

MARSH FARM LIAISON GROUP

Report of a site inspection held on 6th. September 2012.

1. Attendees

Cllr. John Stedman, Salford Priors Parish Council.
 Cllr. Anthony Quiney, Salford Priors Parish Council
 Cllr. Joy Keeley, Bidford Parish Council
 Cllr. Joe Harvey, Bidford Parish Council
 Cllr. Peter Barnes, Warwickshire County Council.
 Cllr. Maurice Howse, Stratford on Avon District Council.
 Mr Matthew Williams, Minerals Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council
 Mr John May, CEMEX. Estates & Development Manager
 Mr Nigel Taylor, CEMEX, Quarry Manager
 Mr Alan Granger, Land Agent, Ragley Estate
 Mr Liam Maude, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.
 Mr Daryl Bailey, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.
 Mrs Elizabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to Bidford Parish Council.
 Mr Michael Philpott, Clerk to Salford Priors Parish Council.

2. Report of inspection

2.1 Southerly end of the site.

The following points were noted:

- The members inspected two lakes at the edge of the restored area.
- It was noted that although the lakes were attractive features at present this might be due to the fact that a water flow was maintained by pumping. There were concerns as to what would happen when pumping ceased.
- It was clear that if an environmental feature was to be provided then a detailed engineering and hydrological study would need to be conducted. It is understood that some work is in progress towards this end.
- If the two lakes were to be turned into environmental sites with public access, a scheme of regular monitoring was considered necessary to ensure public safety and the environmental impact of visitors. A voluntary site warden was suggested.
- If needed, public access to the sites would be allowed across Ragley land directly from the public footpath AL17.
- The growth on the restored ground was very long but the surface was undulating due to uneven settlement of the restored ground. Further work would be needed to bring this area to agricultural use.

2.2 Preserved geological face and land owned by CEMEX.

The following points were noted:

- A long length of the gravel face has been left exposed as a geological feature. This is a requirement of the planning consent.
- It was reported that there is doubt about the true importance of this face and it was suggested that CEMEX might consider applying for either a cancellation of this requirement or that the length required to be left exposed be drastically reduced.
- It had previously been suggested that Salford Priors PC might be interested in this small area of land as an environmental feature but it was a general consideration that this was not an appropriate use as the site is land locked and has no access; furthermore, it was also considered that the geological feature is not very significant.
- It appeared that the most appropriate use was for the land to be restored and incorporated in the surrounding Ragley land.

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2.3 New excavations north of Broom Lane.

The following points were noted:

- Restoration in Phase 1 is proceeding.
- In Phase 2, the final profile of the lake could be seen at the far side of the site.
- Archaeological finds have been limited and this work is nearly complete.
- Extraction of mineral should be complete by Spring 2013.
- Restoration of the site including spreading of top soil will be undertaken during Spring and Summer 2013.

3. Future meetings

Following discussion at the end of the inspection it was agreed to cancel the meeting proposed for 11.10.12.

Members to note that the next meeting of the Liaison Committee will be on Thursday 7th. February 2013.

If circumstances arise such that a special meeting is necessary this will be arranged.

M J Philpott
Clerk