

# The proposed development

Brett is preparing to submit a planning application for the extraction of sand and gravel from an extension to our existing Barham Quarry over a period of up to 8 years, with an additional 2 years for completion of the final restoration of the site.

## Our proposals comprise of:

- Extraction of approximately 1 million tonnes of sand and gravel from a field of around 12 hectares of agricultural land directly adjacent to our existing Barham Quarry through established quarrying methods.
- Workings to be phased to support progressive restoration using a combination of on-site materials (including soils) and imported inert restoration materials.
- An extraction period of up to 8 years with a further 2 years to return the land to an agricultural landscape with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) enhancements.
- Retention of the existing access onto Sandy Lane. No new access arrangements are proposed, and a full transport assessment will be provided as part of the application.
- No processing operations are proposed at Barham Quarry. Processing would continue at Brett Aggregates' Shrublands Quarry off the Norwich Road using existing plant at that location.
- Regular monitoring will take place to ensure environmental management measures, including noise, traffic movements and dust are working effectively.
- Sand and gravel from Barham would provide essential resources to meet Suffolk's construction needs.

NORWICH ROAD

SANDY LANE

BRETT BARHAM QUARRY

QUARRY EXTENSION

ST MARY AND  
ST PETER'S CHURCH

CLAYDON

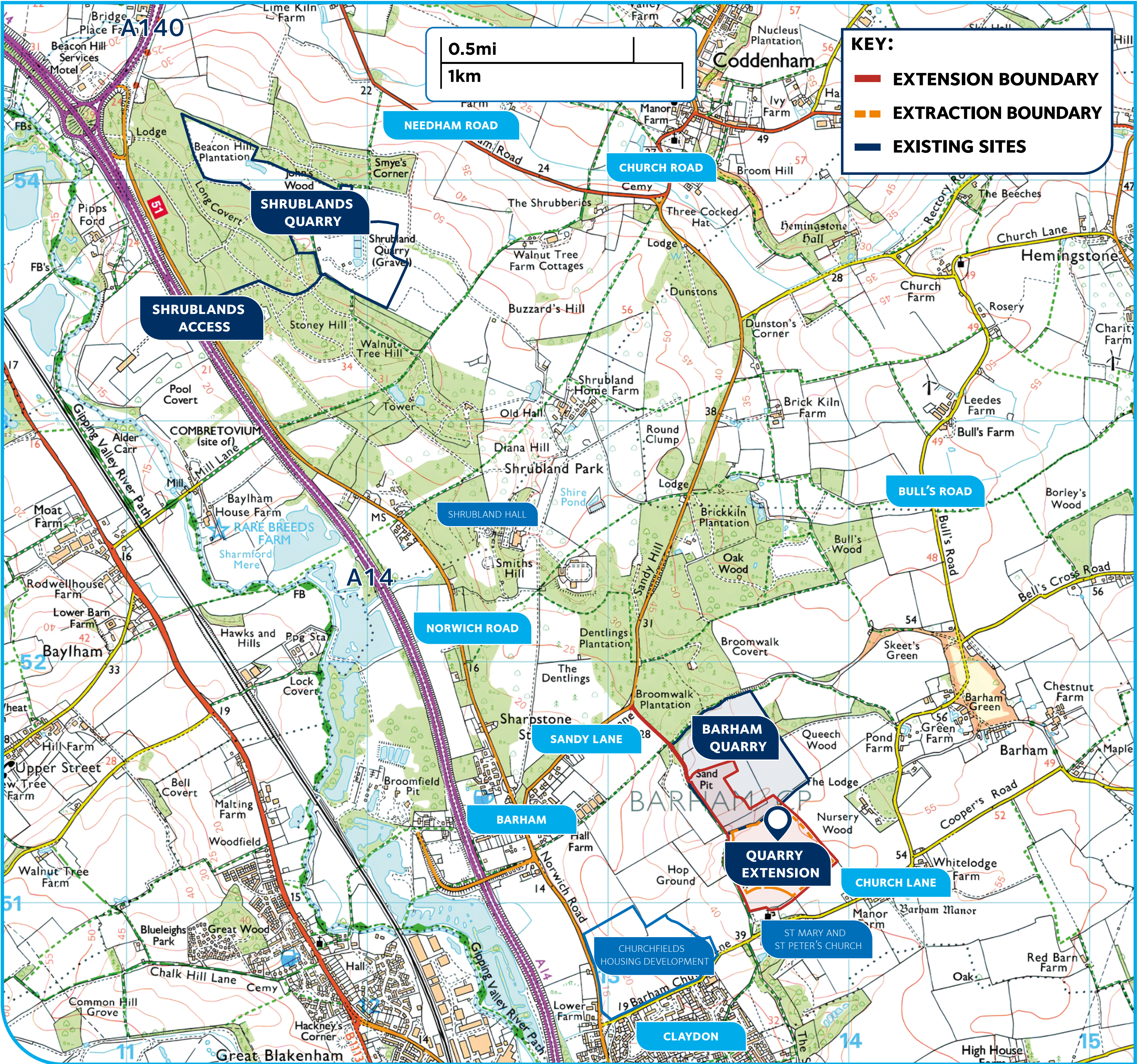
## BARHAM QUARRY EXTENSION PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Please comment on this proposal

