


KEY:

 **Proposed site**

Scale 1:10000

0 Metres 300

 **NORTH**

Minerals Specific Site Allocation
Revised May 2007

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 **Suffolk**
County Council

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Sites 16 and 17:
Extensions to Flixton Quarry:
Homersfield
Revised May 2007

Site Selection Criteria - no priority order

Site 16	Homersfield/Flixton Quarry
Proposer	Cemex Ltd
Area	9.3 ha
Estimated resource	856,000 tonnes

1 In principle, could mineral working take place at this location without an unacceptable level of impact on the environment taking into account the following:

a	Extent to which infrastructure already in place No infrastructure in place on site but material would be transported to existing processing plant in quarry. There are also concrete batching and aggregate bagging facilities.
b	Proximity to settlements/individual dwellings Individual properties situated approximately 300 metres away from all boundaries.
c	Potential for buffer strips Intervening agricultural land provides buffer. Margin would be required to Back Lane & St Cross Road.
d	International nature conservation designation constraints No international nature conservation designation constraints.
e	National nature conservation/geological designation constraints No national nature conservation/geological designation constraints.
f	Local nature conservation designation constraints Flixton Pits CWS (within existing quarry) situated 300m to the north.
g	Impact on biodiversity/geodiversity No known impact on biodiversity/geodiversity.
h	Impact on the water environment Dewatering could have impact on nearby water bodies.
i	National landscape designation constraints No national landscape designation constraints
j	Visual impact and Landscape Character Site lies within Special Landscape Area.
k	Access arrangements to the site Material would be transported over intervening land back to existing quarry.
l	Direct and/or convenient access to the Suffolk Strategic Lorry Route Network Existing site does not have direct access to Strategic Lorry Route Network.
m	Impact on existing road network and road users No additional impact on road network anticipated.

2 In principle would it be practicable for the site to be restored to an after use which:	
a	promotes biodiversity Restoration would promote biodiversity. Potential for wetland habitats. Could result in Back Lane being left perched between 2 lower restored areas.
b	provides potential for public access and enjoyment after restoration No known potential for public access and enjoyment.
c	provides potential for promoting landscape enhancement Change in landscape would not enhance the character.
d	does not endanger air traffic safety (by way of bird strike) Would not endanger air traffic safety.

3 Is geological evidence available to indicate with sufficient confidence that a mineral is present at a suitable quality and in workable quantities?
Borehole results confirm viable deposit

4 Is there any known reason why the land in question could not become available for extraction before the stated end date of the plan? (2021)
No known reason why land could not become available before end date of plan.

General Observations

Land immediately to the west was worked for sand and gravel for many years ago and is now a popular fishing lake. The movement of dump trucks to and from the site back to the processing plant, which is some 800 metres away is not without environmental problems. The use of a conveyor belt system could overcome this if routed with care through the restored areas.

Site lies adjacent to a number of sites of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval activity. Need for archaeological evaluation.

Restoration

The restoration objective would be marginal water areas with habitat creation. To achieve this some importation of inert soils appears to be necessary. Such material might be forthcoming. Additional woodland planting on eastern slopes and a grass margin around the angling pond to provide access suggested.

Conclusions of Sustainability Appraisal

Impact	Site 16a: Flixton	
	MT	LT
++	0	0
+	0	1
0/+	3	0
0	10	17
+/-	0	0
0/-	4	1
-	1	0
--	1	0
?	1	1

There are 20 Sustainability Appraisal objectives in total

Key: MT= **medium-term** (the extraction phase), LT= **long-term** (the post-extraction/ restoration phase)

0= **no or neutral impact**, ++ = **very positive impact**, + = **positive impact**, -- = **very negative impact**,
 - = **negative impact**, +/- = **could be positive or negative**, 0/- = **neutral or negative impact**,
 0/+ = **neutral or positive impact**, ? = **unknown impact**

The SA shows that negative impact could occur for SA objective 3 (water quality) as the nearby fishing lake is less than 100m from boundary of proposed site. There is the potential for habitat creation to a small water area in the long-term but working may adversely impact fishing lake nearby (SA objective 7- biodiversity).

