Welcome

Road resurfacing

Thank you for attending our public consultation event, which is designed to share our proposals for Misterton Quarry.

The aim of this event is to provide you with information, give you an opportunity to meet the team, to answer any questions you may have, and to gather your feedback.

About Tarmac

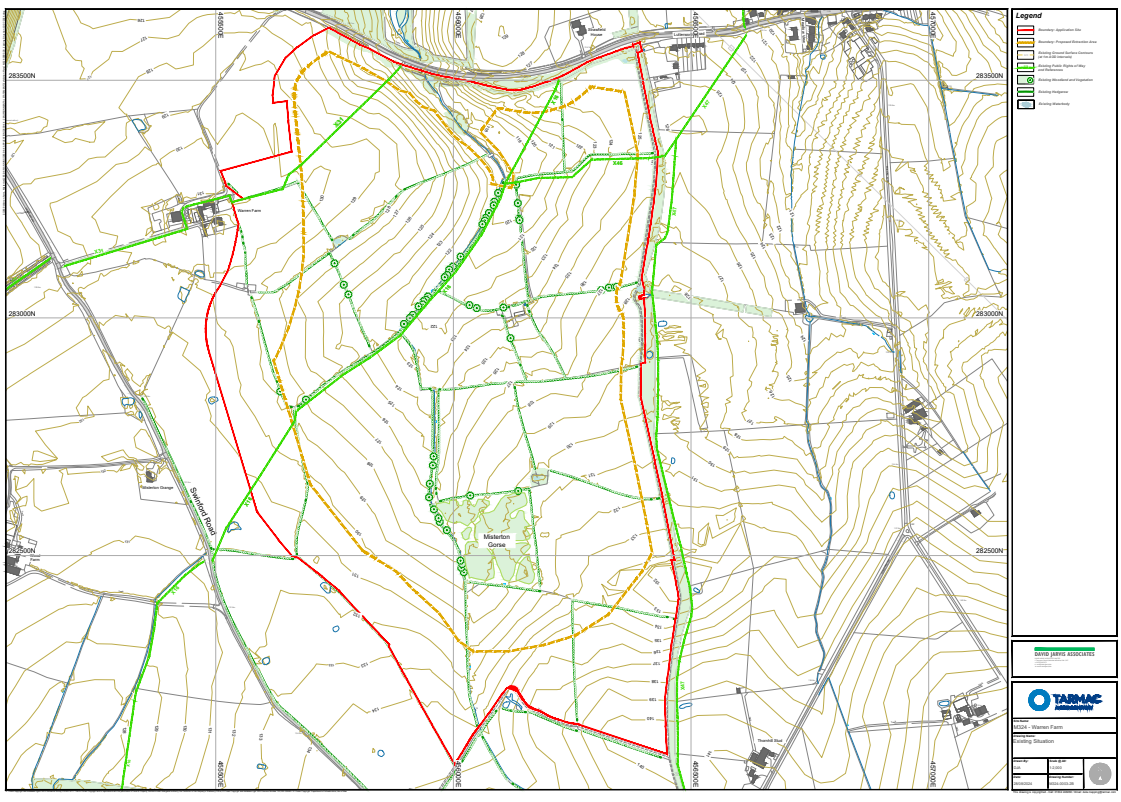
Tarmac is the UK's leading supplier of construction materials. With over 150 years of experience and heritage to our name, we're a national network of local businesses. We provide vital building materials, such as stone, sand, gravel, concrete, asphalt and mortar, which enables the construction and maintenance of homes, roads and key national infrastructure that are a vital part of our everyday lives.

We employ around 7,000 people across a network of more than 350 sites in the UK. As a large landholder, we are committed to managing the balance between industry, the natural environment and the communities we serve.

We ensure that the land we own and develop is managed responsibly and is sustainably restored and maintained for the benefit of local people and biodiversity.

The company plays a fundamental role in the supply of construction materials in the County. The proposals for Misterton Quarry are important to ensure that we can continue to provide a consistent, high-quality supply of sand and gravel within the Leicestershire area.

Why are we proposing a new quarry?