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# Site location & setting



## Key aspects of the scheme

- The scheme will deliver a much-needed supply of locally sourced construction aggregates for current and future demand for housing and other built developments. The forecasts in Suffolk are for an increase in demand for construction materials to meet housing targets, infrastructure requirements such as Sizewell C and a new hospital in Bury St Edmunds.
- Barham and Shrublands Quarry will remain operational with all employees continuing as part of our team.
- The site will be restored to its current condition as agricultural land.
- The scheme includes provision of biodiversity enhancements comprising of additional hedgerow and mixed planting.
- Development designs include significant stand-offs to St Mary and St Peter's Church and the Churchfields housing scheme.
- Ongoing public engagement will be maintained through the establishment of a local Community Liaison Committee during the operational period.

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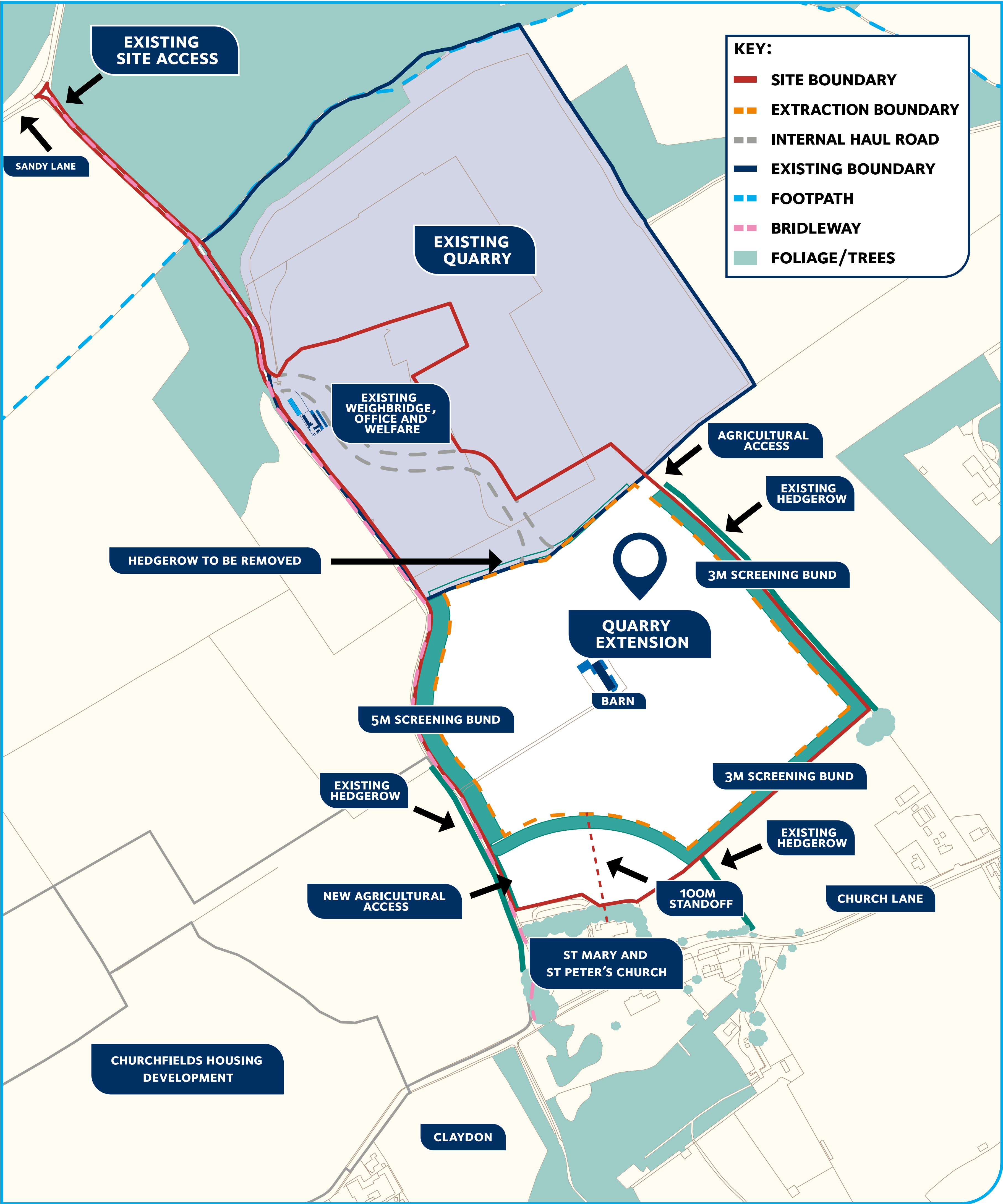
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# Site layout

The proposed development is situated off Sandy Lane, Barham, directly adjoining the south-eastern boundary of the existing Brett Aggregates' Barham Quarry. The site is approximately 12 hectares in size, and the main operational area covers a field which is used for agricultural purposes.



