

## What is the aim for the restoration scheme?

The aim is to restore the site and to create a green open space with the aim of delivering significant benefit for people and wildlife.

### How will this benefit wildlife?

There is ancient woodland (Crookoe Wood) to the west and part of it is a Local Wildlife Site.

There will be no works in Crookoe Wood and the works will stabilise the slopes that are currently undermining this woodland. The restoration scheme includes for additional trees and areas of scrub along these margins of this woodland.

Following the previous site workings, the site was covered in an open mosaic of grassland that led to it being designated as a Local Wildlife Site. Overtime, this grassland has been replaced by trees (mainly willow and birch) and shrubs. The restoration scheme is aimed at re-establishing this open mosaic of grassland across the site. Re-establishing large areas of open grassland, interspersed with trees, scrub and water bodies will create a mixture of wildlife habitats that will help to support and encourage all the wildlife that has already been seen on this site.

### How will this benefit people?

There are many well used access routes through the site and we know that local people enjoy using these for dog walking and recreation. There are large areas of the site that are not being worked and local residents will be able to walk through these areas as they do now. There are public rights of way around the edge of the site will continue to be capable of use but we do need to put a temporary diversion order in place for 2 routes while works are taking place. (*see overleaf*)

The restoration scheme will include a proposed network of paths and fenced routes that are aimed at integrating all the existing public rights of way and existing access routes in and around the site to create a choice of circular walks of varying lengths. It may be necessary to fence off certain areas to protect the wildlife habitats and wildlife within the site but the existing and new routes will still allow people to walk through the site and also enjoy seeing the wildlife!

## What work has been done to date to develop the new plan?

Over the past three years, our team has worked extensively to identify the best solution for the quarry:

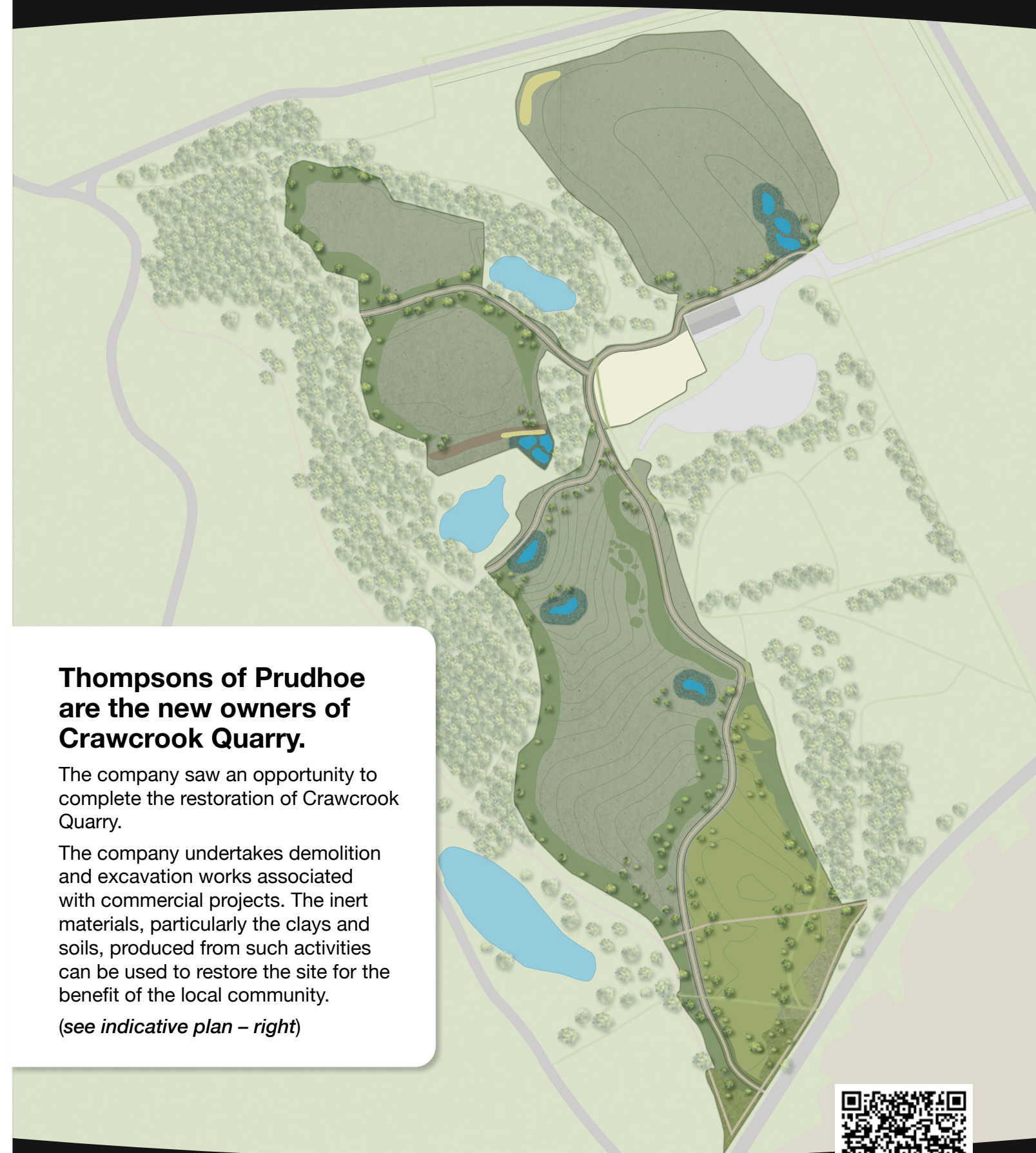
- » Engaged with local residents, council officers and councillors.
- » Supported the reformed Crawcrook Quarry Liaison Group.
- » Explored six potential new access points with input from local stakeholders.
- » Carried out drilling to assess groundwater depth and silt lagoon composition.
- » Sought advice from engineers on stability and safe restoration methods.
- » Conducted comprehensive ecological surveys to identify habitats and species on site, including bats, great crested newts, butterflies and birds.
- » Investigated surface water flows, including the Northumbrian Water pipe entering the site from the south.
- » Undertaken background noise monitoring around the site perimeter.
- » Assessed the landscape and Green Belt impact with a dedicated landscape architect.
- » Considered the public rights of way around the site and routes currently used by local residents, which we aim to retain where possible.