There could be a negative impact on landscape character (SA objective 8). Positive impacts could be noted for SA objective 13 (production of noise) as material could be transported back to existing quarry by conveyor, as well by promoting continued investment into county (SA objective 17).

Site Selection Criteria - no priority order

Site 17	Homersfield/Flixton Quarry
Proposer	Cemex Ltd
Area	5.0 ha
Estimated resource	315,000 tonnes

1 In principle, could mineral working take place at this location without an unacceptable level of impact on the environment taking into account the following:

a	Extent to which infrastructure already in place No infrastructure in place on site but material would be transported to existing processing plant in quarry. There are also concrete batching and aggregate bagging facilities.
b	Proximity to settlements/individual dwellings Single residential property within 150 metres of southern boundary of site. Further cluster of dwellings within 350 metres.
c	Potential for buffer strips Intervening woodland provides buffer strip to south.
d	International nature conservation designation constraints No international nature conservation designation constraints.
e	National nature conservation/geological designation constraints No national nature conservation/geological designation constraints.
f	Local nature conservation designation constraints Flixton Pits CWS (within existing quarry) adjoins the northern boundary.
g	Impact on biodiversity/geodiversity No known impact on biodiversity/geodiversity other than possible temporary impact on farmland birds.
h	Impact on the water environment No known impact on the water environment.
i	National landscape designation constraints No national landscape designation constraints.
j	Visual impact and Landscape Character Site lies within Special Landscape Area.
k	Access arrangements to the site Internal access route to & from existing plant area proposed.
l	Direct and/or convenient access to the Suffolk Strategic Lorry Route Network Existing site does not have access to Strategic Lorry Route Network.
m	Impact on existing road network and road users No additional impact on road network anticipated.

2 In principle would it be practicable for the site to be restored to an after use which:	
a	promotes biodiversity Restoration would promote biodiversity.
b	provides potential for public access and enjoyment after restoration No known potential for public access/enjoyment of this particular area.
c	provides potential for promoting landscape enhancement No significant landscape enhancement anticipated on restoration. Woodland creation on upper slope adjoining Thicket Wood and Cartright's Covert appropriate.
d	does not endanger air traffic safety (by way of bird strike) Would not endanger air traffic safety.

3 Is geological evidence available to indicate with sufficient confidence that a mineral is present at a suitable quality and in workable quantities?
Borehole results confirm viable deposit

4 Is there any known reason why the land in question could not become available for extraction before the stated end date of the plan? (2021)
Land is expected to become available within plan period.

General Observations

Area immediately adjoins southern boundary of existing quarry. Some importation of quarry waste and recycled soils would be required to bring about satisfactory restoration.

Area lies adjacent to a number of archaeological sites indicating prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval activity. Need for archaeological evaluation.

Restoration

Imported waste materials required to bring land up to pre worked levels. In order to secure timely restoration of this area it might be appropriate to work the land in conjunction with existing permitted area of working. Suggested that boundary of Thicket Wood and Cartwright's Covert remains unchanged and that field is restored to grassland with scattered trees at original level. Proposals to respect the former parkland landscape rather than solely plain arable land will be supported.

Conclusions of Sustainability Appraisal

Impact	Site 17a: Flixton	
	MT	LT
++	0	1
+	0	1
0/+	1	1
0	13	16
+/-	0	0
0/-	3	0
-	1	0
--	1	0
?	1	1

There are 20 Sustainability Appraisal objectives in total

Key: MT= **medium-term** (the extraction phase), LT= **long-term** (the post-extraction/ restoration phase)

0= **no or neutral impact**, ++ = **very positive impact**, + = **positive impact**, -- = **very negative impact**, - = **negative impact**, +/- = **could be positive or negative**, 0/- = **neutral or negative impact**, 0/+ = **neutral or positive impact**, ? = **unknown impact**

The Sustainability Appraisal highlights that there may be a negative impact on farmland birds as well as bats and amphibians throughout the life of quarry (SA objective 7). As this is an extension, new job opportunities may be minimal (SA objective 12). Although there may be a negative impact in the medium-term for SA objective 15 (improving the quality of where people live), restoration could provide enhanced visual aesthetics and landscape improvements for nearby residents (also SA objective 8).

There could be a positive impact on SA objective 17 (promoting sustainable investment) as there would be continued investment during the extraction phase.