

Horn Crag Quarry

Proof of Evidence of Ms Erica Kemp

AD Calvert Architectural Stone Supplies

January 2023

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Proof of Evidence has been written by Ms Erica Kemp. I am a Chartered Environmentalist and ecologist with over 20 years' experience of undertaking ecological surveys and impact assessment, including SSSI impact assessment in a broad range of habitats including upland and moorland sites. I am familiar with the site having visited on 20th September 2023 and 5th January 2024.
- 1.2. Insofar as the contents of this proof are within my personal knowledge, they are true, otherwise they are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Where facts and matters are outside my own knowledge, I have identified the source of my information or belief.
- 1.3. In the course of this proof of evidence, I make reference to various documents. I have attached to this proof of evidence four figures and one appendix which are referred to as such, whereas a reference to a document in the Core Bundle uses the prefix "CD".

2. Background

- 2.1. The Site is an historic quarry site which has been worked, intermittently, since the 19th century but has never had the benefit of a planning permission. The site has not been worked since the 1980s and planning applications in 1986, 1987 and 1988 were refused.
- 2.2. The application in question, 3/00829/MCF for the proposed re-opening of Horn Crag Quarry for the purposes of releasing a proven locally distinctive building stone resource was validated 7th March 2023, and subsequently refused 24th May 2023. The application includes for progressive working and restoration of the quarry to heath and grassland habitats (CD 006 – CD 009).
- 2.3. The Site is approximately 5.99 hectares, 1.78 ha of which will not be subject to direct disturbance at any time during the works with the potential exception of localised planting and ecological mitigation and enhancement works. This area is referred to in this proof as ‘peripheral retained habitats’ and shown on Figure 1. The remaining 4.21 ha of the site forms the footprint of works comprising the extraction area and associated access.
- 2.4. Quarrying operations will be phased in six parts and subject to phased restoration with the effect that less than 50% of the site will be worked at any one time. A plan showing the indicative phasing of works and areas of retained, worked and restored habitats associated with individual phases is included as Figure 2. The restoration plan includes a programme of progressive creation of locally appropriate habitats including upland heath and acid grassland (Figure 3).
- 2.5. The site has been subject to a suite of ecological surveys and assessments undertaken by Brooks Ecological to inform the application. These documents are accepted by the MPA as being representative of the ecological conditions on site. I visited the site on 20th September 2023 and 5th January 2024 to familiarise myself with the ecological conditions and confirm in general terms the findings of the previous surveys. This Proof of Evidence has been prepared on the basis of these site visits, [REDACTED] and the following documents prepared by Brooks Ecological:
 - Ecological Impact Assessment, Brooks Ecological. Report Reference ER-5064-13B. February 2023 (CD1 01-34);

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Brooks Ecological. Report Reference ER-5064-01. April 2021 (CD1 01-18);
- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, Brooks Ecological. Report Reference ER-5064-08E. November 2021 (CD1 01-30);
- Detailed Vegetation Survey, Brooks Ecological. ER-5064-09. August 2022 (CD1 01-29);
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Summary of Ecological Baseline and Assessment

- 2.6. The current ecological status of the site and the potential for ecological impacts is summarised below based on the ecological surveys and assessment undertaken by Brooks Ecological and supplemented by my own professional judgement.

Protected Sites

- 2.7. The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation and the potential for the proposals to impact on any such sites was scoped out at the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal stage (CD1 01-18). The proposed works will not impact on any such sites.

Habitats



- 2.8. Vegetation surveys recorded four main habitat types within the Site comprising bracken, gorse scrub, upland acid grassland and upland heathland. Upland heathland is listed as a Habitat of Principal Importance (known as Priority Habitats) under the NERC Act and is considered locally important for nature conservation. However, the heathland habitats on site do not meet the West Yorkshire Ecology (WYE) criteria for designation as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and the survey noted the heath vegetation on site as being under threat from invading bracken (CD1 01-29).
- 2.9. Quarrying activities will require landtake of upland heath habitats with much of the affected area comprising areas of habitat that have naturally regenerated on previously worked areas. The severity of this impact is limited by the proposed phasing of soil stripping and restoration works, which will retain existing heathland in the north of the site during the early phases of works and begin to restore heathland habitats in the south and east of the site during the later phases.
- 2.10. There will be a net increase in upland heath habitats on site following completion of restoration and it is envisaged that the ongoing management and monitoring of these habitats will be secured

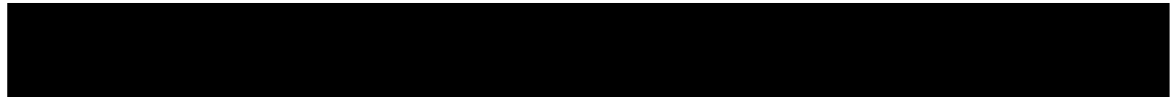
through planning condition. The restoration of the site is considered an ecological benefit that would be significant at up to a local level.

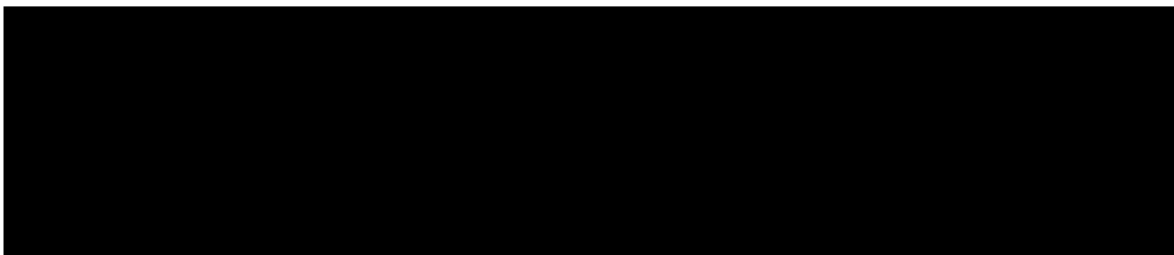
2.11. The acid grassland habitats on site are species poor and do not contain any locally scarce or otherwise important species. They do not meet the threshold for designation as an LWS under the WYE designation criteria. They are considered to be of ecological value at a site level only and are at risk of further deterioration as a result of competition from bracken and potentially gorse scrub. Direct impacts to these habitats will be mitigated through the inclusion of similar higher quality habitats as part of the site restoration. Restored habitats can be expected to become established at approximately 1 year post restoration.

