

Balmullo Quarry Extension – Introduction

Welcome to this public consultation event which seeks to provide information about the proposed extension to Balmullo Quarry, as well as the periodic review of the quarry's planning permission. It also aims to collect feedback from the community on the proposals.

The Site

Balmullo Quarry has been operational since the early 20th century. The red felsite aggregate extracted at Balmullo is a hard wearing and durable decorative aggregate. It has many applications, including, but not limited to, driveway chippings, rail ballast, and within the construction of roads.

Breedon intends to seek planning permission to extend the extraction area by approximately 3 hectares to the north allowing extraction beyond the current reserve, ensuring the continued supply of construction aggregates to the local market and the retention of employment.

The quarry would otherwise continue to operate as it currently does, with access to and from the quarry via its dedicated entrance off Quarry Road.

About Breedon

Breedon is a leading supplier of aggregates, cement, ready mix concrete, asphalt and specialist construction products and services.

Our quarries and plants produce essential materials that build homes, workplaces and leisure spaces. From roads to runways, houses to hospitals, you'll find our products supporting modern life across the UK.

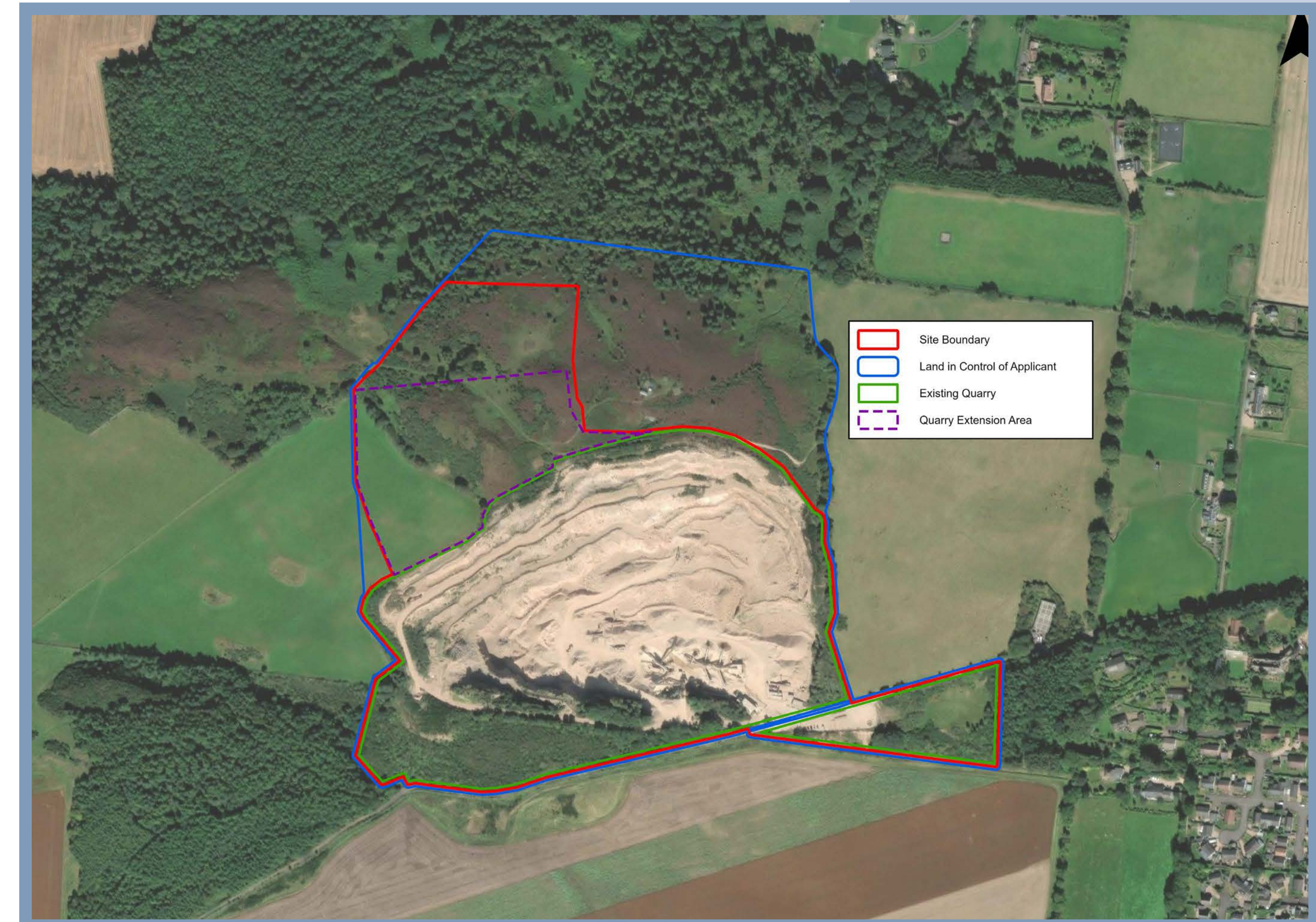
Within Scotland, Breedon operate a network of 37 quarries, 19 asphalt plants, 28 ready-mix concrete plants, 4 pre-cast concrete block making facilities and 1 cement terminal. Breedon currently employs in the region of 800 staff across its Scottish business.

Breedon aim to minimise any impact of their operations and encourage a positive approach to health, safety and care for the environment.

The Consultation Process

This is the second of two public consultation events regarding the proposed extension. The feedback gathered at the first event has been used to develop the extension proposals. Feedback from this event will also be used to further develop the extension proposals. The feedback will be summarised in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report which will be submitted with the planning application.

Any comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority. When an application is submitted to Fife Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.