The existing site off the A4304

Misterton Quarry would serve as a direct replacement for Shawell Quarry, a sand and gravel quarry located approximately 4km to the southwest. Shawell Quarry has been operating since the 1950's supplying essential materials for local construction projects. The Quarry is due to cease mineral extraction in around 2 years' time when all viable mineral reserves have been extracted so there is a need to replace the supply of materials that would be lost from that site.

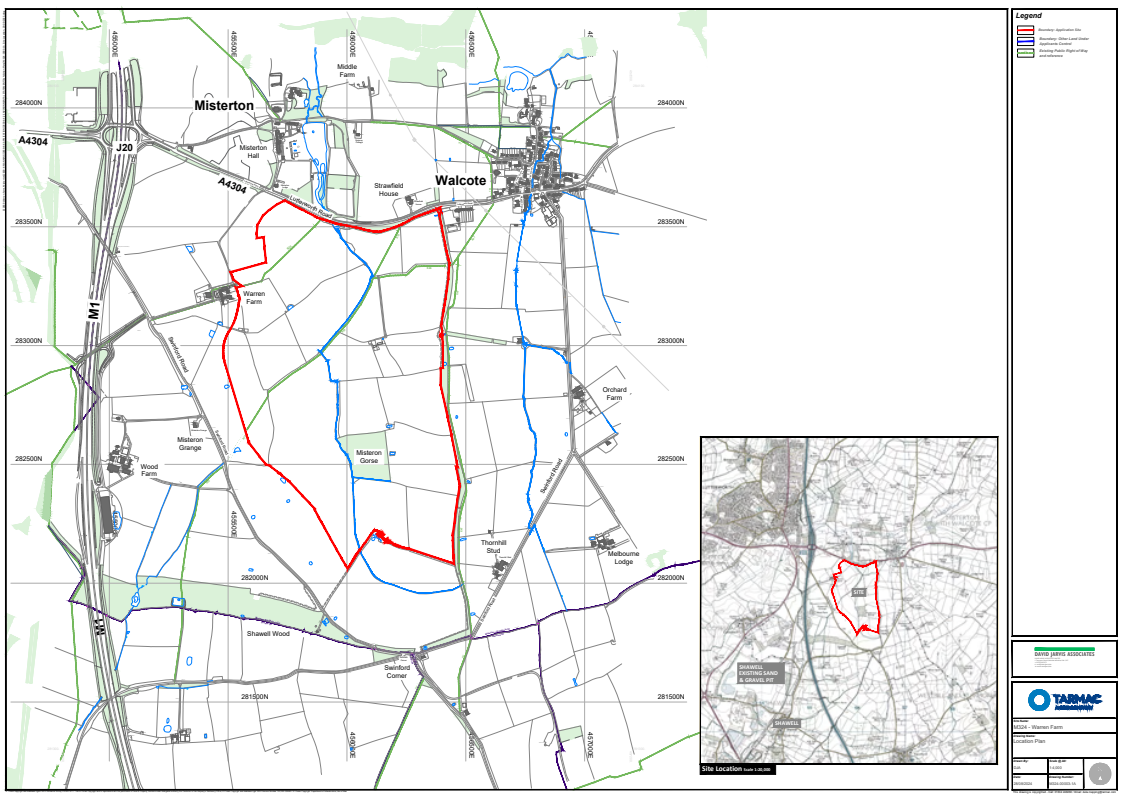
The application for Misterton Quarry is in line with policy in the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, adopted in September 2019, which calls for new sites to replace exhausted sand and gravel reserves in Leicestershire during the plan period to 2031.

The proposed quarry would help meet Leicestershire County Council's mineral supply, contributing towards the construction materials needed to support the Government's ambition of delivering significant numbers of new homes, renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure for the region. It would also assist with the replenishment of the county's landbank of sand and gravel reserves. At the end of 2022 this was equivalent to only 2 years, and is significantly below the 7-year minimum recommended in national planning policy.

Sand and gravel are vitally important for the construction industry. Misterton Quarry would ensure that there is a continued local supply of sand and gravel to support construction projects in the area.

The proposed new quarry would make a significant contribution to the regional economy, creating direct jobs on site as well as many more in the supply chain such as contractors, agency workers and independent contract hauliers who would help deliver our products and materials.