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# Processing at Brett Shrublands Quarry

Material extracted at Barham is currently processed at Brett Aggregates' Shrublands Quarry where there is an established plant. We propose to continue this, thereby no processing operations are proposed at Barham Quarry.

At Shrublands Quarry the plant will wash the imported mineral to remove fine silt particles and sort the extracted sand and gravel by size prior to stockpiling and loading onto HGVs for delivery. At both Barham and Shrublands Quarry the existing weighbridge, offices and welfare facilities will be retained, and in addition at Shrublands Quarry the existing concrete plant and recycling operations will continue to operate.

Silt will primarily be used in the restoration of Shrublands Quarry. Upon completion of silting at Shrublands the remaining silt produced by the Barham Quarry extension would be returned to Barham for use in restoration.

We are currently preparing a planning application to reconfigure the stockpiles and footpath at Shrublands Quarry to maximise sand and gravel stocking capacity.



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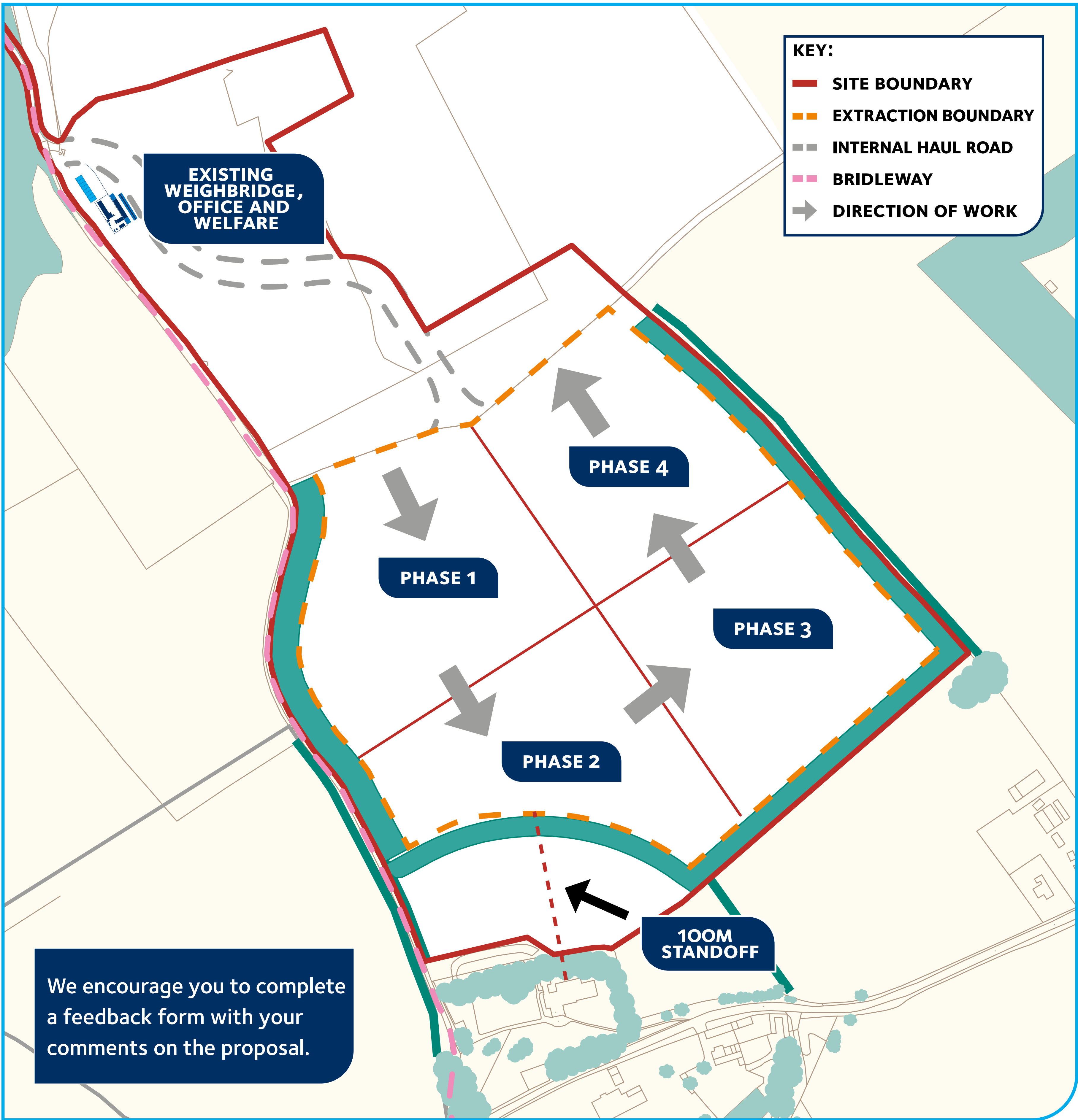
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# A considered phased approach

Operations will start in the north-western part of the site with access directly from the existing Barham Quarry via an internal road. Phased extraction will start in Phase 1 and progress in a counter-clockwise direction finishing in Phase 4, as shown on the phasing plan below.