Balmullo Quarry Extension - Development Proposals

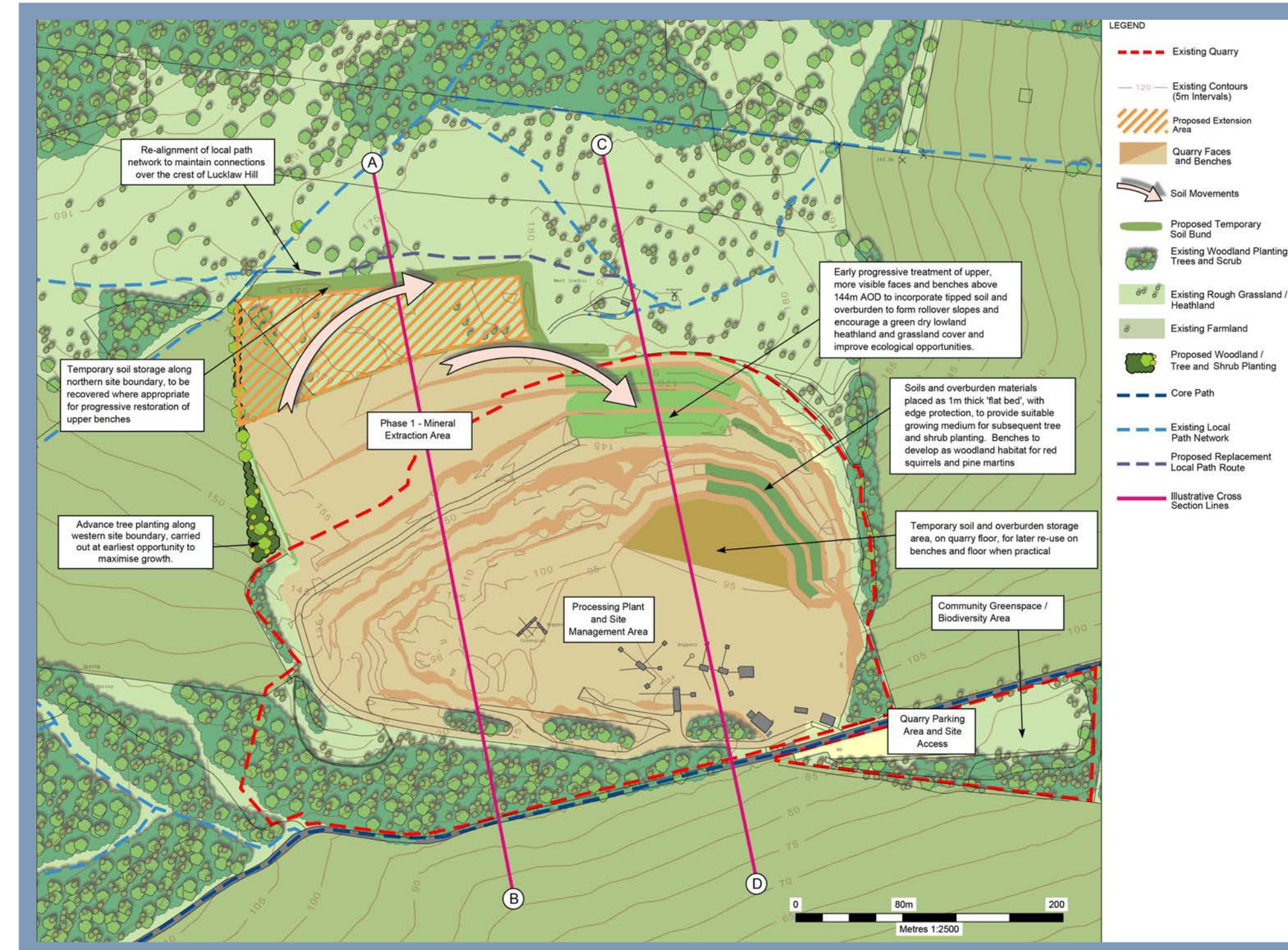


It is estimated that the proposed extension will yield in the region of 3 million tonnes of aggregate. It is not anticipated for there to be any change to the current annual output as a result of the extension proposals. At current rates of extraction, the extension would add in the region of 20 years' life to the quarry.

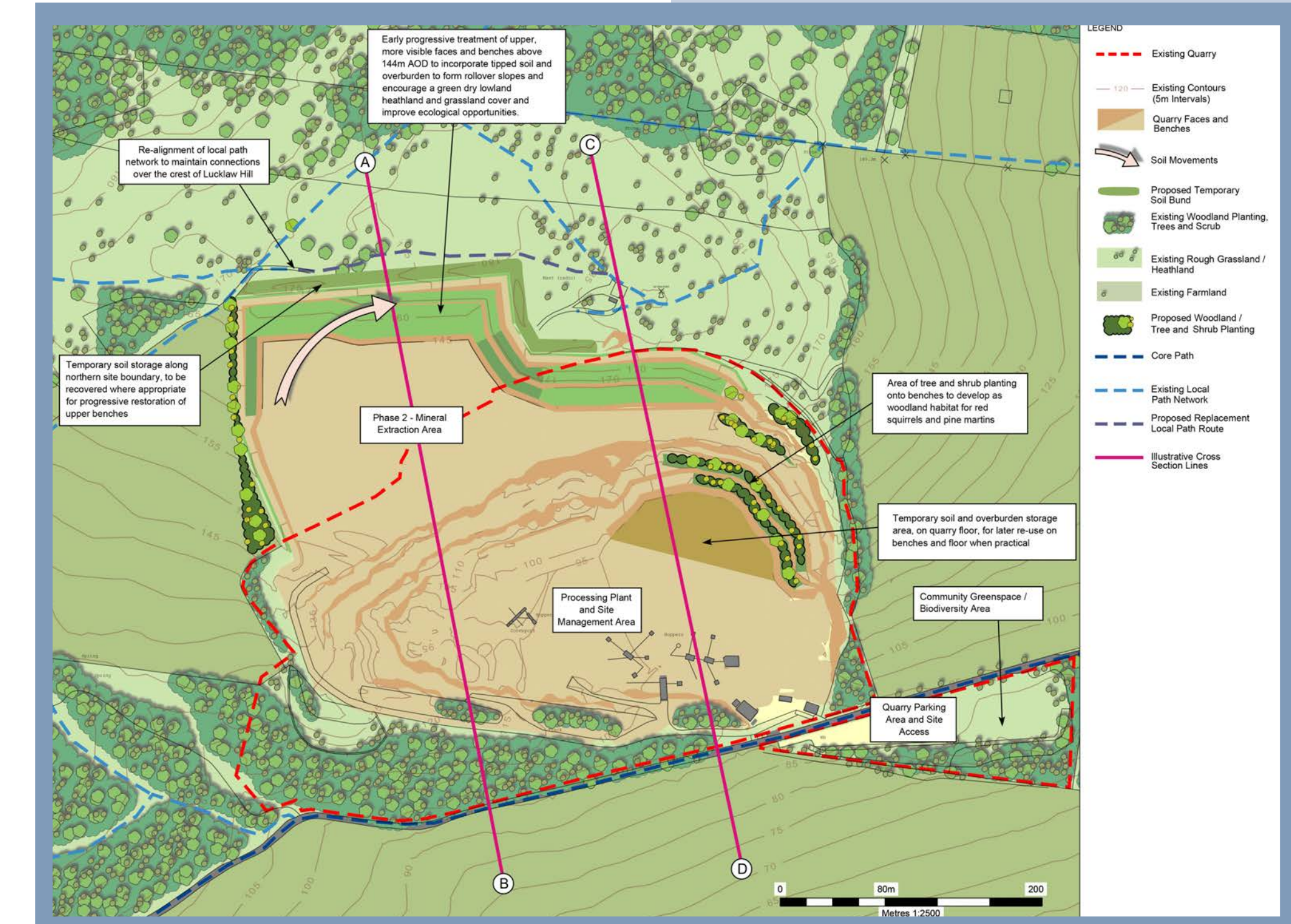
The proposed extension to Balmullo Quarry would be operated as a continuation of the current permitted operations.