The site



Site map

The proposed quarry is located approximately 2km south-east of Lutterworth, approximately 0.4km south of the village of Misterton and approximately 1km west of the village of Walcote in Leicestershire.

The whole site covers an area of 112 hectares, whilst the proposed extraction area covers an area of 74 hectares. The site largely comprises arable land divided by an established hedgerow network. It is bisected by a central watercourse which runs north to south.

Other prominent features include Misterton Gorse and woodland planting along the site's northern perimeter. The site is also crossed by three public footpaths.

There are no statutory environmental designations (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Local Nature Reserves) located on the site or in proximity. The closest is the Misterton Marshes SSSI located approximately 1.2 km to the north.

There are also no non-statutory designations (such as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)) located at the site, with the closest being a potential LWS made up of a chestnut tree adjacent to the site along Lutterworth Road and Shawell Wood LWS located approximately 210m to the southwest.

TARMAC
A CRH COMPANY

Misterton Quarry
Public Consultation

Extracting the mineral

Quarry vehicle on site

The extraction process

Sand and gravel would be removed using conventional methods. We would temporarily reduce the groundwater level to enable the sand and gravel to be extracted “dry”. We would then use an excavator to dig the sand and gravel from the ground, which would be transported by a combination of dump trucks as well as a central conveyor system for processing.

The excess water is pumped for use in mineral processing and the manufacture of ready mixed concrete for use in site restoration. The process of extracting minerals would be supported by a detailed plan for managing the soil and other materials removed during extraction, which would facilitate the phased and progressive restoration of the site.

Mineral processing

Once the raw material is at the processing plant it undergoes a series of steps to clean it and separate it into different sizes. First, the mixture passes through large vibrating screens that filter out larger rocks and debris. The remaining material is then washed to remove any impurities such as clay or silt. Finally, the sand and gravel are sorted into various grades and sizes using specialised equipment.

Ready mixed concrete plant

A proportion of the sand and gravel extracted would be used to supply the on-site ready mixed concrete plant that produces ready-to-use concrete. It would be located in the north-eastern section of the site, replacing the plant at Shawell Quarry. Its design would include measures to minimise dust and other potential emissions.

Operational hours

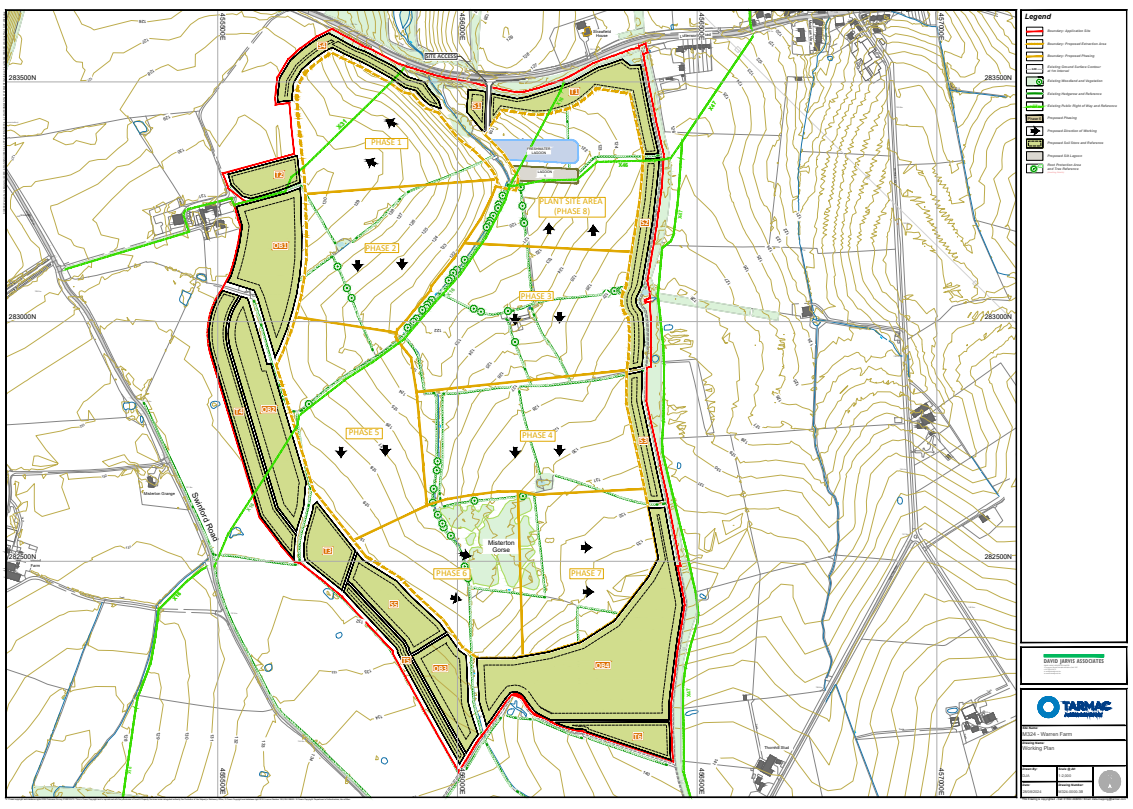
We intend to operate Misterton Quarry at the same hours as Shawell Quarry, which are 07:00-19:00 Mondays to Fridays and 07:00-14:00 on Saturdays. No operations would take place on Sundays or Bank Holidays. No operations should take place outside of these hours other than water pumping.