The phases will be subdivided to provide for effective operational control and environmental management. Restoration will be carried out in a progressive manner using a combination of on-site materials (including soils) and imported inert restoration materials.

Screening bunds are proposed to be built on applicable site edges using soils stripped from the extraction area. In addition to the storage of soils for use in restoration, the screening bunds will also provide visual and acoustic screening of the site operations.

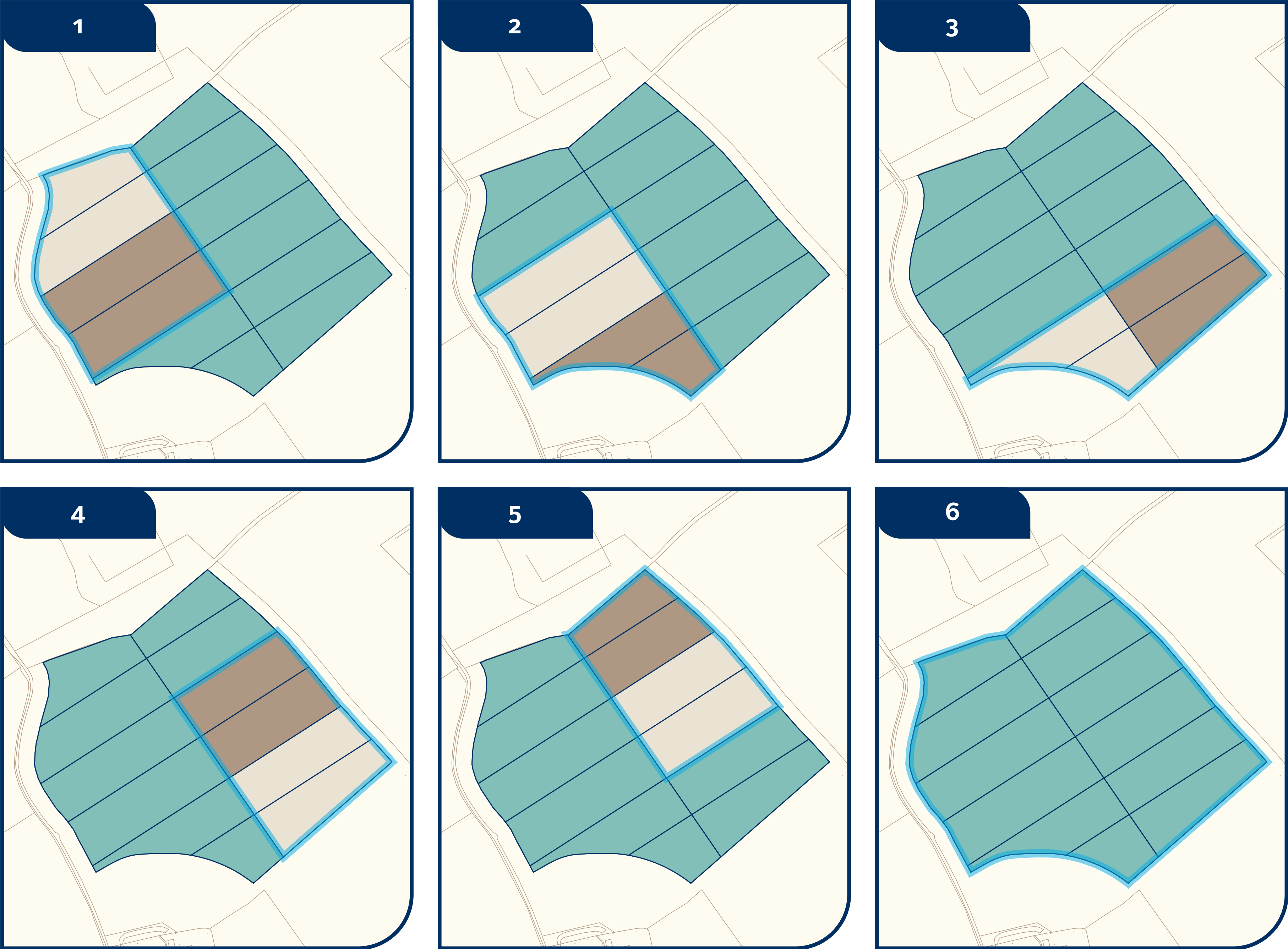


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# From sub-phases to phases

KEY:  SOIL STRIPPING  SAND & GRAVEL EXTRACTION  CURRENT/RESTORED



**In the process of designing the proposed extension we have carefully considered the landscape to develop a progressive phased approach to working.**

The phased approach which will be applied throughout the operational period of the development is intended to minimise the area of land that is exposed at any one time prior to restoration.