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## Crawcrook Quarry Restoration Information



### Thompsons of Prudhoe are the new owners of Crawcrook Quarry.

The company saw an opportunity to complete the restoration of Crawcrook Quarry.

The company undertakes demolition and excavation works associated with commercial projects. The inert materials, particularly the clays and soils, produced from such activities can be used to restore the site for the benefit of the local community.

(*see indicative plan – right*)



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How will you safely restore the land?

Crawcrook Quarry was previously used for sand and gravel extraction and later tipped with household (‘black bin bag’) waste. Unfortunately, the site was never properly restored by previous owners.

Our restoration will address areas that were never properly restored, stabilise steep slopes, and safely treat the silt lagoon left by former quarrying operations.

The work is expected to take 15 years. Around 1.35 million cubic metres of inert material – such as clays and soils – will be used to fill the voids and previously tipped areas. This will stabilise the site and ensure it is fully remediated.

A new vehicular access point will be constructed to the south-west of the site, connecting directly to the B6317.

There are also significant environmental benefits to this approach. Covering the waste with clay will reduce the production of contaminated water (produced when rain soaks through the waste) and prevent methane gas from being passively released into the atmosphere. Once covered, we’ll collect and burn the gas via a flare stack rather than allowing it to escape untreated.

Can you tell me about the impact on highways and the operating hours?

Crawcrook Lane was considered unsuitable for this development by stakeholders including local resident. After reviewing six options, we decided the best option was a new road from the southwest of the site onto the B6317. This ensures the HGV’s avoid the centre of Crawcrook village.

The new road and junction will be built in the first year. Until then, Crawcrook Lane will need to be used to bring in equipment and materials to construct the new road but it will not be used to bring restoration materials into the site. Crawcrook Lane will also continue to be used by the concrete batching plant that is already on the site.

- » Around 36 lorries per day (Monday to Friday) will bring material into the quarry.
- » Operating hours: Monday–Friday 7am–5pm, and Saturday mornings.

What’s in the Site Compound?

The concrete plant will stay on the site and this is not part of this application. The main compound area will include staff welfare facilities, areas for parking and storage as well as a basin to contain and control surface water.

Can you provide an operational overview of the 15-year remediation plan?

Guided by an expert team of engineers, we plan to begin work on the south side of the site and move operations away from residential areas as early as possible.

Once the new access road is built, we’ll begin importing material and proceed as follows:

- » **Phase 1A** will begin as soon as possible after the new road is constructed and take around six months.
- » Next, we’ll focus on the middle of the site (near the pond), beginning works to the north (**Phase 2A**) and south (**Phase 1C**).
- » Silt lagoons in **Phase 2A and 2B** will be infilled layer by layer – each year, a new metre of material will be added to the lagoons while restoration continues elsewhere, allowing for close monitoring.
- » We expect **Phases 1 and 2** to be completed in 9–10 years.
- » **Phase 3** will follow and take approximately four years.

Surface water from the NWL pipeline will be diverted to the existing pond to maintain its wildlife habitat. We’ll also create an infiltration pond within the site compound to manage additional surface water entering the site.



Project Phases

Site Compound

New Highway Access and Haul Road

Proposed Route of Public Right of Way Diversion

Indicitive Site Boundary

Site Access

Public Right of Way