



GILL MILL QUARRY
DUCKLINGTON, WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE

SMITHS

INTRODUCTION



Smith & Sons Limited are a long established family run company. For over a hundred years, Smiths have been supplying the construction industry with quality aggregates.



More recent years have seen the product range grow from traditional primary aggregates such as crushed and graded limestone and decorative shingles, to the addition of quality Cotswold dry walling stone and the impressive range of recycled aggregates.

The majority of our sand and gravel is produced from Gill Mill quarry - in accordance with modern planning permissions and state of the art plant.

Graded limestone and gabion stone is produced at our Dewars Farm quarry, which is located next to the new Ardley Energy from Waste Recovery Facility, where in partnership with Raymond Brown, Smiths produces and sells Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate.

The more traditional and genuine Cotswold dry stone walling is produced at Rollright Quarry. Quality soft sands come from our quarry at Duns Tew. Additional crushed limestone products are found at the Burford and Whitehill quarries.

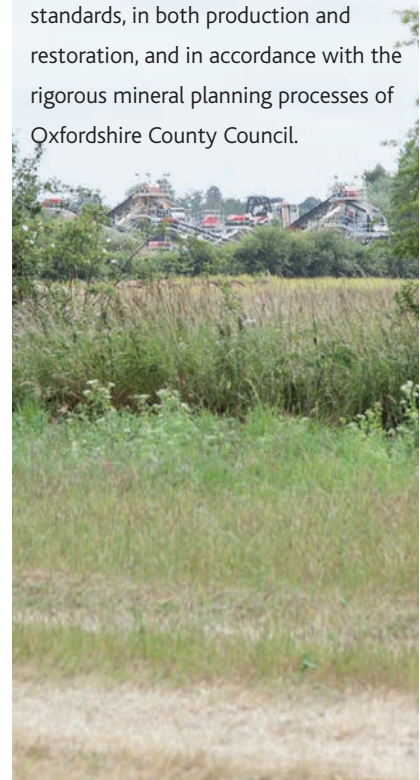
However, the group's flagship operation is Gill Mill Quarry which lies next to the River Windrush at Ducklington, a village near the West Oxfordshire market town of Witney. It has seen investment of millions of pounds in recent years, most recently the new primary aggregate processing plant which is illustrated in detail on the following pages. This now sits alongside the state-of-the-art recycling plant which produces high quality washed recycled aggregates.

With an operational capacity of 450,000 tonnes per year, the new plant produces a wide range of washed sands and gravels for use in many differing projects, from the construction of roads and bridges, new railways and the building of homes and hospitals. Customers include farmers, private individuals, local builders and construction companies to the large national commercial users.

Gill Mill will also see investment in the future with a carefully planned extension, giving the quarry many

additional years of operations, ensuring a continuous supply of building and construction materials - both primary and recycled, as well as the facility to deal with construction wastes.

Gill Mill is operated to the highest standards, in both production and restoration, and in accordance with the rigorous mineral planning processes of Oxfordshire County Council.



The whole of the Smiths operation is geared to produce aggregates that suit a variety of markets. The building and construction industries being the main consumers but with an ever increasing demand from the garden and landscape design world.

Our range of primary aggregates are mainly sourced and processed at Smiths quarries, with the majority being processed by the plant at Gill Mill. The quarry is responsible for the screening, washing, grading, crushing and blending of products.

Running alongside primary material is the ever important and ever increasing range of recycled aggregates. Again Gill Mill is at the forefront of the process with a recently installed recycling plant which produces recycled aggregate by the washing of construction waste. The results being a range of products that are of high quality and adhere to sound environmental policies.

The Windrush
ECO range of
washed recycled
aggregates come
in the form of
10mm, 20mm and
40mm aggregates plus a washed sharp
sand.



These products complement the existing range of dry recycled products, which include Soil, (Screened and Unscreened) Crushed Concrete (Type 1 Graded and Hardcore 6F2) and Crushed Tarmac Type 1 graded.

In addition to the Windrush ECO range Smiths, from their Dewars Farm quarry, near Bicester and the M40, and in partnership with Raymond Brown, are now selling Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (IBAA), a sustainable and cost effective alternative for sub-base and capping aggregates. IBAA is a by-product of raw ash produced from non-recyclable domestic waste. Ferrous and non-ferrous metals are removed and then the material is graded to meet EN and Highway Agency specifications.

We take recycling very seriously and because of this, we aim to produce and generate as many recycled materials as we can.