All minerals planning permissions are required to be reviewed every 15 years. This process is known as 'periodic review'. The periodic review seeks to consider the current operational planning conditions, and if necessary, update or amend planning conditions to ensure they are fit for purpose. The periodic review will be carried out at the same time as the application for the proposed extension.

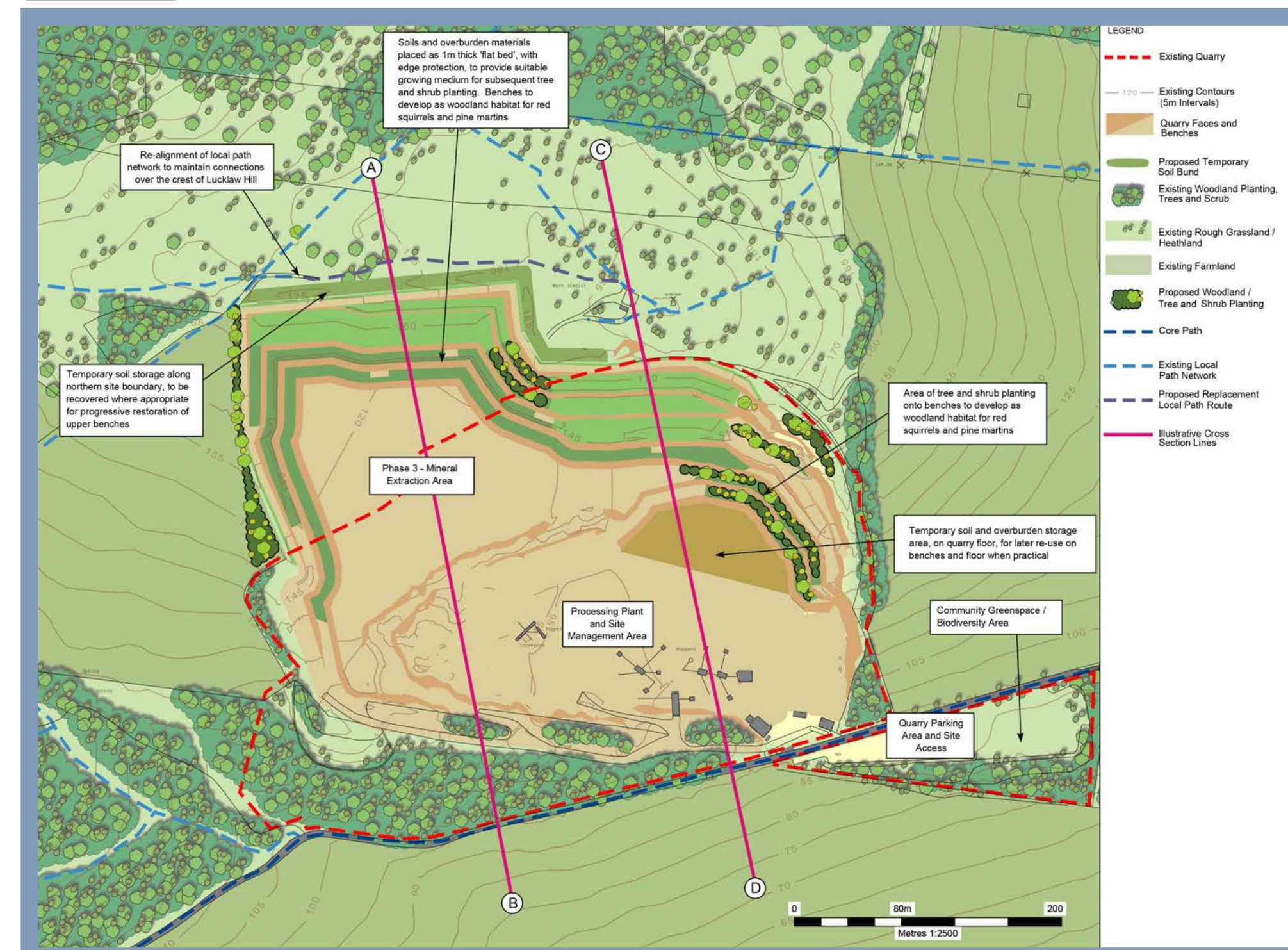
Phase 1



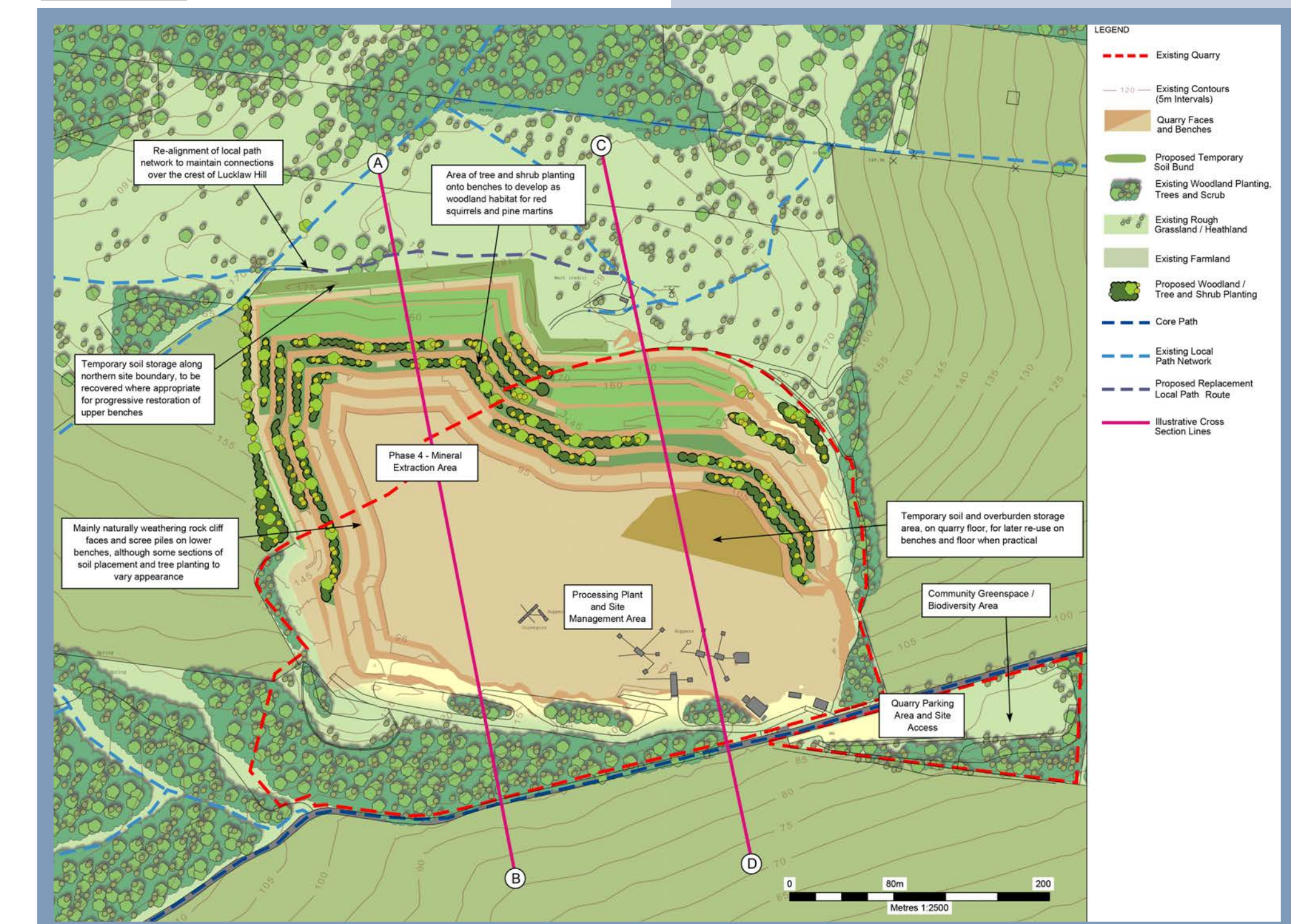
Phase 2



Phase 3



Phase 4



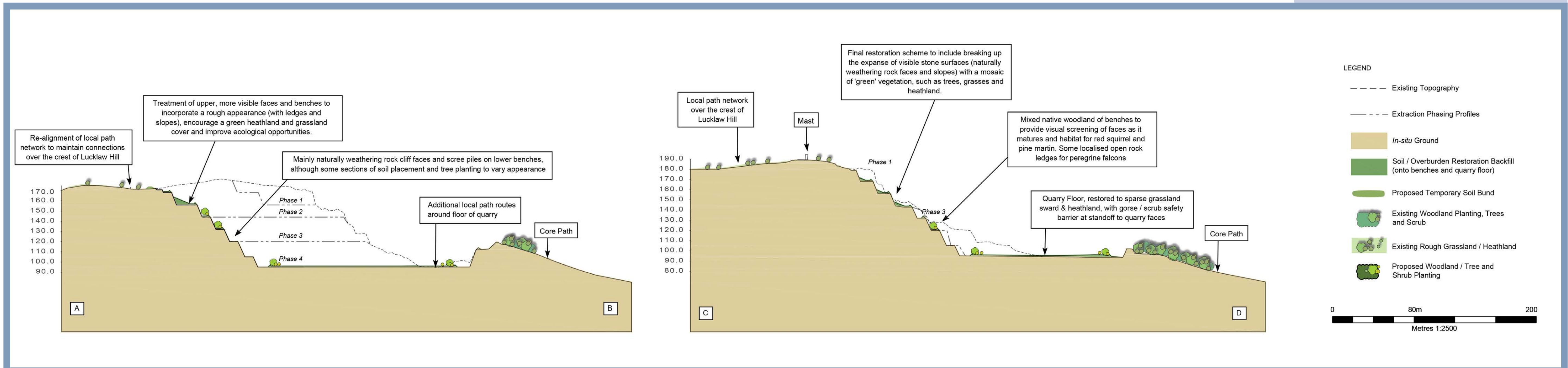
Balmullo Quarry Extension - Development Proposals

Layout Comparison



Following feedback from the first consultation event the design of the proposed extension to the quarry has been developed further. Primarily the scale of the development has been reduced (from 5ha to 3ha) to retain further features of Lucklaw Hill. This departure from the original proposal will take place in Phase 3 where development at depth will take place as opposed to further lateral expansion. Recreational access across the hill will be maintained with the one short stretch of track that would be diverted.

Section



Balmullo Quarry Extension – Operations

The quarry and ancillary operations can be conveniently described in five component parts comprising:

- stripping of soil and overburden;
- extraction of rock by drilling and blasting;
- transfer of extracted rock for processing;
- material processing, stocking and dispatch; and
- progressive restoration.