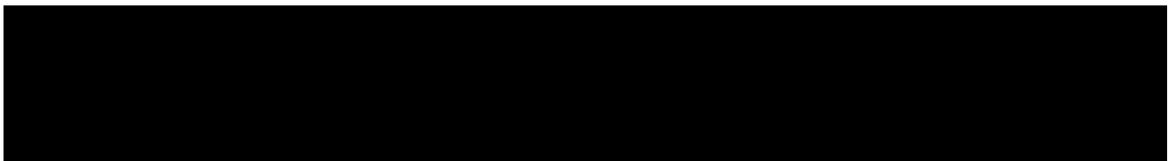
2.12. The gorse scrub present on site is species poor and is likewise only considered to be of ecological value at a site benefit. Bracken stands are considered to be an ecological disbenefit due to the invasive nature of this species and are considered to be of negligible ecological value.

Species

2.13. Species specific surveys have been undertaken for species including bats, birds, reptiles 


2.14. 

2.15. 

2.16. 

2.17.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2.18.

[Redacted]

3. Reasons for refusal of application

- 3.1. The Refusal of Planning Permission gave two reasons specifically pertaining to ecological concerns, points 3 and 4, both of which are copied below in their entirety;

“3. The proposal as submitted is unacceptable, as it will not contribute positively towards the overall enhancement of the District's biodiversity resource within an acceptable timeframe. The priority habitat on the proposal site, coupled with the restrictive site boundary compared to the extraction area means the approach is not effective at returning to an overall Net Gain for biodiversity until around Year 30. The role of the proposal site in the Wildlife Habitat Network is of significance and the proposal will result in a weakening of the mapped network, removing priority and Biodiversity Action Plan habitats from the network for the life of the operational quarry. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies EN2 and EN9 of the Bradford Core Strategy, paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Environment Act 2021.

Furthermore, the proposal does not meet and is contrary to the locational criteria for a quarry set out in Policy EN10 E (3), in that it would be likely to lead to the significant deterioration of an irreplaceable habitats, or to the permanent disruption of a significant ecological network.

4. The application as submitted provides insufficient information to enable its proper consideration by the Local Planning Authority. In particular, there is inadequate information with regards to potential adverse impacts on Protected Species and no indication of appropriate mitigation that would satisfy the requirements of a licence to disturb and be effective for the lifetime of the quarry. As such the proposal is contrary to Policies EN2 and EN9 of the Bradford Core Strategy.”

- 3.2. Having regard to these two reasons for refusal, the relevant policies and legislation (for the purposes of my evidence) are Policies EN2, EN9 and EN10 E (3) of the Bradford Core Strategy and paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and the Environment Act, 2021.

4. Consideration Against Relevant Policies and Legislation

- 4.1. The following section of my proof of evidence considers the proposals in relation to the relevant Policies and legislation.

Bradford Core Strategy Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 4.2. Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, which has 5 parts, sets out the policies relevant to designated and non-designated sites.
- 4.3. Neither the Council's reason for refusal nor its statement of case indicates which part(s) of the policy the Council considers are engaged. However, the site is not subject to any international or national level ecological designation, and it is common ground between the Council and the Appellant that the proposal is not likely to have any significant effect on the integrity of the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC, or any adverse effect on any of the SSSIs in the area. Consequently, parts A and B of Policy EN2 are not relevant.
- 4.4. Parts C and D of the policy are concerned with "locally designated sites" and "habitats and species outside designated sites".

Part C

- 4.5. In relation to Part C, Policy EN2 states the following:

"Development likely to have direct or indirect adverse effect on a site of ecological/ geological importance (SEGIs and RIGS) or a site of local nature conservation value (Bradford Wildlife Areas) will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to safeguard the substantive nature conservation value of the site. Proposals that are likely to have an impact on such sites will be assessed according to the following criteria;

- 1. Whether works are necessary for management of the site in the interests of conservation.*
- 2. Whether appropriate mitigation measures, which could include adequate buffer strips, have been incorporated into the proposals to protect species and habitats for which the Locally Designated Site has been designated.*
- 3. The development would be expected to result in no overall loss of habitat, through avoidance, adequate mitigation or, as a last resort, the provision of compensatory habitats adjacent to or*

within the vicinity of any losses proposed. Existing habitats and proposed mitigation or compensatory measures should be quantified.”

Part D

4.6. In relation to habitats and species outside of Designated Sites (Part D), Policy E2 states the following:

“Habitats and Species outside Designated Sites

D. Proposals that may have an adverse impact on important habitats and species outside designated sites need to be assessed according to the following criteria:-

1. The potential for adverse impact on important/priority habitats that occur outside designated sites

2. The potential for adverse impact on species of international, national and local importance

3. The extent to which appropriate measures to mitigate any potentially harmful impacts can be identified and carried out

4. As a last resort, the extent to which appropriate measures to compensate any potentially harmful impacts can be identified and carried out.

The assessment needs to take account of:

- *West Yorkshire Local Site Selection Criteria and*
- *Where relevant developers will be expected to submit (European) Protected Species surveys and other ecological assessment related information with their application.”*

4.7. Para 5.4.33 of the Core Strategy explains that, at the time the Strategy was adopted, “locally designated sites” embraced “Sites of Ecological/Geological Importance” (“SEGI”), “Regionally Important Geological Sites (“RIGS”) and Bradford Wildlife Areas (“BWA”), but that SEGI and RIGS designations were to be combined into one system, to be known as Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites, while BWAs were being “reassessed against new criteria”.

4.8. The appeal site does not lie within a SEGI, RIGS or BWA under the designations in place when the Core Strategy was adopted. Since the Council’s Local Plan review has not progressed beyond reg

18 stage, these designations have not yet been formally¹ replaced by LWSs and LGIs: no sites have yet been designated in a DPD under these labels. In this regard, I note that the appeal site was not proposed for designation as a LWS in the draft Policies Map which accompanied the reg 18 consultation for the Council's emerging Local Plan and that ecological studies carried out by Brooks Ecological found that none of the habitats present on site qualified for selection as a LWS under the WYE criteria.

- 4.9. In the circumstances, although it is clear that the site falls to be considered under Part D of Policy EN2 for the purposes of the current development plan, it is possible that, in any new plan, it might become a Locally Designated Site under whatever replaces Part C. In order to provide a robust assessment, I have therefore considered the Council's reasons for refusal in the context of both Parts C and D of the policy.