Reducing the impact of our operations on the local community is our number one priority, and the working scheme has been developed with this in mind. Over the following boards we will detail the ways in which we will seek to achieve this.

Did you know?

Our sand and gravel sites in the region provide construction materials for new housing schemes, as well as supplying facilities of more national strategic significance such as precast concrete products sites.

The proposals: working scheme



The proposed working scheme

Mineral extraction

Subject to the granting of planning consent, the quarry would ensure the continued production of sand and gravel in this area for approximately 20 years. As the site is new, we are proposing a purpose-built access off the A4304.

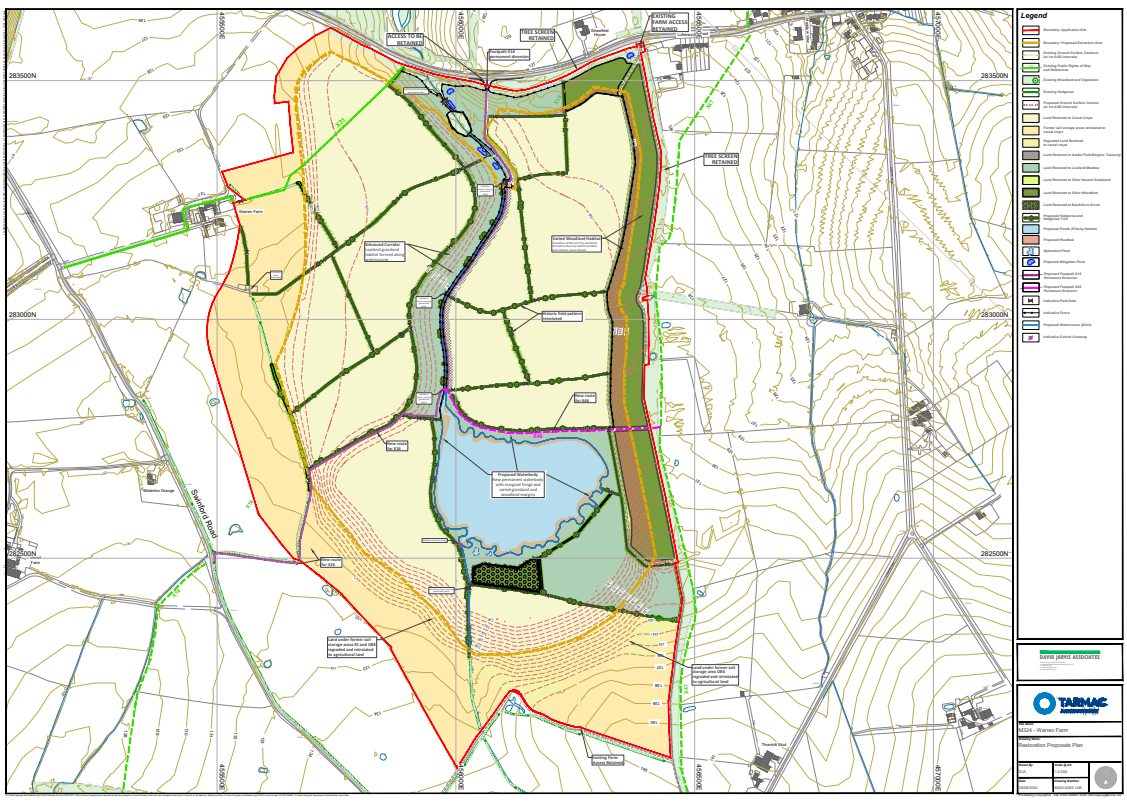
We would adopt a phased approach to extraction, with extraction taking place in seven different phases, with each phase restored once extraction is complete. This means we minimise the amount of land in operation at any one time and can start delivering the benefits of site restoration as early as possible. This also means that we can safely manage any public rights of way interactions, ensuring that accessibility across the site is always maintained.