The quarry is worked in a generally northerly direction, developing a range of benches to ensure operational safety is maintained. The proposals will see the development continue to progress northerly into the extension area.

Rock is initially won by drilling and blasting to dislodge the rock from the face. The rock is then transported by dump truck to the processing plant located on the quarry floor for crushing and screening to produce aggregates of varying sizes. Conveyors are used to transfer material between processing plant and stockpiles. On completion of processing, products, which include driveway decorative chippings and road sub-base aggregates, are despatched to market.

Progressive restoration is a key component of the proposals and Breedon are committed to utilising soils won from the extension to progressively restore the quarry.



Balmullo Quarry Extension – Restoration

Restoration at Balmullo is envisaged as currently permitted, with heathland on restoration blasted upper faces and benches, with a mosaic of grasses, heathland species and naturally weathering rock on the lower benches, and sparse grassland sward and heathland on the quarry floor.

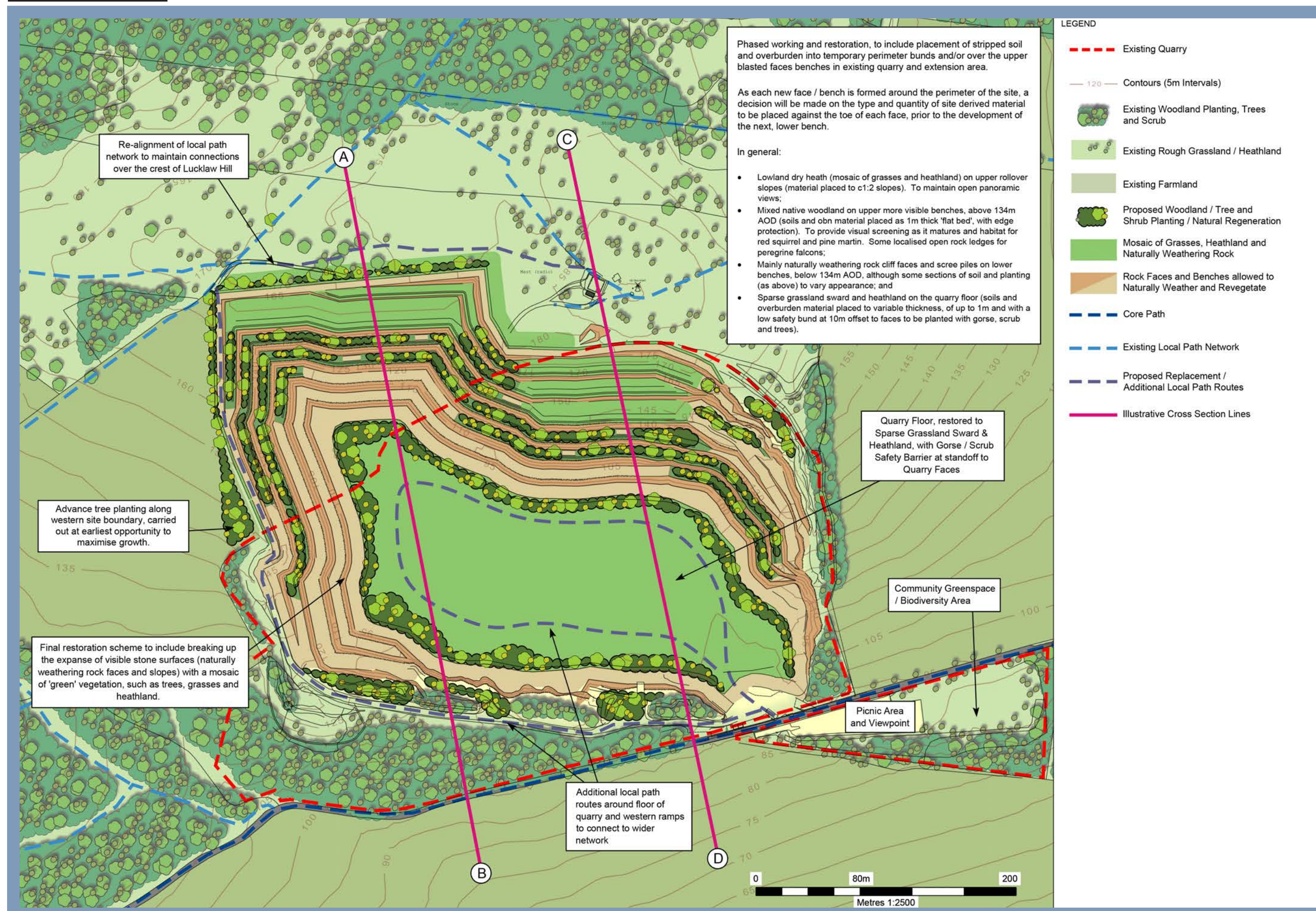
Mixed native tree and scrub planting is proposed along the northern and western boundaries of the proposed extension area. Native tree planting is also proposed on the quarry floor at the foot of the lower benches, as well as on some of the quarry benches. Wherever practicable tree planting would be done at an early stage to allow it to establish in conjunction with quarry operations.

Some exposed faces within the quarry would be retained to provide suitable breeding habitat for peregrine falcon.