Part E

- 4.10. The appeal site falls within the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network, an ecological network providing connectivity between protected sites and high value habitats². I have also considered Section E of Policy EN2, which relates to enhancement of the District's biodiversity resource and habitat networks and is assumed to be relevant to the site. It states that:

"Plans, policies and proposals should contribute positively towards the overall enhancement of the District's biodiversity resource. They should seek to protect and enhance species of local, national and international importance and to reverse the decline in these species.

The Council will seek to promote the creation, expansion and improved management of important habitats within the district and more ecologically connected patchworks of grasslands, woodlands and wetlands. Opportunities for specific habitat creation within development proposals will be sought, including provision for future management.

The Council will seek to establish coherent ecological networks that are resilient to current and future pressures. Development which would cause serious fragmentation of habitats, wildlife corridors or have a significantly adverse impact on biodiversity networks or connectivity will be resisted..."

¹ In the sense of forming part of the development plan

² City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, 2023. *Bradford Ecological habitat Network*.

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/protected-sites/> - accessed on 18/12/2023

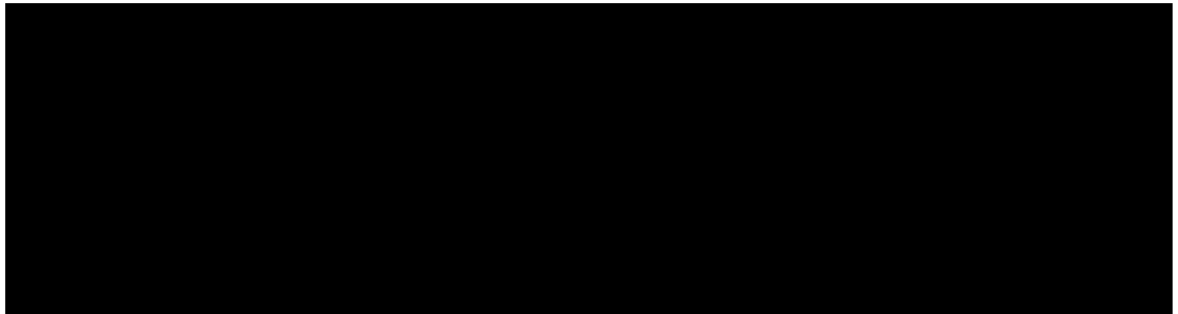
Consideration of proposals in relation to applicable elements of EN2

- 4.11. The Council's third reason for refusal, is directed specifically at an alleged failure to "contribute positively towards the overall enhancement of the District's biodiversity resource within an acceptable timeframe". However, there is nothing in Parts C, D or E of Policy EN2 which requires delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain or reference to the DEFRA metric. Part E at most requires that proposals do not result in net total losses to biodiversity. No timescales for delivery of enhancements are specified.
- 4.12. There is no requirement under current policy for proposals to show a benefit using the DEFRA metric and government guidance is explicit that the requirement for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain is not to be retrospectively applied to planning applications submitted prior to the requirement being enacted.
- 4.13. Part C of Policy EN2 includes a presumption against proposals that will impact upon locally designated sites except where the need for the proposals outweighs the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site. It sets out criteria against which proposals that are likely to have an impact on such sites will be assessed, which include whether works are necessary for the ecological management of the site, whether appropriate mitigation measures have been incorporated into the proposals and whether the development will result in no overall loss of habitat.
- 4.14. The Site is not currently designated as a SEGI, REGI or LWS and the proposals are not required for the management of the site for nature conservation, although the Application includes provision for future habitat creation as part of the site restoration. The existing habitats are currently deteriorating due to lack of management becoming dominated by bracken, a highly competitive undesirable plant species that is likely to lead to further deterioration of habitats present in the long term in the absence of ongoing management.
- 4.15. The restoration plan includes restoration of the entire site area with no permanent loss of habitats and an increase in the total area of upland heath, the most ecologically valuable habitats on site. The restoration will include ongoing management for nature conservation, which would help establish and retain the biodiversity of the site in the long term, safeguarding the future nature conservation value of the site with long term benefits to the ecological coherence and resilience of the site.

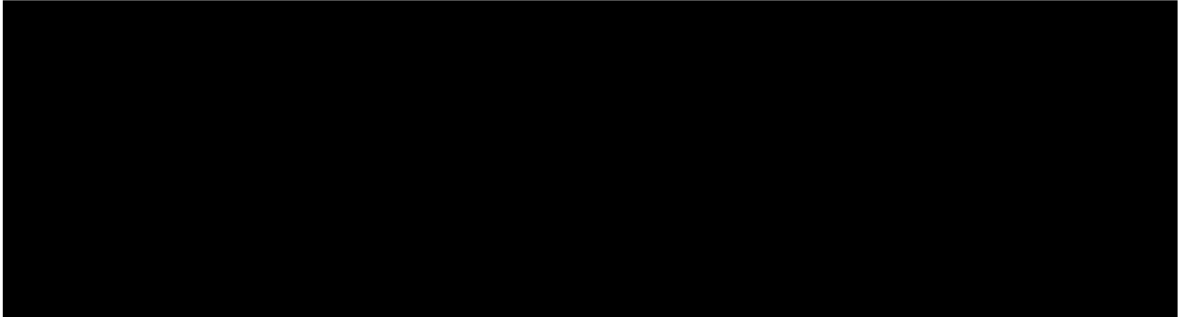
- 4.16. Notwithstanding the fact that Part C does not currently apply to the Site, the proposals are not considered to conflict with Policy EN 2: Part C.
- 4.17. Policy EN2: Part D sets out how proposals that may have an impact on important habitats and species outside designated sites are to be assessed. It specifies that consideration will be given to the potential for adverse impacts to important/priority habitats; the potential for impacts to important species and the extent to which any harmful impacts can be mitigated or compensated. It states that assessments need to take account of West Yorkshire Site Selection Criteria and any relevant protected species and ecological assessment information.
- 4.18. None of the habitats present on site meet the West Yorkshire Local Site Selection Criteria (CD1 01-29).
- 4.19. In relation to the potential for impacts to important or priority habitats, none of the habitats present on site are judged to be more than locally important and most are important at or below site level. The grassland habitats present on site are upland acid grasslands, which is not a priority habitat type.
- 4.20. The site does include approximately 1.37 ha of upland heathland habitat, the majority of which has naturally regenerated on previously worked areas. Upland heath is a priority habitat and 1.26 ha of this habitat is within the extraction boundary and will be lost over the course of the works. 0.11 ha is within the peripheral retained habitats and will be untouched for the duration of works.
- 4.21. Site restoration includes creation of approximately 1.73 ha of upland heathland habitat and there will be a net increase in the area of this habitat type on site in the long term. Furthermore the phasing of extraction and restoration is such that existing heathland habitats will be largely untouched during Phase 1 of the works (0.86 ha retained) and some (approximately 0.32 ha, currently present in Phases 5 and 6) will be retained until Phase A and B restoration works have been completed. Habitats restored as part of Phase B will be newly created, and habitats restored as part of Phase A will be becoming established by this stage. Phase A includes creation of approximately 0.69 ha of heathland habitats and Phase B includes creation of approximately 0.59 ha of heathland habitats.

