



Mining & Minerals Special

The Forest at risk ?

Aggregate Industries UK Ltd (AI), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Swiss multi-national Holcim, issued outline proposals in June 2008, as part of their consultation process, stating that they will apply for planning permission in Spring 2009 to mine a super quarry in a total area of approximately 1 mile square. The quarry is to be located in open farmland on a greenfield site in the heart of Charnwood Forest and at the foot of Bardon Hill. A map showing the area to be quarried is shown overleaf. The proposed quarry would be in operation for the next 40/50 years. AI's existing super quarry, located on the other side of Bardon Hill is expected to be exhausted in some 5/10 years.

AI does not have planning permission for the site. It appears that they have not previously made any expression of interest to Leicestershire County Council (LCC), the only body which could grant such planning permission, to quarry in the area concerned.

The new Charnwood Forest area, part of which was previously listed as an area of particularly attractive countryside, some as an area of outstanding natural beauty, is now being redefined by LCC in conjunction with the three adjoining Borough Councils. It is expected that the redefined Charnwood Forest area, based on previous practice, would be given some kind of special status. Bardon Hill is a County landmark, contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and at over 1000 feet is the highest point in the County.

AI proposes that the new quarry will be an "extension" to their other quarry as it is to be linked thereto by a one-and-a-half mile conveyor belt. On this premise, which they state is backed by the precedents of other UK permissions, the existing operating conditions should apply to the new quarry.

This would be the first planning application in the County for a hard rock quarry on a greenfield site in the last 25 years.

LCC were to issue, at the end of June, a "Minerals Development Framework" which contains proposals for quarrying operations.

HAVE YOUR SAY! We have arranged a meeting on Tuesday 21st October at WHE village hall with three officials from AI. Do come!

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Coming Events

- The Wildlife of Watermead Talk-15 September
- Meeting with AI Directors 21 October
- A Wander through the Forest-Talk-13 October
- Meet the Members Dinner-19 November

Bardon Hill Quarry Proposals

Total Proposed Quarry Area

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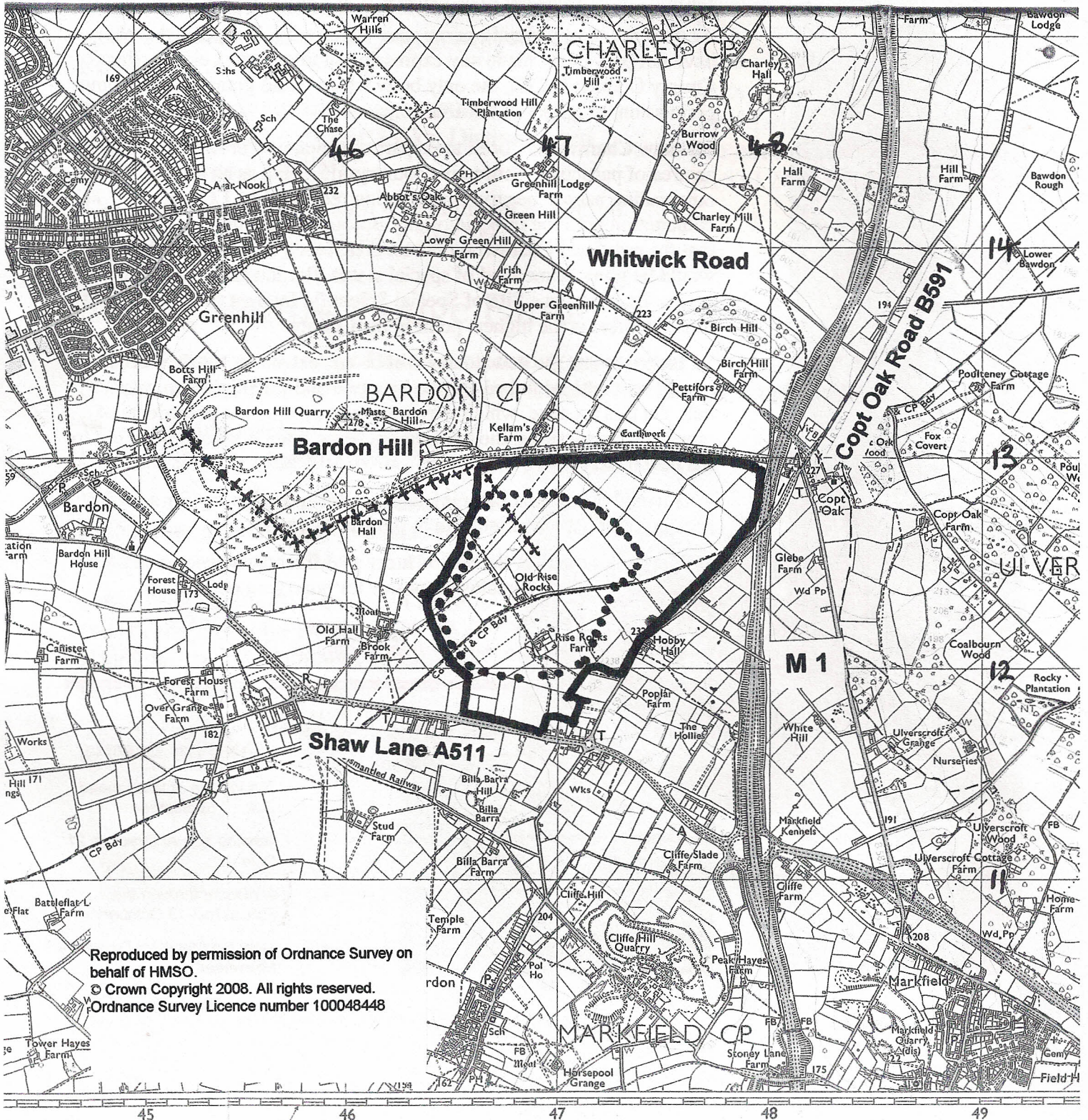
Actual Quarry Hole