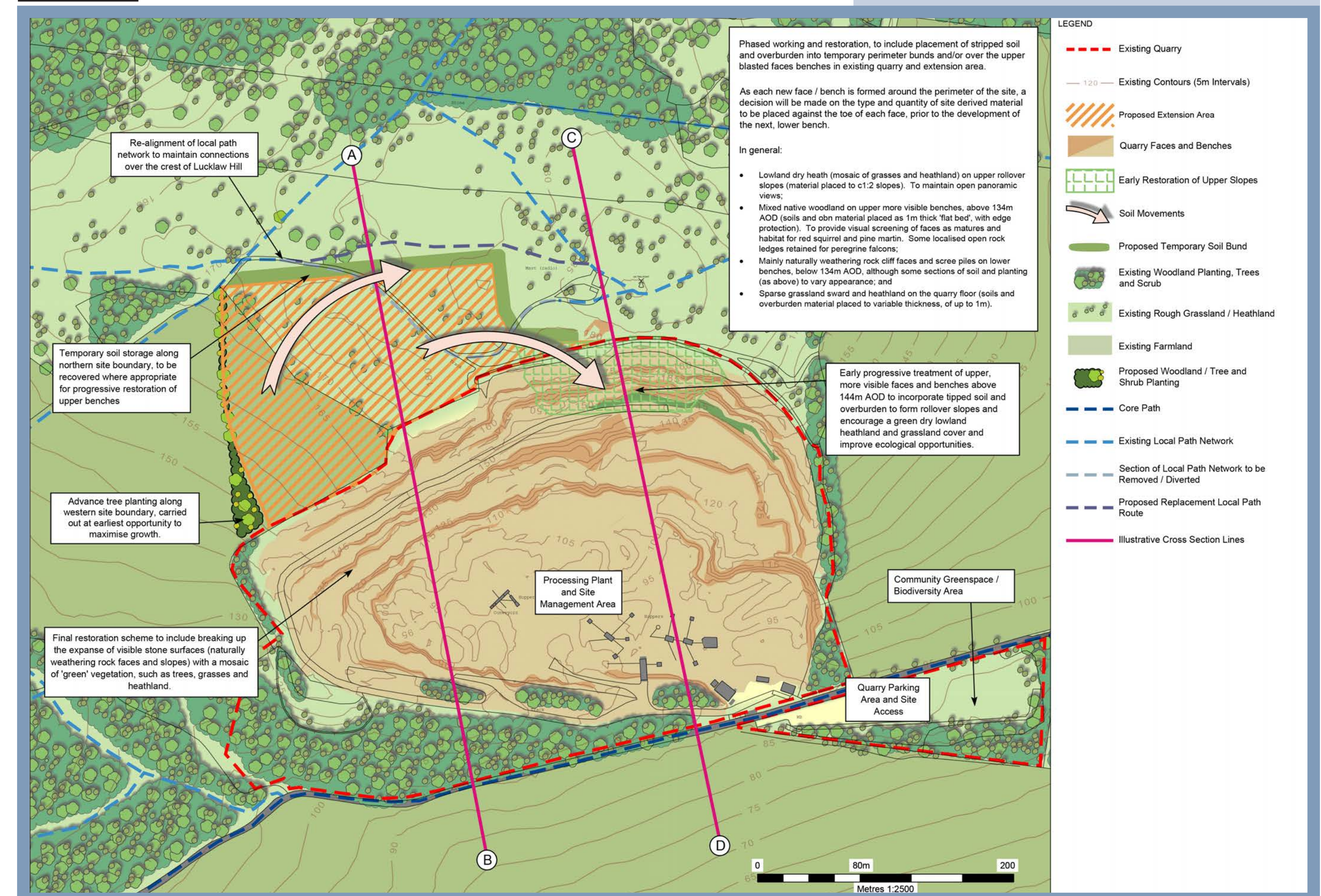
The upper slopes in the northern-most areas of the existing quarry and proposed extension are envisaged as a mosaic of grasses and heathland. In addition to the trees around the edge of the quarry floor, there would be grassland sward and heathland.

Public access would be provided around the quarry, and through the quarry floor as currently envisaged, connecting to the existing footpaths and Core paths.

Restoration



Strategy



Balmullo Quarry Extension—Application and EIA

Environmental Assessment

As part of the preparation of the planning application, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out. A Scoping Opinion will be sought from Fife Council which will determine the scope of the assessments within the EIA. In addition to the EIA, other environmental studies may be carried out.

Baseline studies for the following topics are well underway and will be reported in the EIA Report or elsewhere in the planning application:

- Air quality;
- Ecology;
- Geology;
- Landscape and visual amenity;
- Noise;
- Traffic;
- Vibration; and
- Water environment.

Breedon has appointed SLR Consulting Limited to prepare the planning application and undertake the EIA with support from Vibrock and Felstone Consulting.

Next Steps

Work on the design of the extension and the baseline studies will continue. On receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion from Fife Council the required assessments will be carried out and the application documents prepared.

Breedon anticipates submitting a planning application to Fife Council before the end of 2024.

Planning Application

The EIA will be reported in an EIA Report and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) both of which will accompany the planning application. The planning application will also be supported by a Planning Statement which will consider the planning conditions for the periodic review, and a Pre-Application Consultation Report reporting on the results of the public consultation. Drawings illustrating the proposed extension phases and restoration proposal will also accompany the application.



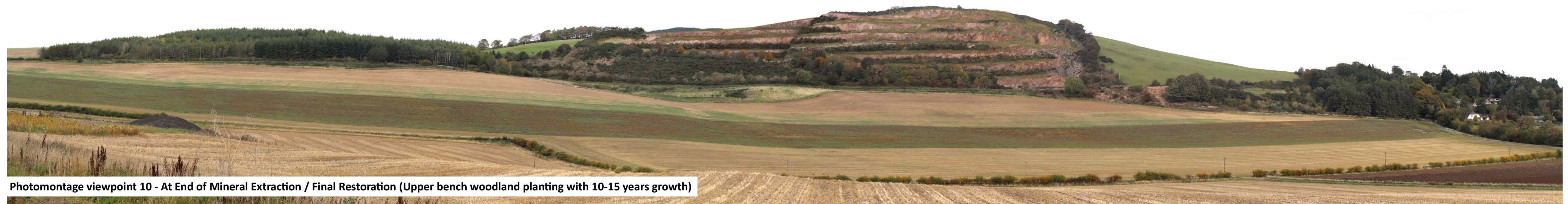
Balmullo Quarry Extension – Photomontages



Baseline Photograph Viewpoint 10: Core path 128 south of site, by Cuplahills recreational facility / woodland walks



Photomontage viewpoint 10 - At Phase 2 (Upper bench woodland planting with indicative growth)



Photomontage viewpoint 10 - At End of Mineral Extraction / Final Restoration (Upper bench woodland planting with 10-15 years growth)

Balmullo Quarry Extension – Photomontages



Baseline Photograph Viewpoint 10: Part of Woodland Walk to west of site



Photomontage viewpoint 9 - At Phase 2 (Advanced planting on western boundary with indicative growth)