4.22. This staged approach to extraction and restoration will minimise the duration and magnitude of impacts to upland heathland habitats during the operation of the quarry. Ongoing management of habitats for the benefit of biodiversity will represent an improvement compared to a 'do nothing' scenario which would be likely to result in heathland and acid grassland habitats being progressively lost from the site due to competition from bracken and gorse scrub. Therefore, whilst some temporary residual impacts to this habitat remain, the proposals inclusive of restoration will increase the area of upland heathland habitats on the Site in the long term and there will be no permanent reduction in areas of priority habitat.

4.23.



4.24.



4.25. On the basis of the above the proposals are not considered to conflict with Policy EN2:Part D.

4.26. Policy EN2: Part E requires that proposals contribute positively to the enhancement of the District's biodiversity resource and protect and enhance important species. It sets out that the Council will seek to promote the enhancement of important and ecologically connected habitats; seek opportunities for habitat creation within development proposals, and seek to establish coherent and resilient ecological networks. It will resist development that will seriously fragment or adversely impact biodiversity networks or connectivity.

- 4.27. I have considered Policy EN2: Part E in relation to be the requirement for proposals to deliver biodiversity enhancements and the potential for the works to contribute towards Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network.
- 4.28. The site is located within the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network. Bradford Metropolitan District Council states that this Wildlife Habitat Network is identified for the following reasons;
- 'The government through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Local Planning Authorities to identify Ecological Habitat Networks in order to ensure ecological resilience across the area it covers. Strong ecological networks which allow biodiversity to move around, will help to prevent climate change or development pressure leading to the loss or extinction of species or habitats. Ecological Habitat Networks are considered a very important feature within the Metropolitan District Council.'*
- 4.29. The Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network identifies the Site as an area of grassland which connects to adjacent land parcels within the Network on its north, south, and west sides.
- 4.30. The Site layout includes retained peripheral habitats around the site boundaries representing approximately 30% of the total site area, comprising a relatively narrow strip around the southern, eastern and northern boundaries (c. 10m) and a broader swathe of habitats along the western boundary (ranging between 34 m and 60 m), which connects to adjacent land parcels within the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network. These habitats will be undisturbed by the development save for any landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement works (to be agreed via planning condition for example via in CEMP: Biodiversity and Ecological Enhancement Plans) and will continue to contribute to the functional habitat network for the duration of the works.
- 4.31. Whilst the width of the ecological corridor on the southern side of the Site will reduce to 34 metres at its narrowest point (Figure 4), this width is considered sufficient to allow biodiversity to move around and maintain the overall integrity of the network
- 4.32. The haul road will be located within the functional corridor to the south of the site and will broadly follow the line of the existing track. However, the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network is bisected by multiple roads (A6034, Brown Bank Lane, Light Bank Lane, etc), which are likely to experience

vehicle movements far in excess of those associated with the haul road. The presence of the haul road is not expected to compromise the integrity of the Wildlife Habitat Network.

4.33. Phasing of vegetation stripping and restoration as shown in (Figure 4) will also serve to maintain the integrity of the Wildlife Habitat Network of the course of the works and less than 50% of the Site will be disturbed at any one time.

4.34. Although the proposals will result in temporary land-take of the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network, this will not result in severance of, or serious weakening of the mapped network. The swathe of upland acid grassland, gorse scrub, and bracken that will be retained along the western boundary will provide ample opportunities for ecological connectivity across the Wildlife Habitat Network. To further improve its resilience against future pressures, supplementary planting adjacent to the access track and around the northern and north western site boundary could be implemented as part of an Ecological Enhancement Plan as a condition of any granted planning permission. This would enhance the retained corridor and ensure it best functions to facilitate biodiversity movement.

4.35. The proposals including restoration and management are judged to have a net positive effect on both the District's biodiversity resource and the integrity of the Habitat Network in the long term and will contribute positively towards the overall enhancement of the District's Biodiversity resource. The restoration plan developed for the site will deliver a net increase in heathland habitat area in the long term as well as an improvement in habitat quality through securing the long term management of the site for the benefit of nature conservation. This enhancement is also indicated through the DEFRA metric 3.1 calculations produced by Brooks Ecological, which shows a long term gain of 21.42% once the restored habitats have become established.

4.36. On the basis of all the above, the proposal is not considered to conflict with Policy EN2: Part E.

Policy EN: 9

4.37. Policy EN 9 sets out the policies in relation to new and reopened minerals extraction sites. In relation to re-opening disused minerals extraction sites it states:

“Proposals to open up a new minerals extraction site on previously developed land, re-open a disused minerals extraction site, or extend an existing minerals extraction site, will be supported in principle provided that all of the following criteria are met:

For the protection of the South Pennine Moors SPA, avoid and/or mitigate loss or deterioration of important foraging land within the SPA’s zone of influence.

The proposal accords with the policy for the specific mineral proposed to be extracted, as set out in policies EN10 and EN11, and;

3. The development would not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on people or the environment in terms of pollution, flooding or land stability risks, or harm to amenity, heritage assets or their setting, or harm the character of the landscape, taking into account the cumulative effects associated with all existing or approved developments affecting the area and the environmental criteria set out in other Local Development Plan Policies, and;

4. The development would not lead to a long-term net loss of biodiversity, to the loss or significant deterioration of any irreplaceable habitats, or to the permanent disruption of a significant ecological network, and;

If the proposal is to extend an existing minerals extraction site: existing permitted reserves are close to exhaustion and those parts of the existing site which it is practicable to restore, without unreasonably constraining future minerals extraction activity, have been restored.”