- Within each phase we will work in sub-phases. Each sub-phase will either consist of the:
1. Stripping of soil for inclusion in perimeter bunding or direct placement to restore previous phases, thereby revealing the mineral underneath.
  2. Extraction of the mineral applying a dig and haul method.
  3. Restoration through the importation of inert restoration materials and the careful replacement of the site soils.

# Transport and access

All HGVs would approach and leave the site using the existing Barham Quarry access road onto Sandy Lane.

Planning permissions currently restrict the movement of HGVs to the section of Sandy Lane between the site entrance and Norwich Road, and then Norwich Road to Shrublands Quarry. There are also limits on the number of HGVs that can enter and exit the quarry each day and across a year. We are proposing to reduce the number of HGVs using the section of Sandy Lane adjoining Norwich Road.

It is proposed that about 80% of HGVs will continue to use the existing primary route between Sandy Lane and Norwich Road with up to 20%

now to be diverted via the longer secondary Sandy Lane – Needham Road route.

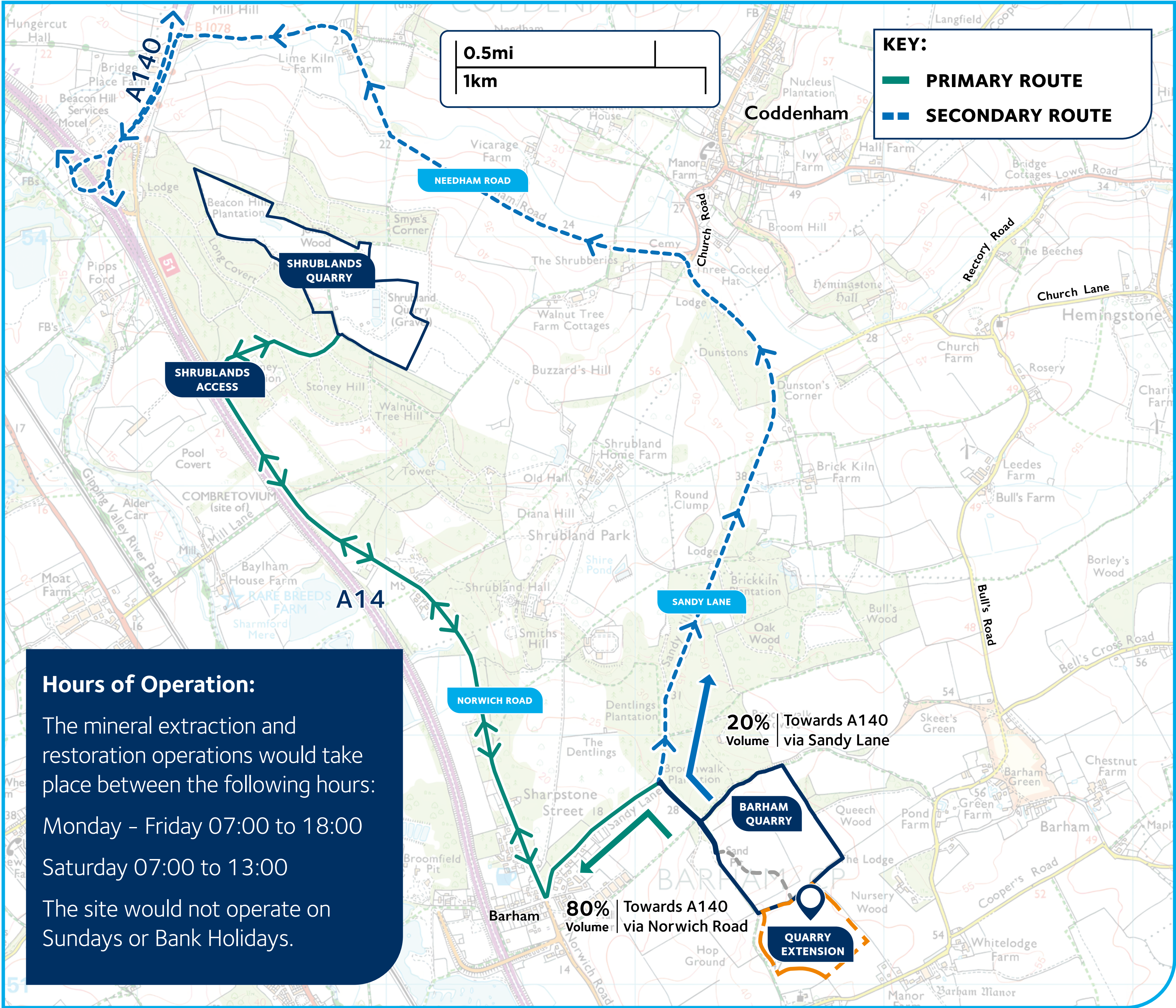
By proposing a limited number of HGVs using the secondary route together with back-hauling where possible we are seeking to balance the impact to residents within the local community.

