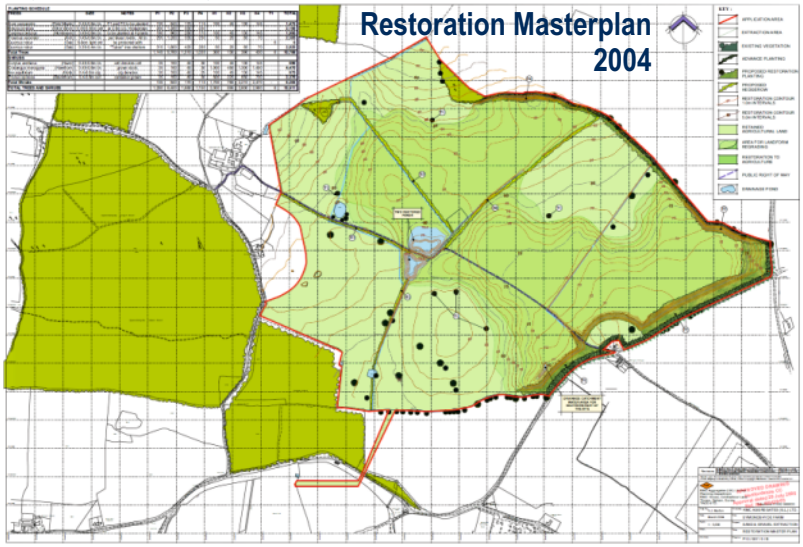
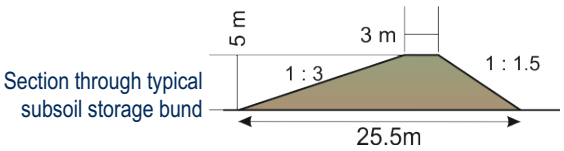
Hatfield Quarry, Hertfordshire:
Restoration to Arable Agriculture
Symondshyde Farm





Section through typical subsoil storage bund

Planning:

·A scheme of restoration was discussed and agreed with the landowners prior to making the planning application.

·A programme of advance tree and shrub planting and hedgerow improvement was undertaken in 2003 prior to submitting the planning application, for screening purposes.

·The 2004 planning application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, which contained a detailed assessment of the agricultural land quality and the soil types and locations across the site.

·This soils assessment formed the basis of a detailed scheme of phased working, including soil stripping, storage and final placement.

Phased Working Scheme July 2020

Soil handling:

·Different soil types (topsoil, subsoil and overburden) and units are stripped and stored separately in accordance with best practice guidance.

·Materials are stored “like upon like” i.e. topsoil is stripped from beneath subsoil bunds, and subsoil from beneath overburden bunds. Where continuous bunds are used, dissimilar soils are separated by a third material such as geotextile layer. Topsoil bunds are no more than 3.0m high, and subsoil bunds are no more than 5.0m high.

·Soils are handled as set out in Sheets 1-4 inclusive of the MAFF Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils (April 2000). Objects greater than 100mm in any direction brought to the surface by this cultivation will be removed from the soiled area.

·Soil stripping and placement operations are only carried out when weather conditions are suitable, and the soils are dry and friable.

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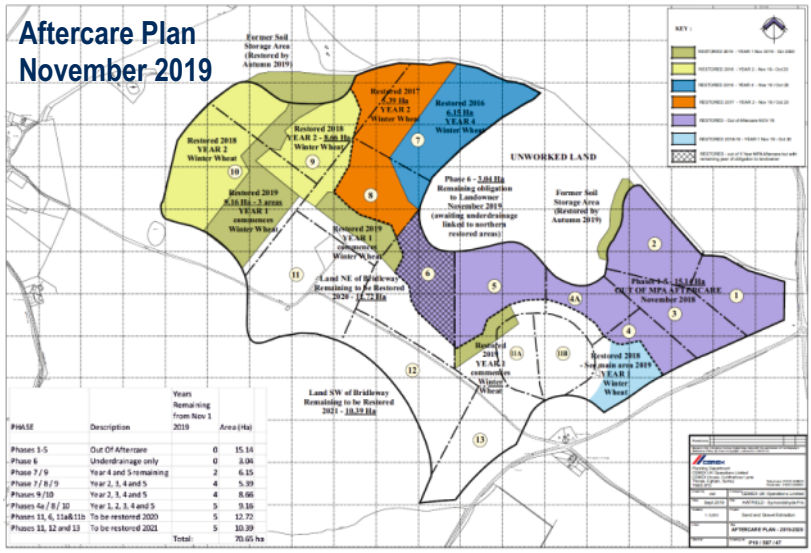
Restoration:

·Restored gradients for the arable agricultural restoration are no steeper than 1:8, and for the adjacent woodland slopes, no steeper than 1:3.
·The first phases of restoration were undertaken in 2012.
·The final restoration landform was created and graded with surplus overburden, with minor regrading across the base of the excavation to provide even falls with no low points.
·Subsoils are replaced to an average depth of 700mm (650mm minimum, 750mm maximum); topsoils are replaced to a settled depth of 300mm minimum.
·After final soil placement, a piped underdrainage scheme has been installed to the restored phases, with discharge to a temporary sump. This will eventually discharge to a settlement pond prior to being discharged to an adjacent watercourse.
·The restored working phases are managed on an arable rotation by the landowner's tenant, cropping winter wheat and oilseed rape.
·A programme of restoration hedgerow planting will be undertaken across the restored fields.

Aftercare Plan November 2019



Aftercare:

·The schedule of conditions attached to the permission includes those relevant to landscaping, restoration and aftercare.
·The restored site is subject to a five-year aftercare programme.
·During the aftercare, an annual meeting is arranged between the site operators CEMEX UK Materials Ltd, the landowner's representative, and the Mineral Planning Authority to examine the effectiveness of the aftercare and management programme.
·Details of soil fertility and proposed fertiliser programme, together with details of other field operations such as herbicide spraying are submitted as part of the annual aftercare report.

Biodiversity:

Restoration options for other agricultural reclamation sites may incorporate features for biodiversity including
·Arable Field Margins – Nectar seed mixes or Farmland Bird seed mixes;
·Ponds
·Skylark Plots.

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