Our operations would start within the north west of the site (Phase 1) progressing to the southeast of the site (Phase 7). The plant site, located to the north east of the site, would be worked as a final phase. It is envisaged that site preparation, establishment of the plant site and mineral extraction would take approximately 20 years to complete, with an additional two years to complete the final restoration. We intend to operate the quarry at the same rate of output as Shawell Quarry, with no change to the implementation of appropriate environmental mitigation measures and controls.

The extracted mineral would be transported using internal haul routes linked to a conveyor system that would be developed as the extraction phases progress to transport the mineral to the plant site for processing. The plant site would include a ready mixed concrete plant, which is also a replacement for Shawell.

Soil and overburden would be stripped as operations progress across the site, starting with the plant site area. This material would be used to create screening bunds for the working phases, minimising visual and environmental impact.

The proposals: restoration



Proposed restoration scheme

Planting, managing and restoring areas around the site would give us an opportunity to create a diverse environment that contributes positively to the area's ecology and biodiversity, whilst ensuring existing high-quality agricultural land-uses are reinstated so important farmland is not lost.

We are therefore proposing to predominantly restore the site to agriculture balanced with nature conservation – with a range of habitats, including woodland, meadow grassland and surface water features, to be established to support and enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

Our proposals also include maintenance and reinstatement of footpaths on or close to existing routes to allow people to continue to enjoy the local landscape.

- **Footpath X31** – Will be temporarily diverted during site preparation works and reinstated to its existing route upon completion
- **Footpath X16** – Would be permanently diverted as part of the proposed restoration to run north along the field margins and exit the site in the vicinity of the access, thereby maintaining the existing link with the A4304
- **Footpath X46** – Would also be permanently diverted to run southeast and east through meadow grassland to the north of the main water feature proposed as part of the restoration scheme

The restoration would be achieved through the use of indigenous (on site) soil and clay materials that would enable us to restore the proposed agricultural areas and create new habitats.

We are committed to restoring the land in and around the quarry after extraction so that it can be enjoyed by the local wildlife and the community. We work with a range of stakeholders across the County such as Leicestershire County Council, Natural England and the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust to ensure our restoration is positively enhancing biodiversity.

As is customary across the sites that we operate, we would be responsible for the aftercare of restored land for at least five years. We pride ourselves on delivering high-quality restoration schemes, and our work in this area has been recognised with awards, both nationally and internationally.

Access and transport

Tarmac branded HGV

Misterton Quarry would be located next to the A4304 (Lutterworth Road) along its northern site boundary, which links in with the M1 motorway to the west. We are proposing that the site would be accessed via a new purpose-built access off the A4304, which is part of the strategic road network, ensuring that site traffic would be led directly towards the M1 and the strategic road network. The majority of leaving the site would turn left toward the M1, with only a few turning right toward Walcote, which would be for local deliveries.

A Transport Assessment has been undertaken to accompany our planning application. It considered the impacts on the current surroundings and the local highway network, as well as the impacts on existing and future traffic flows during peak hours of operation in conjunction with other developments in the local area.

