



CASE STUDY

RESTORING A QUARRY WHILE SAFEGUARDING VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCES

CLIENT: SEISDON QUARRY

LOCATION: ENGLAND

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Planning Consultancy**
- **Environmental Impact Assessment**
- **Minerals Planning**



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THE CHALLENGE

Seisdon Quarry in Staffordshire had a complex planning history, with multiple mineral and waste permissions governing its operation and restoration. While restoration of the site had been approved under existing consents, restoration had not been completed within the agreed timescales. At the same time, significant sand and gravel reserves remained unworked, creating a challenge for the site operator, local authority and stakeholders alike.

The project needed to balance several competing priorities: securing the long-term restoration of a large quarry, avoiding the sterilisation of economically important mineral reserves, maintaining local aggregate supply, and minimising impacts on nearby communities. A further challenge was the shortage of suitable restoration materials required to deliver a sustainable and achievable restoration scheme.

THE CHALLENGE, CONTINUED

Although a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required, the scale and complexity of the proposals warranted a comprehensive assessment of potential environmental effects. The client required a planning strategy that would provide decision-makers with confidence that the remaining mineral resource could be worked responsibly while delivering meaningful environmental and community benefits through restoration.



THE SOLUTION

Arthian acted as lead planning consultant, coordinating the preparation, management and submission of a comprehensive planning application to consolidate existing permissions into a single planning consent and establish a clear framework for the future operation and restoration of the quarry.

Our team undertook a detailed review of the site's planning history, operational position and restoration requirements to inform the planning strategy. Working closely with Staffordshire County Council and key stakeholders, we developed a proposal that enabled the recovery of remaining sand and gravel reserves while securing the import of restoration materials necessary to achieve a practical and sustainable restoration scheme.



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THE SOLUTION, CONTINUED

To support the application, Arthian coordinated a voluntary EIA, ensuring that all potentially significant environmental effects were robustly assessed and presented through an Environmental Statement. We commissioned and managed specialist consultants across transport, ecology, landscape and engineering disciplines, ensuring consistency between technical assessments, restoration proposals and the wider planning case.

Recognising that highways and transport were the primary issues of concern, Arthian led negotiations with the local authority to agree extraction rates, HGV movement levels and vehicle routing arrangements. These discussions resulted in a balanced strategy that protected local communities while enabling the continued operation of the quarry.

A key element of the project was the development of an enhanced restoration scheme. Working alongside ecological, landscape and engineering specialists, we helped create a restoration strategy that delivered improved agricultural land, new habitats, woodland planting, species-rich hedgerows, open water features and opportunities for community benefit. The proposals also included long-term aftercare and management measures to ensure the site could be restored to a sustainable and beneficial future use.

By combining technical environmental expertise with practical project delivery experience, Arthian helped the client navigate a complex approvals process, manage environmental risk and maintain progress towards key investment and development milestones.

The completed application demonstrated that the proposals would not result in significant adverse environmental effects and established a clear pathway for the recovery of valuable mineral resources alongside the successful restoration of the quarry.



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