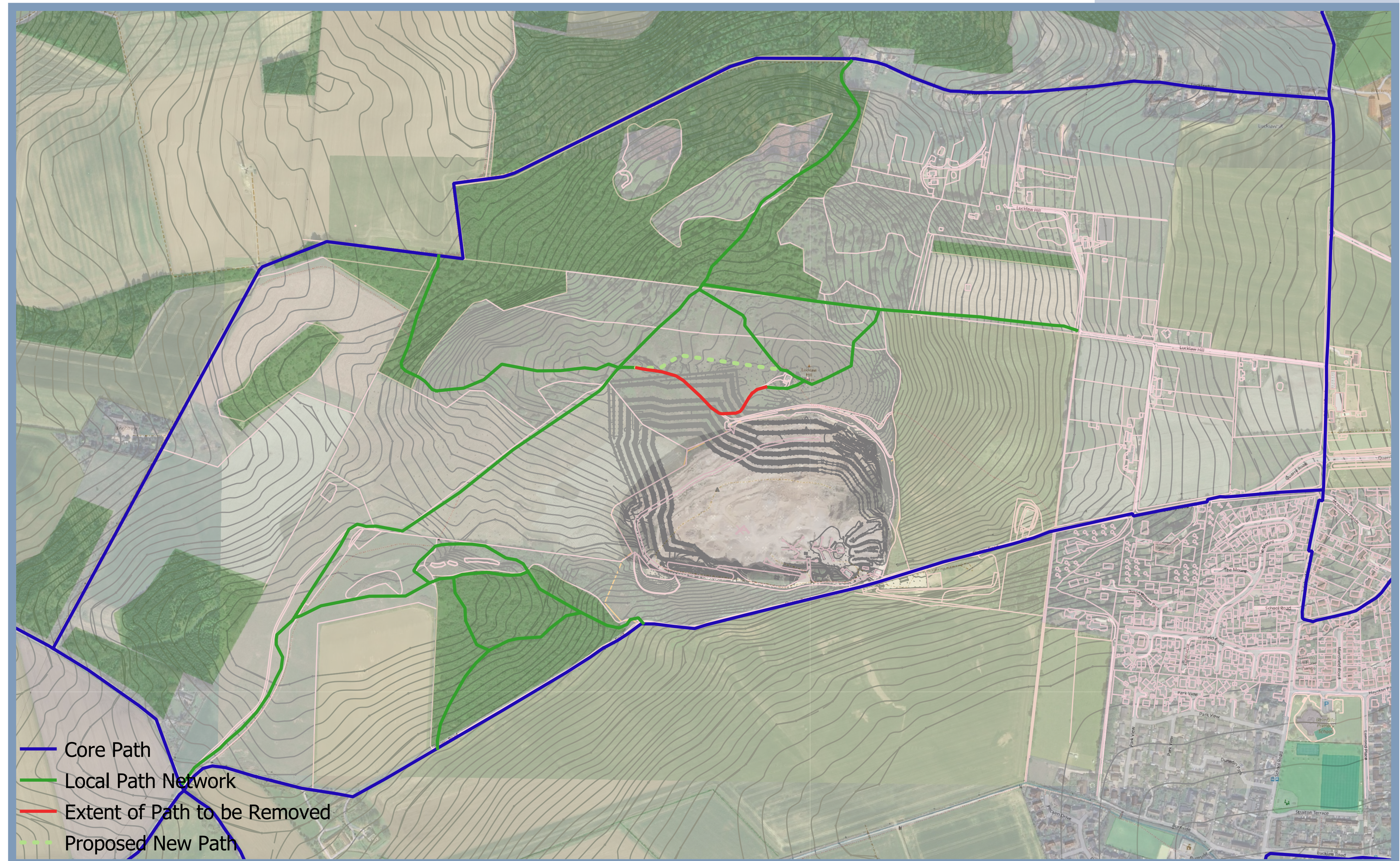


Photomontage viewpoint 9 - At End of Mineral Extraction / Final Restoration (Advanced planting on western boundary with 20 years growth)

Balmullo Quarry Extension –Recreational Access

Lucklawhill provides recreational areas of value to the local community with a number of walking routes around the hill including circular routes from Balmullo. The majority of these routes would be retained during the proposed extension however one stretch of track of c. 240m length would be lost. A new connecting track would be created to mitigate this loss.

A concept drawing is shown here illustrating the potential path connections to ensure that safe recreational access is maintained.



Balmullo Quarry Extension – Community Engagement



Habitat Enhancement

The proposed extension extends to approximately 3 hectares, of which approximately one third is agricultural land used for grazing and silage production. The remaining land comprises a variety of different habitat types such as gorse scrub, heathland, grassland and birch trees.

Breedon are committed to exploring how we can reduce the impact of our operations on the local ecology and deliver biodiversity enhancement with the creation and improvement of habitats in the local area. Breedon will work with ecologists and other interested parties to identify areas that will benefit from biodiversity enhancement with proposals to be submitted with the planning application.

Additionally, the area to the south of Quarry Road adjacent to the quarry car park originally formed part of the quarry stocking area. We believe that this area would benefit from a different approach to its past use with a recreational and/or ecological focus.