The fact that Misterton Quarry would be a direct replacement for Shawell Quarry would mean there would be no increase in traffic in the wider area but there would be a local re-distribution of movements. We recognise it would lead to an increase in lorry movements locally on the A4304, with around 110 lorries travelling in and out of the quarry each day. We would ensure that these movements are distributed across the working day and where possible avoid rush hour peaks.

When it comes to road logistics, we're committed to minimising disruption to road users and residents. Independent contract hauliers, which collect and deliver materials on our behalf, are monitored and must adhere to company guidelines, as well as always operating safely and responsibly.

We would implement appropriate environmental mitigation measures and controls, such as wheel washing and road sweepers, to minimise the potential for mud and debris on local roads. All Tarmac branded HGVs operating from the site will meet Euro 6 emission standards.

We take complaints about any of our vehicles very seriously and have a dedicated telephone line set up for members of the public to get in touch. To raise a query about Tarmac-branded vehicles please get in touch via the contact details in your handout.

Minimising our impact on the surrounding area

Hedgerow planting to provide screening

Example of a soil bund

Landscape

We are committed to ensuring that the proposals are designed to be sympathetic to the local landscape, so there is as little visual impact as possible. We have produced a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which has made a series of recommendations to minimise any potentially negative effects and identified opportunities to enhance the environment.

The proposals would include screening in the form of vegetated screening bunds and the retention of perimeter hedgerows, with additional planting where required at the western parts of the site. This would help to hide the view from Swinford Road particularly where this meets with the M1. We would utilise soil resources stripped from operational areas which would remain in place until the soils are required for restoration. Screening is also proposed towards the northeast corner of the site, off Lutterworth Road itself to hide the proposed plant site.

Groundwater and flooding

Groundwater entering the quarry would either be pumped to top-up a clean water lagoon for use in sand and gravel washing or would be appropriately discharged to the north of the site via the existing watercourse. This would all take place in accordance with permits issued by the Environment Agency..

The quarry is located within Flood Zone 1, which means that it is an area with the lowest probability of flooding. However, we would still develop surface water management plans to ensure that we minimise the risk of any flooding incidents on site as a result of our operations.

Our commitment to biodiversity and sustainability

Low carbon transport

We are committed to responsible land management and environmental stewardship. We have conducted an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA), which identifies the potential effects on ecology and biodiversity and proposes enhancement and mitigation measures. Our proposals accord with the principle of Biodiversity Net Gain, meaning that the development will have a measurably positive impact on local biodiversity.

Ecology

As part of this assessment, we have carried out numerous surveys to better understand the wildlife present on the proposed site, their habitats, and those in the surrounding area. We would implement the necessary mitigation measures and enhancements to ensure that local wildlife continues to thrive.

- **Badgers:** Undertaking annual surveys, as well as establishing artificial setts where necessary
- **Amphibians:** Waterbodies would provide potential homes for amphibians
- **Bats:** Provision of bat boxes to provide sheltering, roosting and nesting opportunities
- **Birds:** Provision of bird boxes to provide sheltering, along with reinstating hedgerows and creating additional woodland and waterbodies

We would also enhance biodiversity through the creation of new lengths of hedgerows of different species and creating other diverse habitats such as lowland meadow. We would use trees and shrubs that are native to the area to match the previous hedgerow structures.

Sustainability

Our sustainability strategy focuses on the importance of acting now to change our future for the better. Our ambition is to achieve net zero before 2050 with a 45% reduction in CO2 per tonne of product by 2030.

To achieve this, we are committed to being at the forefront of trialling and implementing new technologies. We already secure all of our electrical energy from renewables sources, but other examples include:

- Trialling and adopting more carbon efficient transport solutions, such as low carbon fuels for onsite vehicles and rail freight
- Transitioning to a circular economy by eliminating waste, recycling materials and reducing water consumption
- Trialling and adopting innovative low carbon products and solutions, and digitising and automating processes to drive energy efficiency and improve environmental performance

We have designed the working scheme for Misterton Quarry with this ethos in mind. It includes measures to increase to reduce energy consumption and increase the efficiency of materials handling, such as the establishment and use of a conveyor network to transport the minerals across the site.