- 4.38. It is agreed within the Statement of Common Ground that the proposals are not expected to result in impacts to the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA or foraging habitats for the species it supports.
- 4.39. There are no irreplaceable habitats present on site (as defined in Annex 2 Glossary of the NPPF (2019)). Para 7.23 of the Council’s Statement of Case expressly states that the Council “will not be pursuing the issue of ‘irreplaceable habitats’ at the inquiry”.
- 4.40. As detailed in the Brooks Ecological Reports (CD1 01-30) and detailed in paragraph 4.35 above, the proposals will not lead to a long term net loss in biodiversity.

- 4.41. As detailed in Paragraphs 4.29 to 4.34 above, the proposals will not result in permanent land-take from, or serious disruption of the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network, which is recognised as an important ecological network. The restoration plan once implemented would improve the value of the habitats present strengthening the network in the long term.
- 4.42. On the basis of the above, the proposals are not considered to conflict with Policy EN9.

Bradford Core Strategy: Policy EN 10

- 4.43. The reasons for refusal also consider that the proposals conflict with Bradford Core Strategy Policy – EN10 E (3), which states:

“ The following criteria shall be used to identify areas of search for building, roofing and paving stone quarries

3. Locations outside of areas where further minerals extraction activities would be likely to lead to the loss or significant deterioration of any irreplaceable habitats, or to the permanent disruption of a significant ecological network”

- 4.44. As detailed above, there are no irreplaceable habitats present on site and the proposals will not lead to the permanent disruption of the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network. The proposals are therefore not considered to conflict with policy EN10 E (3).

National Planning Policy Framework

- 4.45. The reasons for refusal state that the proposals are contrary to paragraph 174 of the NPPF (2021), although no specific indication of the nature of the conflict are given. It is assumed that this refers to section d, which refers to biodiversity and ecological networks and states:

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:...

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

- 4.46. As detailed above, the restored habitats will include provision of a greater area of heathland habitat than is currently present on site, providing a net long term gain in biodiversity both through habitat creation and improved long term management of habitats.
- 4.47. Whilst there will be some temporary landtake of habitats within an established ecological network during the operational phase of the works, this can be limited and strictly controlled through imposition of stringent planning conditions requiring phased restoration. The proposals will protect and enhance the resilience and coherence of the ecological network in the long term through creation and management of high quality habitats.
- 4.48. There proposals are not considered to conflict with the Paragraph 174 of the NPPF.

Environment Act 2021

- 4.49. The reasons for refusal state that the proposals are contrary to the provisions of the Environment Act, 2021, however it is unclear exactly what section Environment Act 2021 the refusal refers to. There is no requirement for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain that is relevant to these proposals and government guidance and case law confirms that mandatory net gain cannot be applied retrospectively to applications submitted prior to it being enacted.
- 4.50. Section 102 of The Environment Act confers a “general biodiversity objective” on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England through the exercise of their functions in relation to England. The proposed works including site restoration and management will represent an enhancement in terms quantity and quality of the most valuable habitats on site and the long term and therefore there is no conflict with this objective.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. The third and fourth reasons for refusal relate to the failure of the proposals to contribute positively towards the overall enhancement of the District's biodiversity resource within an acceptable timeframe, delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (including the timescales over which it will be delivered), the impacts on the Wildlife Habitat Network and the potential for impacts to protected species, [REDACTED]
- 5.2. The only priority habitats present on site are upland heathland habitats and the proposals will deliver a net increase in upland heathland habitats on completion of restoration. The proposals will not seriously disrupt or sever the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network at any point, and there will be no permanent adverse effect to this network.
- 5.3. Management of the restored site for nature conservation will enhance the quality and resilience of the habitats present on site and the Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network and represent a long term positive impact compared to a 'do nothing' scenario. Mandatory net gain is not applicable to this application and local planning policy requires only that proposals do not result in net losses of biodiversity. No timescales for delivery of biodiversity gains and enhancements are specified in the local plan.
- 5.4. Operational impacts associated with quarrying activities will be limited at any one time and the site will be subject to phased restoration with early phases being restored prior to commencement of operations on later phases. This will protect the integrity of the Wildlife Habitat Network whilst the quarry is active. There will be no permanent deterioration of the Wildlife Habitat Network.
- 5.5. The proposals will not result in any loss of irreplaceable habitats or adversely affect protect species. [REDACTED]
- 5.6. Potential effects to ecology and biodiversity can be minimised through the imposition of appropriately worded planning conditions requiring phased restoration, enhancement of retained habitats [REDACTED]

- 5.7. The proposals do not conflict with local or national planning policy or legislation in relation to biodiversity and there is no need for refusal of the application on ecological grounds.

Figure 1 – Retained Habitats

1.78 hectares of habitat retained, comprising of acid grassland, bracken, gorse scrub and upland heathland.

10m retained buffer with planned footpath on north and east sides

Habitat areas and boundaries estimated from Brooks Ecology Ecological Impact Assessment, 2023.

