



## LYDD QUARRY

### OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF LYDD QUARRY

Lydd Quarry, on the border of East Sussex and Kent, has been part of the local landscape for over 50 years. Extraction of high quality, high strength sand and gravel from the quarry commenced in 1967, and is a key component in the construction of houses and highways projects in the area.

Other local projects we have recently supplied include the building of sea wall defences at Camber Sands, the development of a helicopter Search and Rescue hangar at Lydd airport and the construction of a nitrogen plant at Dungeness Power Station. Our products can be found in local DIY stores such as Travis Perkins and Jewson, caravan bases at local holiday parks, and even on the beach.

#### **Extending the life of the quarry**

In meeting the annual demand for its products, the permitted reserves at the quarry will be exhausted within the next two years.

We have identified similar high quality deposits on land adjoining the quarry, which will mean that the life of the quarry can be extended and we can continue to meet local demand for building materials for a further 15-20 years. Brett has evaluated alternative means of meeting the demand and presented its findings to the planning authorities in East Sussex and Kent, and to Natural England.

We have also assessed the environmental, ecological and socio-economic benefits of continued working. We are preparing draft designs to work the adjoining land at the quarry and, over the coming months, we will consult with local residents, the wider Lydd community and other stakeholders on how best to secure the long-term future of the site.

#### **Some facts about the quarry**

We employ people from the local area and there are currently over 50 jobs associated with the current operations.

The quarry contributes £1.8M each year into the economy through taxes and business rates.

In 2006, the whole quarry area was designated part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geomorphological and ecological interest by Natural England.

#### **Ecology**

In 2014, Brett restored areas were designated as a Ramsar site and, in 2016, a Special Protection Area (SPA) designation was added under European legislation. These designations recognise the international importance the restored areas at Lydd Quarry have for breeding and wintering waterbirds, birds of prey, passage warblers and breeding seabirds.

The extension proposals will include restoration plans, which will further enhance these restored areas for wildlife, in particular creating habitat for species of birds that are considered as endangered such as the Hen Harrier.

## THE CONTINUED BENEFITS OF USING LYDD QUARRY

- **Job opportunities retained** – local jobs associated with the quarry will be protected for up to 20 years.
- **£1.8M economic contribution** – the site will continue to make a contribution of £1.8M in business rates and taxes to the economy.
- **Less Co2 emissions than alternative options** – the only alternative for supplying construction aggregates to the Lydd Quarry market area is via imports from wharves located on the River Thames. Deliveries from this alternative source instead of Lydd Quarry would raise carbon dioxide emissions by up to 17,000 tonnes.
- **Fewer lorry miles, and less impact on the roads than other options** – Lydd Quarry is 30 miles closer to its market area than the Thames wharves. Working the proven deposits at Lydd would save up to 11 million lorry miles on the East Sussex and Kent roads.
- **There will be no planned increases to lorry movements or operating conditions** – in the proposals for the new operating area there are no plans to increase lorry movements or operating conditions beyond current agreements.
- **The infrastructure already exists** – Lydd Quarry currently benefits from investment in mineral processing facilities, services, access and other infrastructure, which will be used when working the new area. The identified reserves of sand and gravel would be sterilised if not worked while this infrastructure exists.
- **Lydd Quarry supplies specialist sand to brick making plants** – in the South East of England and rounded cobbles for use in the milling industry beyond the South East. An alternative for these regionally unique products has yet to be identified.
- **Nature conservation areas would increase by 200 hectares** – restoration of the proposed extensions and the current workings in a manner similar to the completed biodiversity targeted restoration would occur. This would enable the internationally important SPA and Ramsar sites to be extended by more than 200 hectares and enhance the nature conservation interest in the quarried land.
- **Controlled access across parts of the restored areas could be provided** – this would enable greater enjoyment of wildlife for interest groups and the general public.
- **Preserving knowledge for future generations** – working of the extension resources would occur in tandem with University-led research studies of the geomorphology of the SSSI, self-funded by the material released. This would enable current and future generations to have access to further knowledge and understanding of the evolution and occupation of the Romney Marsh. Funding to allow such research may never again be available.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Aggregates from the quarry are recognised within the building and construction industry for their quality and are regularly used in housing and highways developments in the area. Other projects we have recently supplied include the building of sea wall defences at Camber Sands, the development of a helicopter Search and Rescue hangar at Lydd airport and the construction of a nitrogen plant at Dungeness Power Station. Our products can be found in local DIY chain stores such as Travis Perkins and Jewson, caravan bases at local holiday parks, and even on the beach.