Being a good neighbour

Wheel washing HGVs

Noise

As part of the planning application, a noise impact assessment has been carried out to demonstrate that the proposed development would adhere to permitted noise levels and that appropriate mitigation measures are in place.

As with our other quarries, we would develop a noise monitoring and mitigation programme, which would be agreed and regularly reviewed with the Environmental Health team at Harborough District Council. We would carry out regular monitoring at selected locations to check that any noise from the quarry operations, meets permitted levels and to resolve any potential concerns during operating hours. We would put effective mitigation measures in place where needed.

We would produce noise monitoring reports, which would be shared with Leicestershire County Council, Harborough District Council and the local Parish Councils.

Dust and Air Quality

As part of the planning application, an air quality assessment has been carried to ensure that our proposals reduce the potential for dust and other particulates.

Sand and gravel extraction is inherently a wet process, which minimises the production of dust from the extraction and processing of the mineral itself. Nonetheless, we would develop a Dust Mitigation and Management Plan, which would set out a robust monitoring programme and identify controls and measures that would be implemented daily.

We would also regularly collect dust samples from the local area, including at the quarry, so we can understand whether dust is a result of our operations.

Some of the proposed measures that would be used to reduce dust at the quarry would include:

- The use of field conveyors to minimise heavy plant activity
- Using water bowers to dampen materials and haul roads
- Implementing an onsite speed limit of 20mph to minimise dust emitted from vehicles

Did you know?

When dust is deposited on houses and cars it can certainly cause inconvenience to residents. It may also be irritating if swallowed or if it comes into contact with skin or eyes.

However, visible dust particles are generally not small enough to pose any significant health risks as the particles cannot be inhaled into the lungs. The particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs and cause harm are generally so fine they are invisible to the eye. They are generally particles of 4 microns or smaller (such as PM2.5).

Health risks only occur after a person has had prolonged exposure to these extremely small particles. The Health and Safety Executive has stated that no cases of silicosis have been documented among members of the general public so mineral operations present no health risks to residents.

Supporting the local community

Tarmac Open Day at Stancombe Quarry

It is important to us that we are a good neighbour to people living close to our operations. To achieve this we look to communicate effectively with our neighbours, and to support local projects and charities.

Liaison Group

We would establish a Liaison Group which would act as a forum to ensure that we keep the community updated on our work and would address any questions or concerns. The group would meet at regular intervals (likely bi-yearly) and its members would include local Parish Councils, Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council.

Supporting projects and charities

Being part of the local community is vitally important to us and we are always looking for local groups and projects to support. There are two ways in which people can apply to us for funding: either directly through the quarry or through the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund.

Since the Landfill Communities Fund (a fund that enables landfill operators to donate part of their annual tax liability to a variety of approved community and environmental projects) was established in 1996, we have donated more than £20 million to local communities and projects throughout the UK. Since 2021, Tarmac has donated more than £65,000 to community projects in the Lutterworth area, including providing financial support for Wycliffe Bowls Club Pétanque Project and Lutterworth Rugby Football Club's additional changing room and storage area.

If you have a project that needs our support, please speak to a member of the project team. To apply to the Tarmac Landfill Community Fund, please email: **community@tarmac.com**

Did you know?

At Shawell, Cotesbach and Husbands Bosworth Quarries are all located nearby. In the last ten years, we have donated approximately £350,000 to community projects near these sites through the Landfill Community Fund.

What's next?

Thanks for taking the time to attend our public exhibition. We hope you have found this event useful and that we have been able to answer your questions.

Share your views

Please take a moment to provide us with your comments on our proposals. The deadline for receipt of comments is Sunday **15 September 2024.**

Next steps

We anticipate submitting an application to Leicestershire County Council later this year, following which Leicestershire County Council will conduct its own statutory consultation. This will give you another opportunity to submit your views. If you are interested in reading about any of the environmental studies that we have discussed today, they will be available to read via Leicestershire County Council's planning portal once we have submitted the planning application.

Following the statutory consultation, the application will be reported to Leicestershire County Council's Development Control and Regulatory Board who will determine the application.

Keep in touch

If you have any further questions on the information that you have read today or regarding the application, please contact our community liaison manager Che via che@eqcommunications.co.uk or on 020 3617 6359.