

Quarryplan Secure 45 Year Reserve of Limestone at Fivemiletown – L/2011/0269/F

In May 2012, Quarryplan obtain planning permission for a 9 hectare lateral extension to Crievehill Quarry, in Co. Fermanagh located c. 4km west of the village of Fivemiletown. The approved development permits the quarry operator to extend both laterally beyond their historic 1980 approval area and vertically to a depth of 60mAOD.

The permission secures in the region of 45 years of permitted mineral reserve.

The Project

The proposal was divided up into 5 phases of development (and progressive reinstatement where practical). The first 3 phases will see the quarry development laterally in an easterly, northern and westerly directions. These lateral phases will allow the quarry floor to be sunk over two phases (and three levels) to a depth of 60mAOD.

The lateral extension (phases 1, 2 and 3) will also generate in the region of 1m³ tonnes of topsoil and overburden. The relocation and placement of this overburden has been designed into the phased landscape restoration program. Primarily, a large portion of overburden material will be employed to create two screening embankments on the southeast and southwest flanks of the quarry. These have been designed to have gently contoured outer slopes to tie in with the existing landform. The quarry design and overburden screening embankments have all be designed to AcoP and Quarry Regulations standards, which resulted in the design meeting with the approval of the DOE and the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland.

The final restoration concept for the site will see the floor of the quarry flood to become a wetland habitat. Extensive woodland planting has been proposed during each phase of the development. It is considered that by the time the quarry ceases to provide mineral (45 year plus), this woodland planting will have matured nicely to provide a diverse habitat for an area of c. 15 hectares; while retaining the Company's value added buildings, plant and machinery within the existing established downstream industrial section of the quarry site.

Application Time Frame

The planning application, which was accompanied by an Environmental Statement, was submitted in March 2011. In January 2012, all consultations on the planning application had been completed, with no objections raised. The Application was presented to Fermanagh District Council in February 2012. The final decision was issued by the Department (DOE Planning and Local Government) in May 2012.

A further information request was issued by the Department for a Mine Waste Plan, in September 2011, following the commencement of legislations in May 2012 regarding the same. It was highlighted to the Department that the mine waste plan was included within the Environmental Statement. There were no further requests for additional information.

For further information on the application and project please contact Gareth McCallion.