Phase 3

This phase marks a shift in restoration works to the eastern half of the former quarry which is not currently subject to an approved restoration scheme. The void will be restored using the same technique as for Phases 1 and 2, namely imported material being placed and compacted in layers, with the outer face of the new landform restored as it is completed. Visual impact is less of an issue within this phase, due to its relative lack of visibility from publicly accessible vantage points.

During the course of this phase, the surface water drainage system to be installed as part of the current restoration scheme will be insufficient to accommodate all the surface water run-off from the new landform. A second outlet will be commissioned linking North Pit to the River Cam via an existing pipe that lies beside the railway. This will allow some surface water run-off to be discharged directly into the river.

In order to preserve the site’s geological interest and SSSI status, a 200 metre section of full height quarry face will be permanently retained. As part of the restoration process, the retained face will be subject to minor reprofiling works to allow it to be accessed safely for the purposes of scientific investigation. This retained void will require permanent pumping to keep it dry, but due to the greatly reduced volume involved, it is proposed that this can be achieved using solar and/or wind powered pumps, rendering it more sustainable.

It is estimated that this phase will take up to five years to complete.

Phase 4

Phase 4 is the last landforming phase. Imported restoration material will be used to restore the main haul road connecting the unloading platform to the restoration faces. On completion of the restoration of the haul road no more imported material will be required and train movements will cease. On cessation the platform will be decommissioned and the tracks removed. Restoration material will then be dozed into the cutting to achieve the final landform.

It is estimated that this phase will take no more than a year to complete.

Final Restoration Phase

The final phase of the restoration works involves the removal of the infrastructure accompanying the development such as the site office, signage, the branch line track to Foxton siding and level crossings. Hedgerow and tree planting, and grass seeding not already completed will be finalised. In conjunction with the lifting of the branch line track a replacement, larger diameter pipe linking North Pit to the River Cam will be laid. This will continue to provide a point of discharge for surface water running off the restored landform directly into the river, but due to the increased pipe diameter this will be able to function without the need for pumping, representing a more sustainable permanent drainage solution.