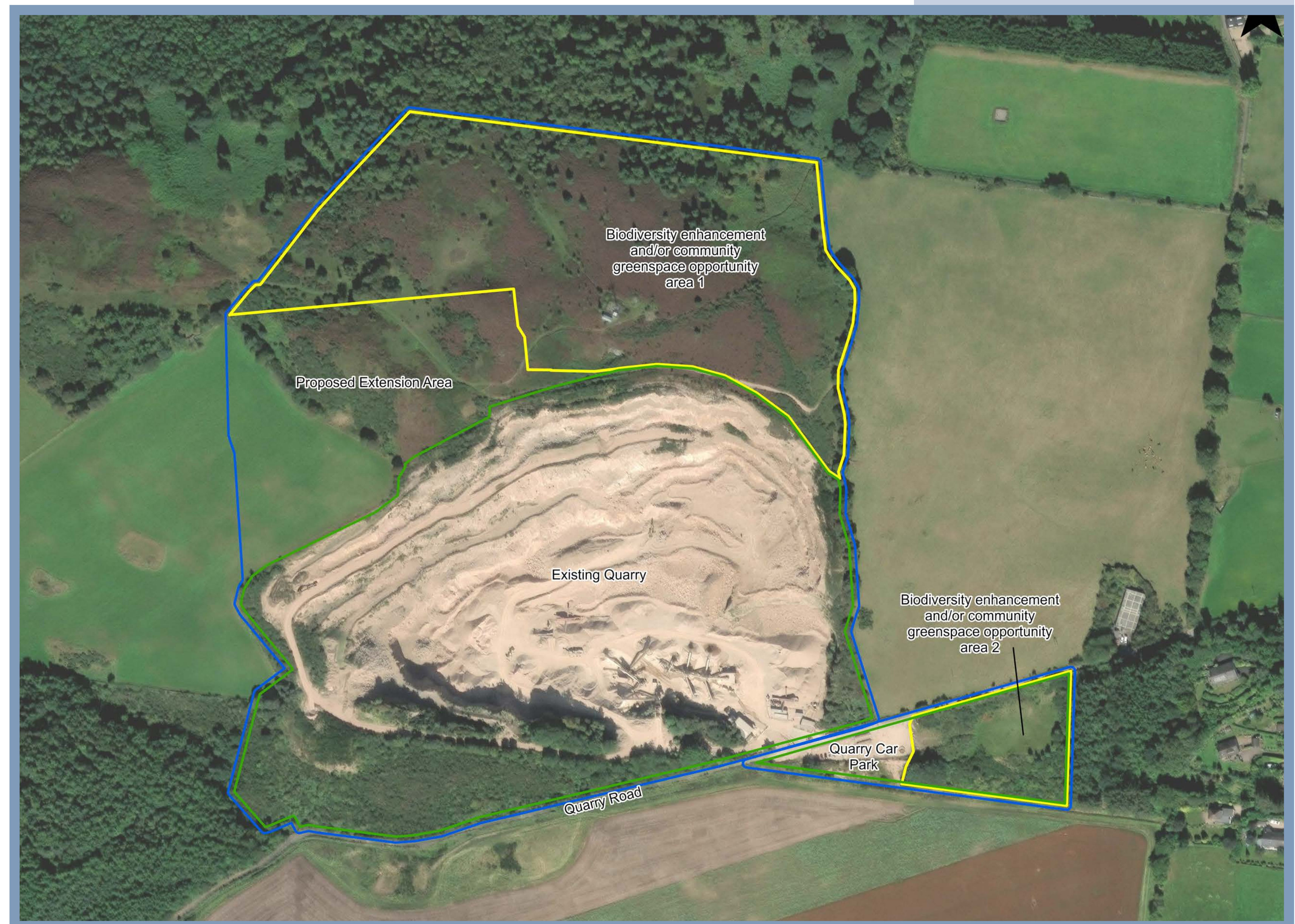
Please let us know your suggestions to ensure that Breedon can create a long-lasting legacy that will benefit the local area.

Quarry Liaison Group

Breedon successfully operate liaison groups with local communities across Scotland to discuss the on-going operations at our quarries. The group would be made up of representatives from the community and Breedon. Would a Balmullo Quarry Liaison Group be of interest? Please let us know.

Community Fund

Breedon are part of the community and we want to play a role in the on-going prosperity of Balmullo. While we have supported a number of local initiatives in the past, we want to do more. We are interested in setting up a community fund for the benefit of Balmullo and we would like to discuss this further with you. Please let us know your thoughts.



If you can, please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form or contact us at www.breedongroup.com/balmullo-quarry-public-consultation

Balmullo Quarry Extension – FAQ

1. Question: How many more years of operation would the proposed extension give the quarry?

1. Response: Approximately 20 years at current rates of output.

2. Question: Why is the previous commitment to cease quarrying in 2025/26 being changed?

2. Response: There is no such restriction in the quarry's planning permission.

3. Question: Would there be any change to the output from the quarry?

3. Response: No, there would be no change to the output, and therefore no change to the numbers of vehicle movements.

4. Question: Would there be any change to frequency of blasting?

4. Response: No, blasting operations would continue as they do currently.

5. Question: Would access to the top of Lucklawhill be maintained?

5. Response: Yes, the summit of Lucklawhill would remain. A footpath diversion would be created to mitigate for the loss of a short section of track which runs through the proposed extension area.

6. Question: How would vehicular access to the telephone mast be provided?

6. Response: A new stretch of connecting track would be provided immediately to the north of the proposed extension area.

7. Question: Would there be any development in the area of woodland to the north of the proposed extension?

7. Response: No, the proposed extension would not encroach on this area of woodland which is Inventoried Ancient Woodland.

8. Question: How would safe access around the quarry be managed?

8. Response: Fencing would be provided around all operational areas.

9. Question: How would the habitats lost through the proposed extension be mitigated?

9. Response: When the quarry operations are completed there would be restoration to a variety of habitats including lowland dry heath, mixed native woodland and grassland. Some quarry faces would be retained to provide habitat for peregrine falcon.

10. Question: How would the delay to final restoration be mitigated?

10. Response: It is proposed to use the area of land to the north-east of the quarry, which extends to approximately 6.5 hectares for the creation and enhancement of habitats. Recreation access would also be provided in this area.

11. Question: Will there be floodlighting in the quarry?

11. Response: Lighting would be used as it is now for works during the hours of dusk/darkness in the winter. There would be no change to the quarry's working hours.

12. Question: How would dust from the proposed extension be managed?

12. Response: Dust mitigation measures are in place, and following concerns raised by the community at the first event, additional road sweeping and damping down will be employed during dry weather. Dust monitoring has also recommenced.

13. Question: Who owns the quarry and the proposed extension land?

13. Response: Breedon Trading Limited own the majority of the quarry. Additional areas of land are held under mineral leases.

14. Question: What effect would the extension have on residential property values? proposed extension?

14. Response: House values are not a material consideration in the planning process therefore we cannot comment on this topic.