

Preferred 3 - Alex Farm

Mineral: Sharp sand and gravel

Area: 56 hectares

Location: Alex Farm

Yield: 1.1 - 1.4 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel

Proposal: Phased extraction of sharp sand and gravel with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation

Site Description

1. The Preferred Area consists of a triangular shaped area of relatively flat farmland centred around Alex Farm, Latton with its Grade II listed barn. The site is bordered to the southeast by the line of disused Thames and Severn Canal, and is delineated to the northwest by the County boundary with Gloucestershire. An existing field boundary separates the site from the adjacent Eysey Manor Preferred Area 2 to the west. The site is remote from points of public access and well screened by mature trees along much of the length of its boundaries particularly along the disused canal to the south. There are few dwellings in close proximity; the cottages at the entrance to the Alex Farm access road some 200m to the north west are the closest. Marston Meysey lies about 800m to the north east and is the nearest village. 32% of the Preferred Area is considered to be high grade (3a) agricultural land.
2. A Scheduled Ancient Monument lies directly to the east of the site and there are archaeological features on the site itself, including an area believed to contain features of potential archaeological importance. The whole site falls within an Area of Special Archaeological Significance designated in the North Wiltshire Local Plan.
3. There are no rights of way on the Preferred Area and the nearest public road is the C124 between the A419(T) and Marston Meysey (proposed Eastern Spine road) which lies about 250m to the north in Gloucestershire. The whole site is within the floodplain of the Thames.