

## **What is being proposed for the Needingworth area?**

An extension to the Needingworth Quarry is proposed, at Bare Fen / West Fen. This will enable a further 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel to be extracted.

It is also suggested that a construction industry inert waste recycling facility be located at the Needingworth Quarry (plant site). The life of this facility would be linked to the life of the quarry.

### **Why is it being proposed?**

Following sand and gravel extraction, land in the Needingworth quarry is being restored as reedbed, to form part of the Great Ouse Wetland.

It is suggested that the Bare Fen / West Fen area is worked (and fitted into the phased working of the overall site). Otherwise it is unlikely to be worked in the future, meaning that the land would be sterilised. This goes against Government advice for the sustainable use of minerals.

An inert waste recycling facility is needed to maximise the amount of recycled aggregate produced and used, and minimise the amount of virgin aggregate needed.

### **What about restoration of the site?**

It is proposed that restoration of the site will form part of the wider restoration scheme of Needingworth Quarry, and be part of the Great Ouse Wetland. The site would build upon the significant contribution being made to meeting the Biodiversity Action Plan targets for reedbed creation, and is especially important as it is in a single block (the majority of existing reedbed sites are small).

Local public access would be enhanced, in line with policies in the Minerals and Waste Plan. There is an opportunity to link any new public access arrangements to the existing scheme, bringing greater community benefits.

### **What about Northstowe?**

Development at Northstowe will be starting around 2010. This will mean sand and gravel will be needed, and some may come from Needingworth Quarry via the approved route i.e. the St Ives Bypass and the A14.

### **What about the A14?**

The A14 upgrade will require 6 million tonnes of materials, including 2 million tonnes of sand and gravel. Other mineral requirements include crushed rock, which will have to come from outside Cambridgeshire, as there is an absence of hard rock in the County.

The amount of virgin material will be minimised by the use of recycled aggregate where possible (not all recycled aggregates meet the specification required for road building).

Sand and gravel will come from borrowpits in Cambridgeshire. Clay may also be needed. This is likely to come from existing mineral / landfill sites, or if this is not possible it may come from clay borrowpits.

Borrowpits are short-term mineral extraction sites, and are used to supply major projects e.g. road improvements. They are normally sited close to the development, reducing traffic on local roads.

After discussions with the Highways Agency, six potential borrowpits to supply sand and gravel to the A14 upgrade have been identified:

- Weybridge Farm, near Brampton Hut
- West of Brampton
- South West Brampton
- Oxholme Farm, Fenstanton
- Galley Hill south, Fenstanton
- Woolpack Farm, Galley Hill

### **What about the traffic movements?**

Housing growth will mean more traffic on the roads. Minerals and waste related traffic will be a small part of that increase as minerals are transported to the new development areas from quarries, and waste is transported to / from recycling centres.

### **Can we have a bypass?**

Bypasses are unlikely to be justified on the basis of mineral and waste traffic alone. The majority of construction traffic will be able to approach growth areas by primary or main distributor roads.

Construction traffic is also temporary, even though it can operate over a protracted period. Any bypasses would have to be considered in the context of the review of the County Council's Local Transport Plan, taking into account wider traffic matters.

### **How do I respond on the Minerals and Waste Plan?**

The Minerals and Waste Plan and all supporting documents can be found on the Councils' websites [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and [www.peterborough.gov.uk](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk) and the consultation portal <http://consult.peterborough.gov.uk/portal>

Responses in respect of the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD and the Site Specific Proposals (Submission) DPD can be made on-line at <http://consult.peterborough.gov.uk/portal> . Alternatively, the DPD representation form is available to download from the Councils websites [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and [www.peterborough.gov.uk](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk).  
(Guidance notes for on line or written responses are also on the websites).

If you require any further information, you can contact:

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