All HGV drivers will be routinely briefed on routing and compliance will be monitored for Brett vehicles through review of on-board telemetry.

We intend to lay two concrete strips on the bridleway to improve the condition of the surface and to install additional drainage to reduce surface

water runoff flowing onto Sandy Lane. Plans for these improvements are currently with Suffolk County Council for approval. Improvements to the junction between Norwich Road and Sandy Lane are also being considered.

The internal site roads will be maintained and regularly sprayed with water during periods of dry weather to help suppress any dust emissions. In addition, all HGVs transporting mineral or restoration materials will be sheeted to avoid dust and spillages. HGVs will also use a dry wheel cleaner before exiting the site, the effectiveness of which will be monitored.



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# Minimising the effect on our neighbours

A planning permission for a minerals scheme contains many conditions limiting the impact the development could have on the local community and surrounding environment. Typically, there are conditions on operating hours, quarry and restoration designs and environmental controls such as noise, dust and traffic.

In addition to planning controls, our operations work within ‘The Quarries Regulations’ which provide for safe operating practices and the geotechnical design of quarry workings. Other controls involve the management and use of imported inert restoration materials via a permit from the Environment Agency.

Our reputation as a good neighbour is important to us and we are keen to hear about any concerns and feedback in general. We will continue to review our proposal to further minimise any impacts that may occur.

## Air quality and dust

As a responsible operator, we have a strong track record in managing dust and air quality. We have an existing Dust Management Plan for Barham Quarry, which will be reviewed and updated to cover the proposed extension area.

Sand and gravel is inherently damp when extracted which minimises the potential for dust generation.

On dry days we spray the haul roads with water. In addition to these measures, all loaded HGVs will be covered with sheeting when arriving and leaving the site.

All Brett fleet vehicles operating on site comply with the latest ‘Euro 6’ emissions standards, which is the current standard for example in the London Ultra Low Emission Zone.



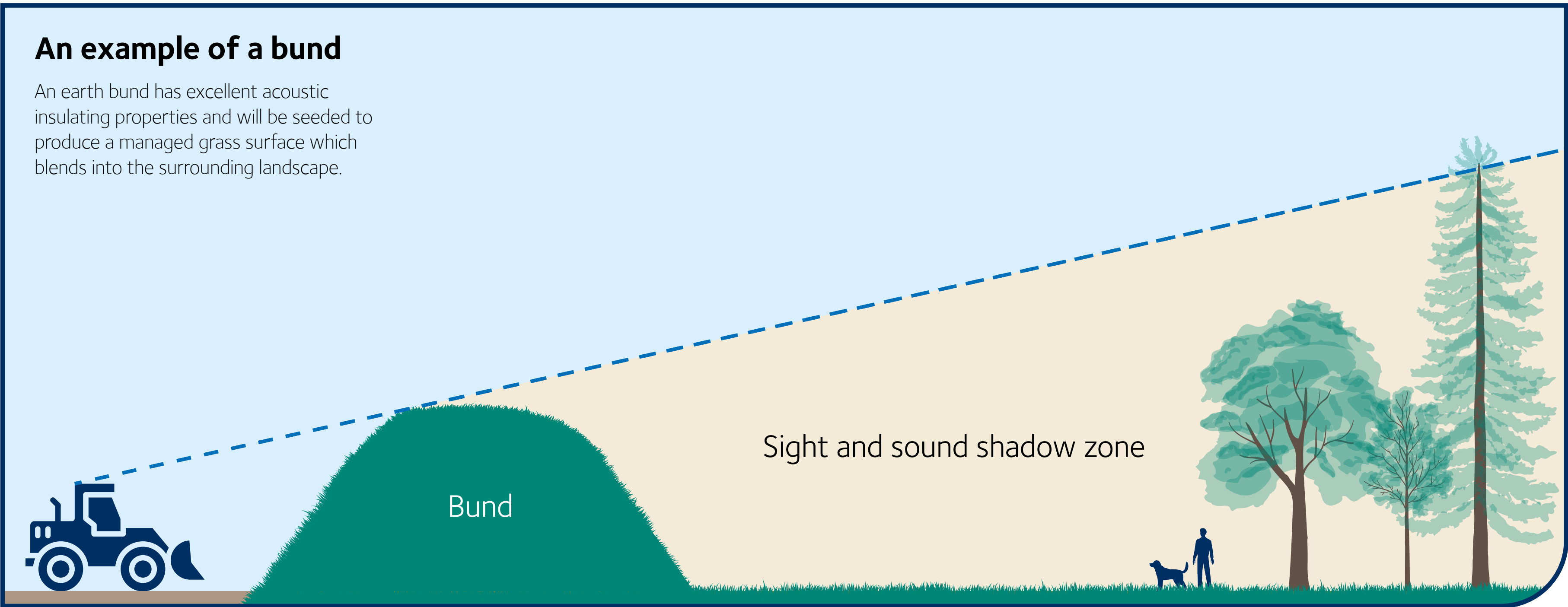
## Sight and sound

We will take several measures to reduce the sound and visual impact of the proposed extension to Barham Quarry. The primary step is building soil mounds, or ‘bunds’, up to five metres high. Soil is a natural sound insulator, so these bunds will both

block and absorb noise while blending into the environment as they green over after being seeded with grass.