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Conveyor Belt Route

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Scale 1: 25 000 4 cm to 1 km 2½ ins to 1 mile



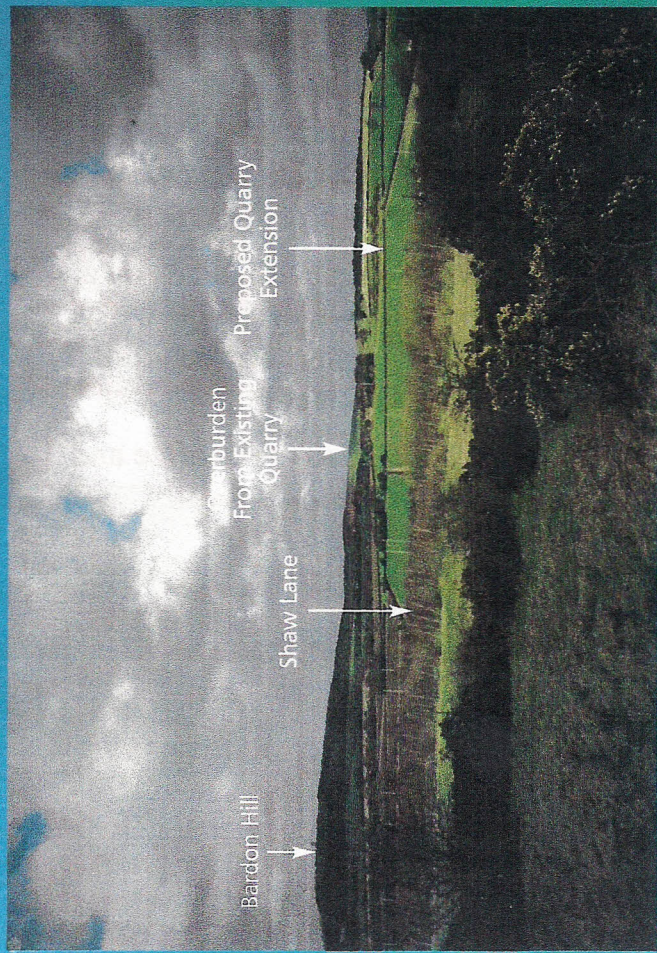
The Proposed Extension

Our proposed quarry extension is within the Bardon Estate to the south-east of the existing quarry area. Geological investigations have shown this location to be the nearest workable area to the existing processing plant and rail connection.

This proposal, shown on the facing page, would be an extension to the existing quarry operation, linked to the current processing area by a conveyor system. The processing plant is likely to be kept in its existing location so that we can continue to use the road and rail network that is already in place. We think the conveyor system is the most environmentally responsible way of transporting materials from the new area to the existing quarry and processing plant.

Under our proposal, the existing quarry would be part-filled with the material known as overburden that overlies the rock to be quarried. Future use of the existing quarry will be determined at a later date after further consultation.

This photograph shows the extension area north of Shaw Lane, with Bardon Hill to the left.



Key

- Land owned by Aggregate Industries
- Proposed extraction area
- Railway Line
- Overburden conveyor
- Rock conveyor

Our recent meetings

Visit to Upper Parks Farm

We had an excellent evening on 28th May at the home of committee-man Tony Milner.

About 40 members attended and we split into two parties. One was led by David Ramsey, a well known local historian and mineralogist, who showed us the remains of slate quarrying going back to Roman and medieval times.

At the same time we saw Tony's pedigree herd of White Park Cattle (Good looks, Distinguished History, Future Potential)

The evening concluded with refreshments organised by Mr & Mrs Bassett and Mr & Mrs Mayes.

Thanks to the team, led by Events Co-ordinator Clifford Jones, for these two visits.

If you have not paid your 2008 subscription, our Treasurer, Kim Turner, would like to hear from you at Poultney Farm, Priory Lane, Ulverscroft, Markfield LE67 9PA. If you are not sure, her number is 01530 244921

Spring Barrow Lodge Farm-Grace Dieu

About 30 members enjoyed a most interesting morning at Spring Barrow Lodge, home of John and Pat Stanley and their pedigree Blackbrook Herd of English Longhorn cattle.

We started by watching Pat washing a bull and shampooing him with "Sunsilk".

Pat is a show judge and she educated us in the finer points of a bull's anatomy prior to us judging two bulls ourselves.

John (seen here with a cow) led us on a tour of the farm and we were able to appreciate the bull's merits at two foot range! No-one was scared!

The morning concluded with coffee and hamburgers from their own meat.



Chairman: Dick Howard, Townhead Farm, Leicester Rd, Markfield LE67 9RE Tel: 01530 245373