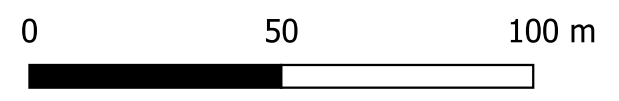


Legend

- Red Line Boundary
- Quarry footprint

Habitats

- Bracken
- Gorse scrub
- Upland acid grassland
- Upland Heathland



Horn Crag Quarry

Retained Habitats

Date	Jan 2024
Scale	1:1500@A3
Drawing Ref:	0315/RH



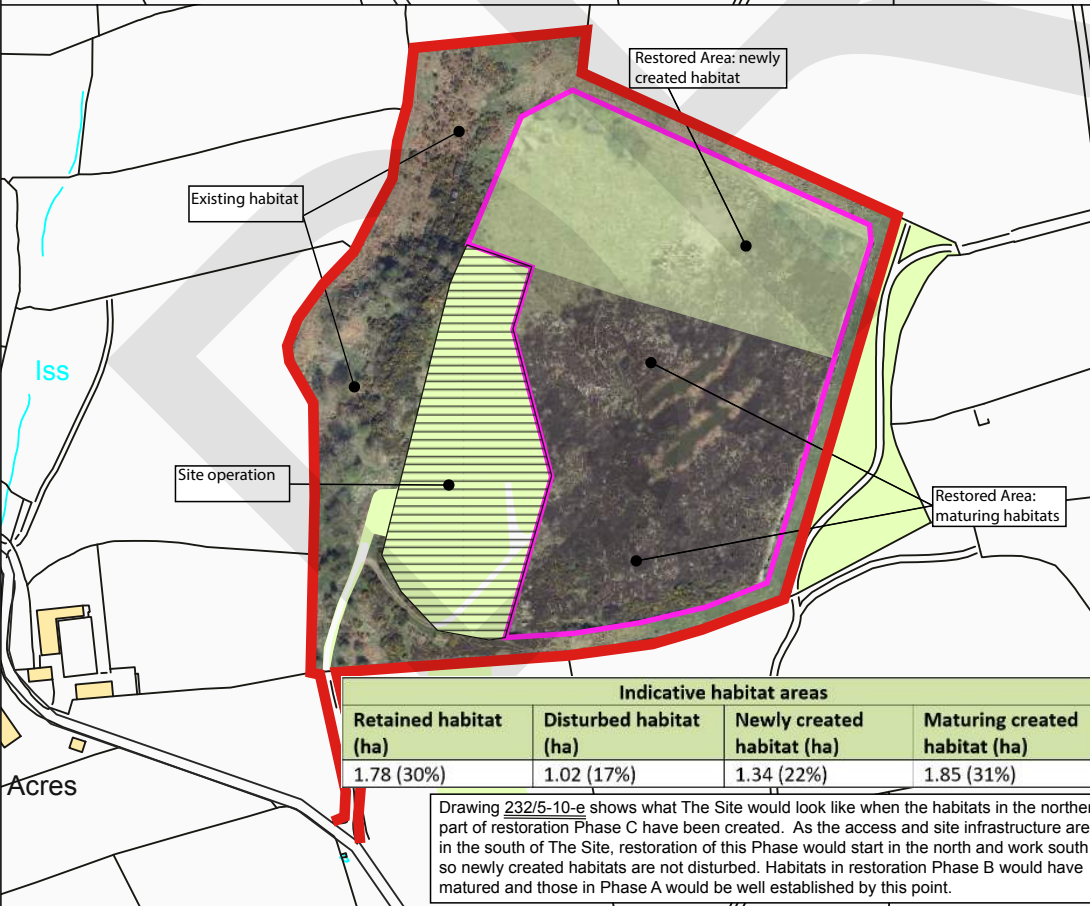
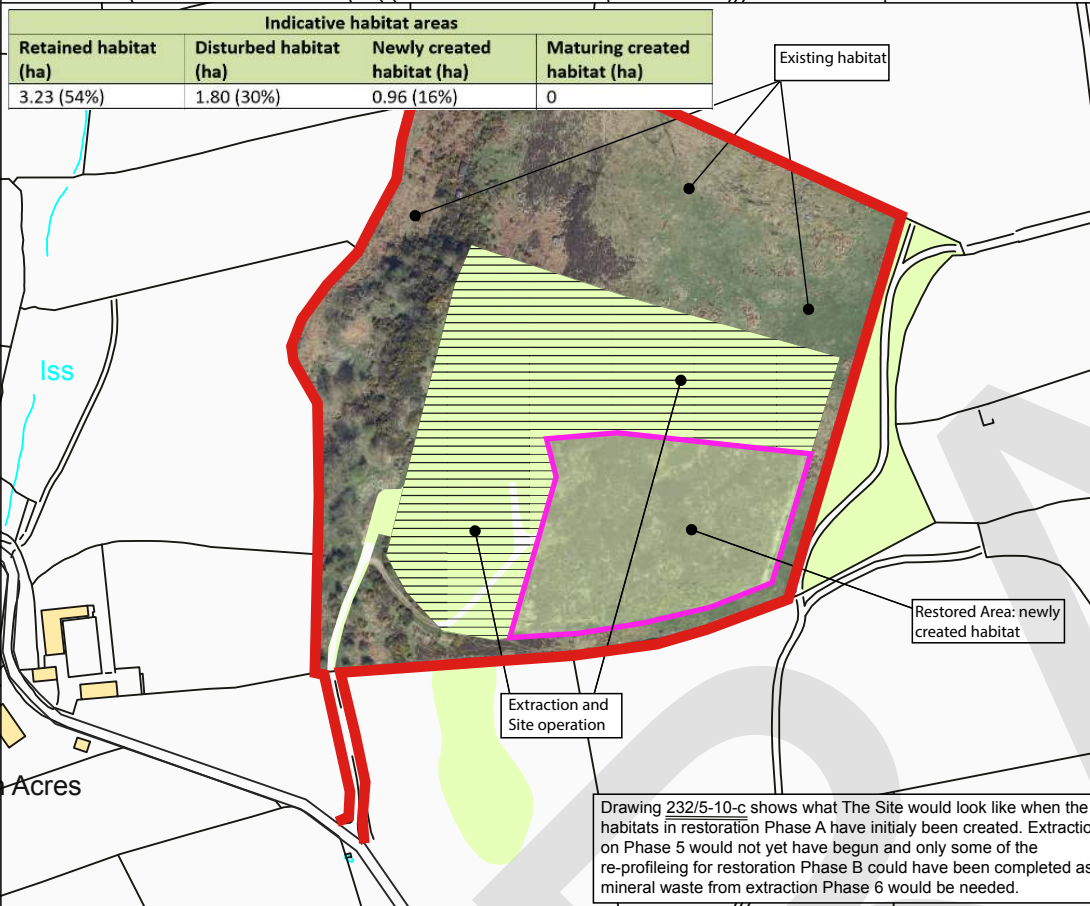
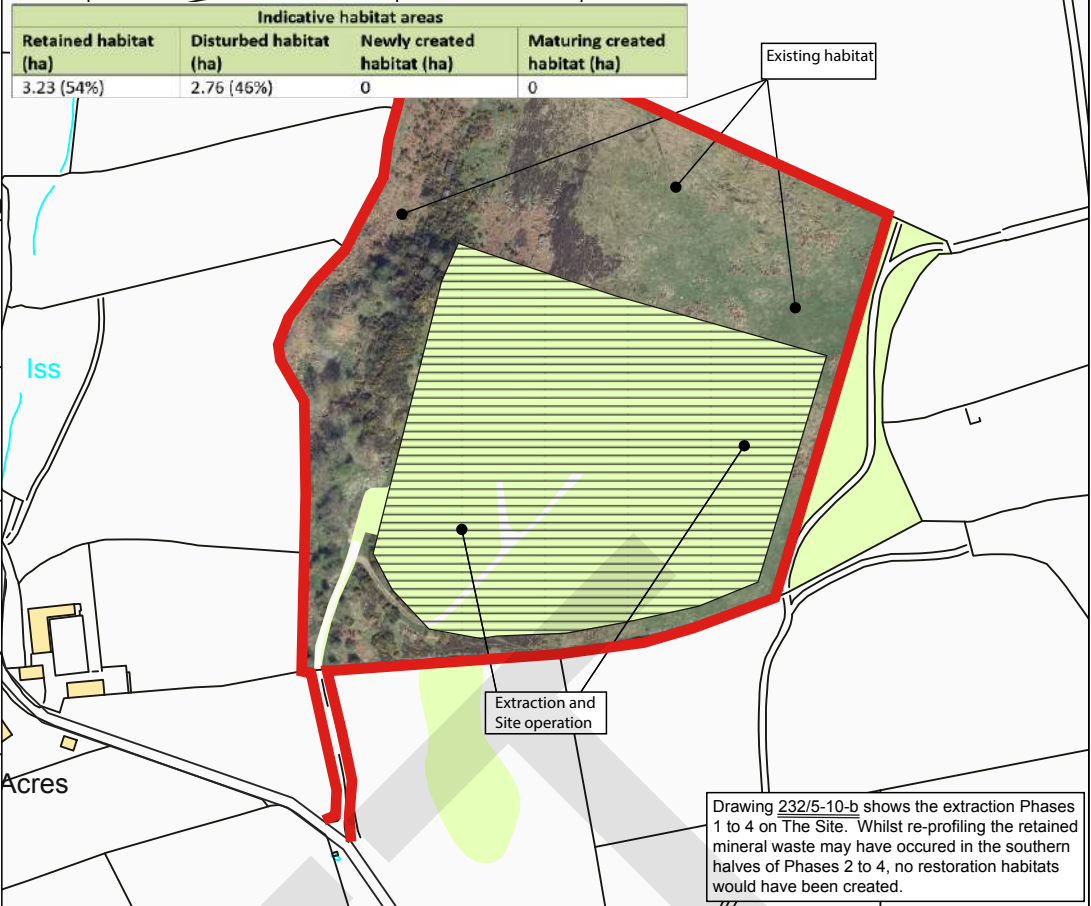
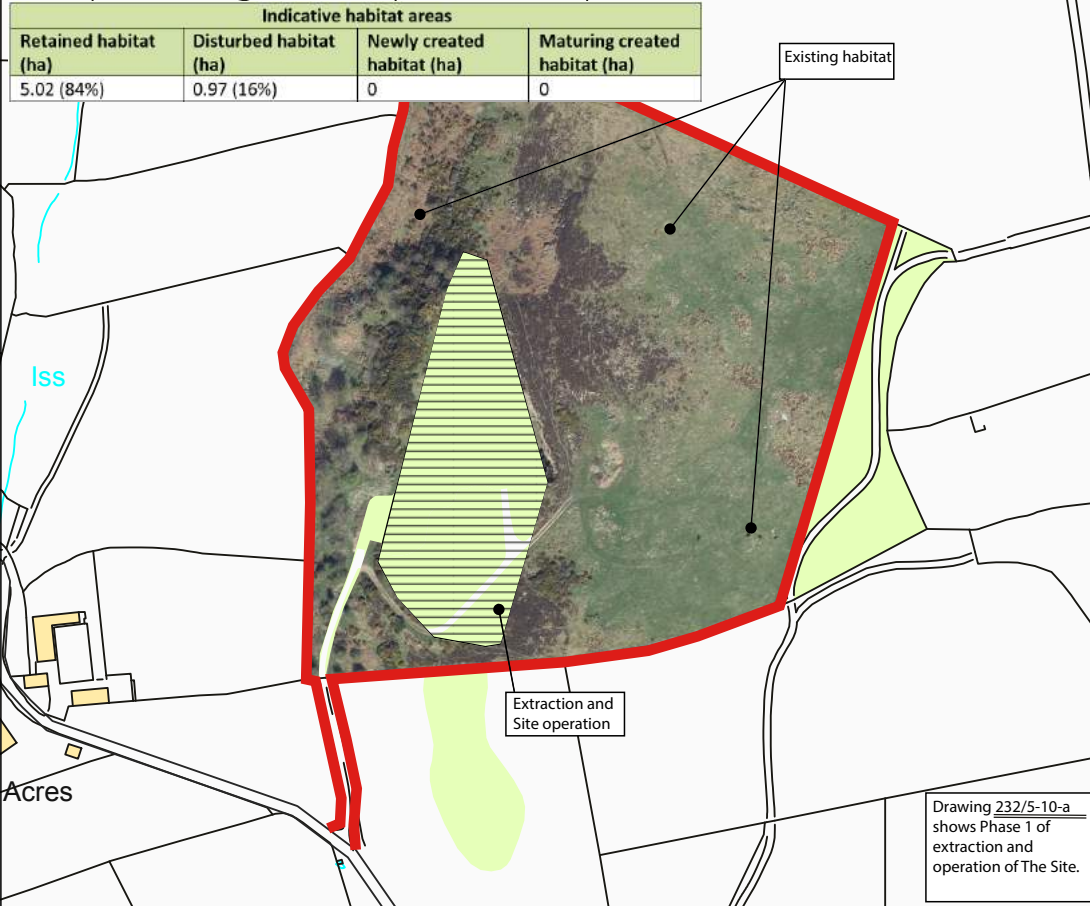
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Figure 2 – Quarry lifecycle