The bunds help screen the quarry from view in a natural, unobtrusive way. Alongside this, we will follow best working practices during operating hours to further manage noise levels,

including maintaining a speed limit for all vehicles on site. We are also committed to using modern, quieter machinery wherever possible and are continually reviewing new methods to help reduce noise. Regular monitoring will ensure that levels remain within the limits set by planning conditions.



# Minimising the effect on our neighbours

## Soil resources

Soil resources will be preserved through careful soil stripping and handling to place into bunds for use in final restoration, or direct placement during phased restoration. No soils will be exported from the site.



## Ecology

A range of ecological surveys are being undertaken to understand the habitats and species that use the site. Measures will be introduced into the working scheme to mitigate the temporary loss of habitat and through the restoration proposals, lead to Biodiversity Net Gain, meaning we will leave the area with a more diverse natural habitat than when we started.



## Public rights of way

There are no public rights of way within the proposed extraction area. The public footpath which crosses the existing access will be retained. The existing bridleway which borders the site would continue as such but would be screened from the proposed operations.



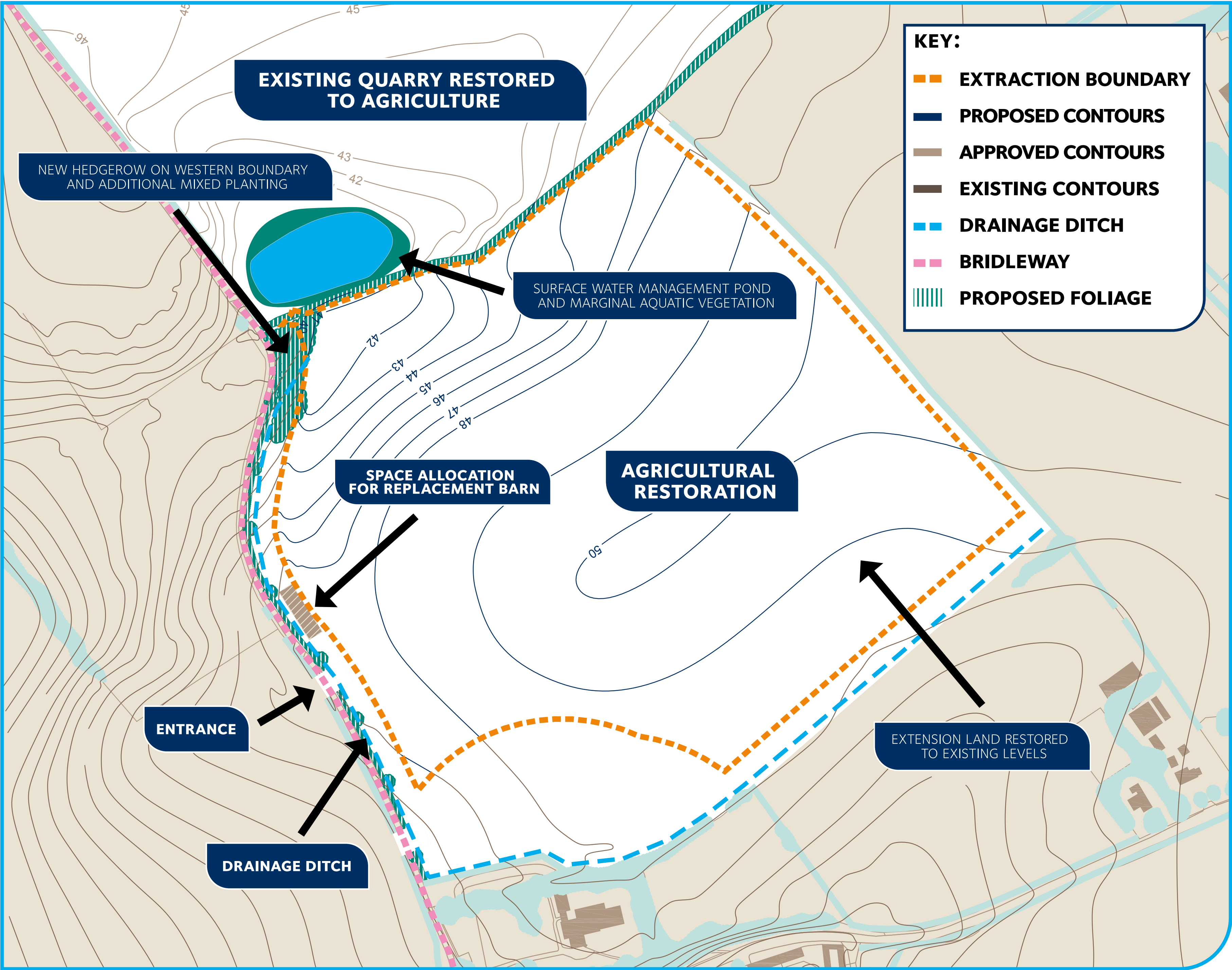
## Cultural heritage

A programme of archaeological investigations, which has been agreed with the County Archaeologist, is being undertaken to check for any important archaeological features within the site.

