

4.9 Recreation and Public Rights of Way

- 4.9.1 There is a Public Footpath (0132/7/1) which runs between the extension area and

existing Morville Quarry from Boar's Head Farm in the north, to Telegraph Lane in the south. This path is planned to remain in situ during the operational period of the quarry and shall be included within the restoration.

- 4.9.2 The potential amenity effects on rights of way users (e.g. potential visual, noise and dust effects) will be addressed within the Environmental Statement and also, where relevant, considered within other technical assessments referred to above.

4.10 Soil Resources and Land Use

- 4.10.1 A site-based assessment will be undertaken in order to establish the soil resources present within the extension area. The Provisional Agricultural Land Classification data published by Natural England identifies the site as being a mix of Grade 2 and Grade 3a.

- 4.10.2 This information will be used to determine the locations of the various soil types across the site and provide indication of materials which will be available for the restoration of the site which will be progressive throughout the life of the site. The assessment will give consideration to the approach to be taken to soil stripping, handling and storage and the subsequent use of the soils in the restoration of the site.

4.11 Climate Change

- 4.11.1 To ensure that climate change effects are fully considered, potential effects will be assessed within individual topic areas. A chapter will also be included within the ES to assess any potential over-arching effects related to climate change.

5 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Socio Economics

5.1.1 Socio-economics considerations will be limited to the direct and indirect employment benefits arising from continued mineral extraction for approximately 15 years for mineral extraction, and a further 12 years for the infilling operation. In addition to the economic benefit in extending existing operations which benefit from existing plant, facilities and infrastructure. As the output of the quarry will remain as it currently is, the economic benefits of the quarry will continue at the existing rate for a further 27 years. As a result, a full socio-economic assessment is not necessary, however consideration will be provided for within the application.

5.2 Need/Supply

5.2.1 As stated, the proposed development comprises both a Southern and Northern Extension to Morville Quarry. Part of the Southern Extension Area forms the 'Morville Extension' allocated within the Shropshire SAMDev Plan Policy MD5b. This policy is also proposed to be brought forward within the emerging Shropshire Local Plan, currently at examination as a saved allocation.

5.2.2 The most recent minerals data published is within Shropshire Local Plan Examination Documents GC22 (including a & b), ID29 and MWP01 (including a). Table DP30.1 in document GC22a identifies a production requirement of 24.65Mt across the plan period of 2016-2038. The existing permitted reserves are 17.84Mt, with the Saved Local Plan Allocation's totalling 3.84Mt. Approximately 0.7Mt of the Saved Local Plan Allocation is within the land allocated at Morville Quarry (approximately 0.3Mt being associated with this application), with the remaining being within the Gonsal Quarry Northern Extension area and limited remaining capacity at Wood Lane Quarry.

5.2.3 Table DP30.1 calculates a 'Windfall Requirement' of 2.97Mt across the Plan Period to meet the demand for mineral forecast within the emerging Plan; with a total of 7.99Mt of potential windfall mineral being proposed as extensions to existing mineral site, as identified through discussions between Shropshire Council and Mineral Operators within the authority area.

5.2.4 Approximately 4.8Mt of the windfall allowance within the emerging plan is attributed to Morville Quarry, as identified in Examination Document MWP01a. As part of the

proposed development is an allocation, and the remaining area of the extensions are included within the Council's windfall figures, it is considered that the proposed development is necessary for maintaining supply of mineral within Shropshire across the plan period. If this site does not come forward, then it would negatively impact on Shropshire's capacity to maintain its supply / landbank.

- 5.2.5 A full consideration of mineral need / supply will be provided within the forthcoming application. Additionally, waste capacity requirements will also be assessed in support of the placement of inert materials for restoration of the Northern Extension.

5.3 Alternatives

- 5.3.1 As set out in paragraph 041 (Reference ID: 4-041-20170728) of PPG, the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 do not require an applicant to consider alternatives. However, where alternatives have been considered, paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 requires the applicant to include in their Environmental Statement a description of the reasonable alternatives studied (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.
- 5.3.2 The Southern Extension area, in part, forms part of the allocated Morville Quarry Extension area within the Shropshire SAMDev Plan Policy MD5b, and proposed to be a 'saved' allocation within the emerging Shropshire Local Plan currently at examination. There are two other allocated sites within the Shropshire SAMDev, these being Wood Lane Northern Extension area and Gonsal Quarry Extensions.
- 5.3.3 The Wood Lane Northern Extension was permitted in June 2016 (14/4589/MAW), and the Gonsal Quarry Southern Extension was permitted in November 2021 (21/03846/EIA). Morville Quarry Southern Extension area, and Gonsal Quarry Northern Extension area are therefore the final allocated Sites to be brought forward. The only alternative will be a new green field site, but whilst there is an extension that is allocated in the Minerals Local Plan it is logical to seek extensions first.
- 5.3.4 Consideration will be given to the operational alternatives including phasing/scheme design, restoration and the transportation of mineral.

5.4 Cumulative Impacts

- 5.4.1 The NPPF identifies the need to consider the level of existing activity and impacts from an operation/number of local operations to assess the impact upon localities. Consideration will be given to the potential cumulative effects resulting from an extension to the quarry development and the overall duration of the operations.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1.1 Government guidance contained in the NPPF identifies the importance of involving the community on an iterative basis. As part of the scoping process, we welcome input both from the statutory and technical consultees, as well as the Parish Council at this stage.
- 6.1.2 As part of the formulation of a planning application, the Applicant will engage with the local community to allow local residents/community groups the opportunity to make comment.