Drawing Title:
Proposed Life Cycle

Client:
A. D. Calvert Architectural Stone Supplies Ltd.

Site:
Horn Crag Quarry

Drawing Number:
232/5 - 10-a-f

Date: 15/01/2024

Rev:
1.1

Scale: 1:3,500 @A3

Key:

- Restored Area
- Newly Create Habitat
- Extraction and Site Operation

Notes: Approximate timescale shown on drawing ref: 232/5 - 10 Proposed Restoration Phasing

Drawn by: JG

Checked by: CH

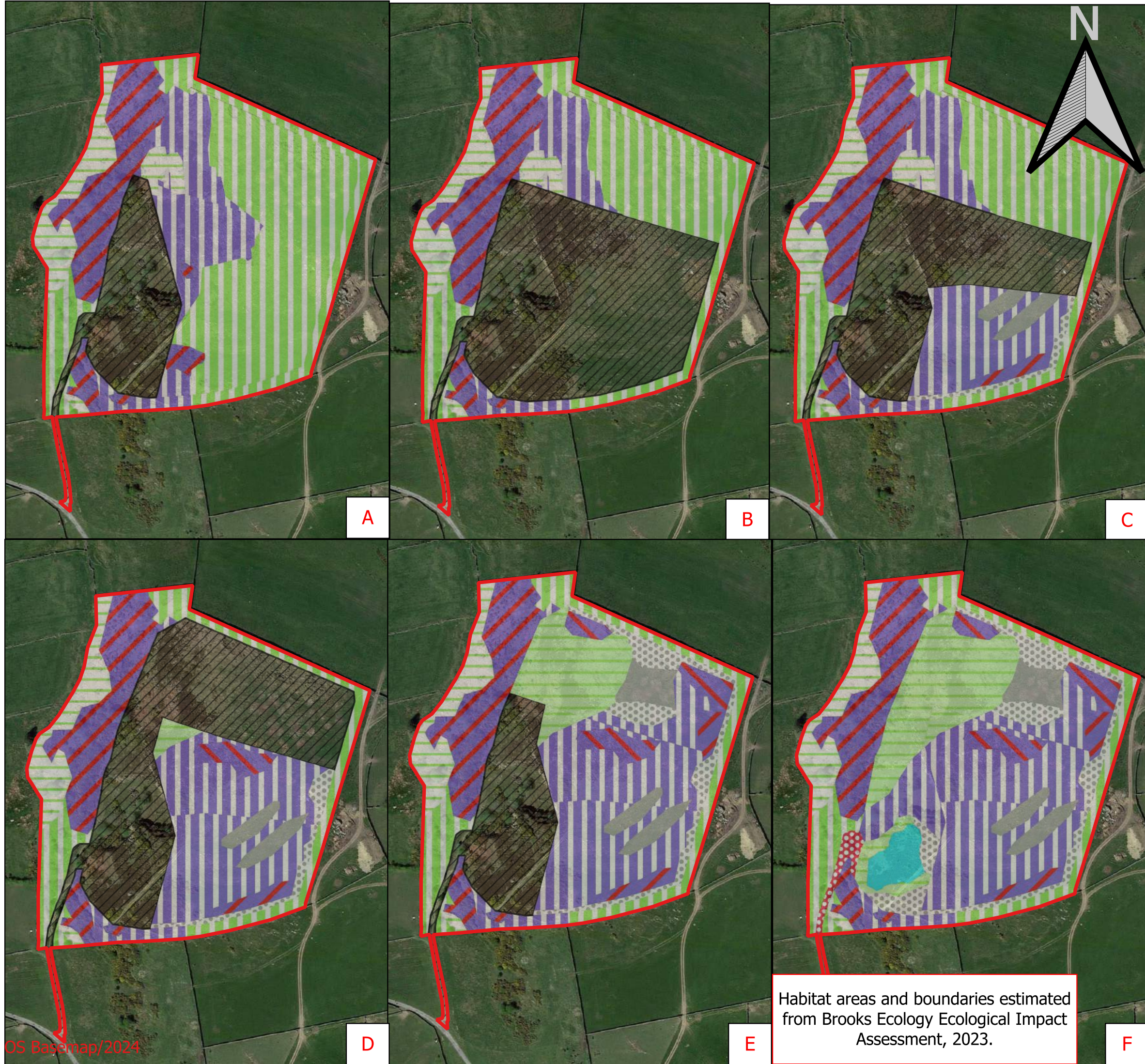
Approved by:

The Mineral Planning Group Ltd.
The Rowan Suite
Oakdene House
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BD16 1PE
Tel: 01274 884599
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MPG

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Figure 3 – Habitats during Quarry lifecycle



Legend

- Red Line Boundary
- Active quarried area

Habitats

- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Bracken
- Upland Heathland
- Mixed scrub
- Other inland rock and scree
- Other neutral grassland
- Ponds (Non- Priority Habitat)
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Temporary lakes, ponds and pools
- Upland acid grassland

0 50 100 150 200 m

Horn Crag Quarry

Habitats during Quarry Lifecycle

Date	Jan 2024
Scale	1:3000@A3
Drawing Ref:	0315/HQLC



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Habitat areas and boundaries estimated from Brooks Ecology Ecological Impact Assessment, 2023.


Figure 4 – Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network during Quarry lifecycle




Legend


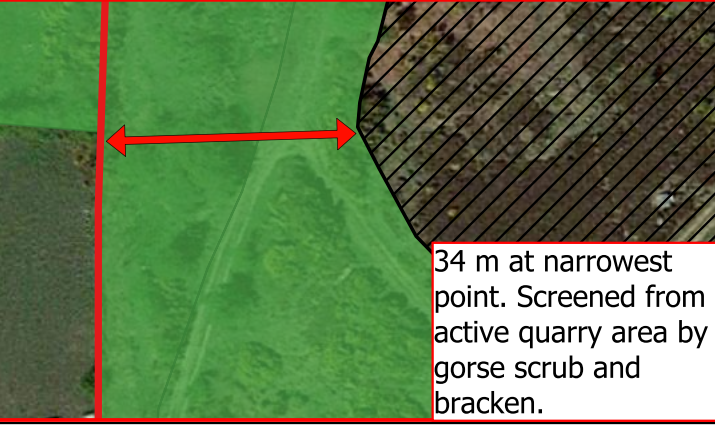
Red Line Boundary 

Areas

Active quarried area 

Active Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network 

0 100 200 300 m

34 m at narrowest point. Screened from active quarry area by gorse scrub and bracken.

Horn Crag Quarry

Bradford Wildlife Habitat Network during Quarry Lifecycle

Date	Jan 2024
Scale	1:6000@A3
Drawing Ref:	0315/BWHNQLC



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This Appendix has been removed as it contains confidential information relating to species at risk of persecution.