

Westbury: Preferred Area for Clay - North of Capps Lane

Mineral: Clay

Area: 25 hectares

Name: North of Capps Lane

Yield: 4.33 million tonnes of clay

Proposal: Progressive extraction of clay with restoration to agriculture

Site Description

1. The Preferred Area lies on agricultural land north of Capps Lane, Westbury extending to Picker Palmer Farm to the west and to the hedgerow alongside the stream running southnorth towards Redlands Farm to the east. These farms are the closest occupied dwellings to the Preferred Area. The northern boundary of the site is delineated by an existing hedgeline.
2. The site is close to Westbury Cement Works with existing permitted clay extraction areas lying to the south of Capps Lane.
3. The surrounding area is predominantly flat and any mineral extraction would be unlikely to cause a major visual impact on the immediate vicinity. The main views into the site are obtained from the public open space at Westbury White Horse and Bratton Castle Hill Fort, an elevated location about 1km to the south from where the cement works and existing clay extraction are clearly visible. However, some of the current clay extraction areas are subject to progressive restoration to agriculture by infilling and it is unlikely that mineral voids in the Preferred Area would be exposed to these views for long periods of time.