Some of our more traditional products, which have historically been used for commercial applications, are starting to be used for design features. For example the gabion baskets used for motorway and rail bank stabilisation are now being filled with our gabion stone and can be seen as feature walls or along a riverbank as part of an overall landscape design.

has been used in field boundaries. While still used for that purpose the lovely Cotswold stone is being incorporated into many domestic buildings, garden walls and design features. Our quality stone is quarried in the Cotswolds and prepared and 'bagged' by skilled employees.



A full list of all our products are available on our website, giving the various options and technical data.



Cotswold dry walling stone is another example where for hundred of years it

During late 2014 the old Gill Mill primary plant was demolished after 25 years of continuous work.

The site was cleared for the £2million plus project to acquire and install the new processing plant.

Smiths Construction, the Group's groundworks and construction division, were responsible for the project. This included site preparation and the building of concrete structures ready for the handover to the plant suppliers to install the new processing plant.

In total it has taken 28 weeks to dismantle, prepare groundworks, lay concrete, install the plant and have the site up and running.

The photographs on these pages show the process from clearance to the complete installation.

The new operation can now produce the full range of washed sands and gravels from the indigenous Windrush Valley aggregates.

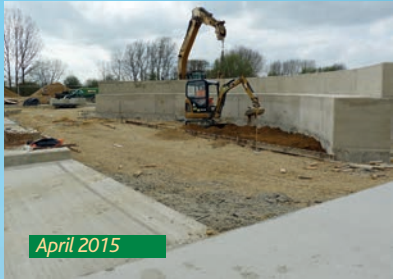


THE SITE COVERS APPROXIMATELY 3 HECTARES

AGGREGATES SUPPLIED BY SMITH & SONS BLECHINGTON LIMITED • GROUNDWORK AND CONSTRUCTION BY SMITHS C



March 2015



April 2015



February 2015



March 2015



February 2015



March 2015



April 2015



May 2015



THE COMPLETED NEW SAND & GRAVEL PLANT AT GILL MILL

NEARLY 6000 TONNES OF CONCRETE WERE USED

CONSTRUCTION • CONCRETE SUPPLIED BY SMITHS CONCRETE • PROCESSING PLANT SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED BY CDE

The demand for construction aggregates will always be with us. We need to build houses, roads, railways, schools and hospitals. Therefore we need to ensure supplies of sands, gravel, shingles are always available, be it primary or recycled.

Smiths have invested at Gill Mill to ensure we can provide a sustainable supply of aggregates for our customers. With the two new processing plants

installed there is the capacity to process quarried and recycled materials for years to come.

Investment for future quarrying of sands and gravel is also in place. This will see an extension to the quarry ensuring that Gill Mill will continue to be one of the most impressive quarries in the south of England. Surveys suggest that with the new extension to the quarry there are sand and gravel deposits to last another 20 years.

Not only that, the investment and development of Gill Mill also secures the continuity of employment for the locally based workforce at the site, plus the

many other associated jobs which the quarry directly and indirectly supports.



Smiths land management.

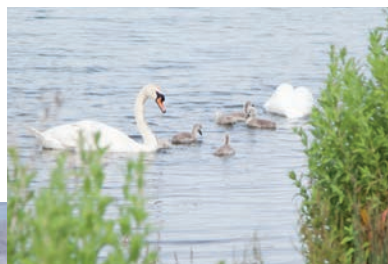
Years have been devoted to ensure that planning the extension of Gill Mill has been handled with due diligence. It is not as simple as starting up the digger and away we go!

Previous workings have exposed a moderate amount of archaeology in the locality, notably a Roman settlement. So before any future quarrying begins, the area is investigated by the experts and any finds are evaluated and recorded.

So what happens when the quarry is exhausted? The complete site will be restored to give further benefits to the community with new recreation areas, footpaths and after-use centred on nature conservation. This is a bold plan! The restoration will see new nature habitats of over 120 hectares created,

together with areas of recreational use and eco-tourism development. Over 11km of new paths will also be created which will allow access to the majority of the nature reserve. Large areas of the site will be restored to reed beds creating a perfect habitat for all kinds of wildlife, especially birds.

There will be areas of woodland throughout the site and amongst these areas it is proposed to have a number of eco-tourism lodges for holiday lettings.



Archaeology

The top soil is carefully removed and set aside - the blue flags show possible areas of interest to the archaeologist. Each flag is carefully investigated, evaluated and recorded.





Smith & Sons (Bletchington) Limited
Enslow, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 3AY

Telephone: 01869 331281
Email: info@smithsbletchington.co.uk
Web: www.smithsbletchington.co.uk



Linear Fisheries (Oxford) Limited

Web: www.linear-fisheries.co.uk

Gill Mill Quarry
Ducklington, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 7PP