To date a geophysical survey has been completed and a programme of trial trenching will take place in October/November 2025. Consideration is also being given to local listed buildings such as St Mary and St Peter's Church and the Shrublands Registered Park and Garden to reduce the effect on their setting.



# Restoration plan



- Includes the provision of biodiversity enhancements, comprising new habitats with hedgerows and mixed planting.
- Removal of all welfare, equipment, weighbridge, wheel wash and other temporary facilities.
- Progressive restoration of the workings back to agriculture at existing ground levels.



EXAMPLE AGRICULTURAL RESTORATION AT SHRUBLANDS QUARRY

# Next steps

A detailed planning application is being prepared, and an Environmental Impact Assessment is being undertaken. This exhibition forms part of our strategy to consult our neighbours about our plans. We will consider any comments we receive from this exhibition and review our plans as appropriate before submitting the final proposals to Suffolk County Council.

It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted to Suffolk County Council in the next few months. Following its submission, Council Officers will undertake a formal consultation process involving the local community, nearby residents and other bodies such as the Environment Agency and Historic England. Should the Council be minded to grant planning permission, it is anticipated that sand and gravel extraction operations could start during 2027.

### How can I have my say?

We value your opinions and are committed to maintaining engagement with local communities. We encourage you to:

- Complete a feedback form with your comments on the proposal.
- Contact us with your comments at [planningdepartment@brett.co.uk](mailto:planningdepartment@brett.co.uk)

These comments will not be shared directly with Suffolk County Council but may influence the planning application before it is submitted to them.

Once the planning application has been submitted, Suffolk County Council will consult a range of organisations, including residents, as part of the formal application process. You will be able to make any comments you have on the application at that stage directly to the Council.



# Frequently asked questions

## Why do we need to extend Barham Quarry?

The extraction of sand and gravel from the existing Barham Quarry provides a substantial contribution to the supply of minerals for Suffolk. Reserves of sand and gravel from the existing Brett Shrublands and Barham Quarries are due to be fully worked out within the next 12 to 18 months. Replacement reserves are needed to help meet future demand for construction materials.

Minerals can only be extracted where they occur, and the proposed Barham extension would make use of the existing access and processing infrastructure at Shrublands Quarry. No processing plant is proposed at Barham with sand and gravel being transported as currently to Brett Shrublands Quarry.

## What is the sand and gravel used for?

Sand and gravel are construction aggregates used for a range of building applications. It is important for concrete, asphalt and block production.



## What are your plans for Shrublands Quarry?

Shrublands Quarry is an existing operational sand and gravel quarry that contains a processing plant that washes and screens imported mineral from Barham Quarry. A range of aggregates is produced to meet industry specifications. It also includes a batching plant that uses those aggregates to manufacture ready mixed concrete and a recycling operation that processes imported hardcore into aggregate. We intend to process the sand and gravel from the Barham Extension at Brett Shrublands Quarry.

A planning application is currently being prepared for Shrublands Quarry to increase the sand and gravel stocking space and divert the footpath.

## How are you going to improve the current access arrangements for Barham Quarry?

Most HGVs will continue to use the existing primary route between Sandy Lane and Norwich Road, with the remainder now to be diverted via the secondary Sandy Lane – Needham Road route.

We intend to lay two concrete strips on the bridleway to improve the condition of the surface and to install additional drainage to reduce surface water run

off flowing onto Sandy Lane. Plans for these improvements are currently with Suffolk County Council for approval.

## What controls are you going to put in place to ensure HGV drivers comply with routing and site rules generally?

All HGV drivers will be routinely briefed on the proposed routing.

Compliance will be monitored through regular review of the on-board telemetry information. Additionally, cameras are being installed to record vehicles entering and leaving the site.



## What will I see from local housing, church and local roads?

The proposed extension area is already well screened by established hedgerows and shrubs. During the development separate topsoil and overburden screening bunds will be constructed within the site perimeter. These grassed bunds will provide a visual and acoustic screen.

## What happens when you finish quarrying?

The quarry will be worked progressively, which means as we remove the sand and gravel, we will restore the areas from where it is removed, as we go along. To do this we will use soils arising from the site as well as imported inert restoration materials carefully sourced from local excavation projects. As each phase is restored, the land will be farmed for arable production, as it is now.

**We encourage you to complete a feedback form with your comments on the proposal.**

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