



ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATION

HABITATS RISK ASSESSMENT

**CAULDON LOW QUARRY
STONEY LANE
CAULDON
STOKE-ON-TRENT
ST10 3EW**

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**Project Quality Assurance
Information Sheet**

***ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATION - HABITATS RISK ASSESSMENT
CAULDON LOW QUARRY, STONEY LANE, CAULDON, STOKE-ON-TRENT***

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**ASPHALT MANUFACTURING PLANT
CAULDON LOW QUARRY
STONEY LANE
CAULDON
STOKE-ON-TRENT
ST10 3EW**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATION
HABITATS RISK ASSESSMENT**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 Sirius Environmental Limited ('Sirius') have been commissioned by Aggregate Industries UK Limited (Aggregate Industries) to prepare an application for an Environmental Permit to operate an mineral processing, roadstone coating and associated road Planings recycling operations at Cauldon Low Quarry, Stoke-on-Trent. Three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) have been identified with 1km of the facility for consideration of any potential impact to these conservation areas from the proposed permitted activities.

1.2 Site Location and Layout Description

1.2.1 The permitted activities will be located within the confines of Cauldon Low Quarry, Stoney Lane, Cauldon, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST10 3EW. Caul Low Quarry forms part of wider complex of neighbouring limestone and shale quarries located to the east and north, and associated mineral processing and manufacturing facilities operated by other registered companies, but for which a common Mineral Planning Consent covers all mineral related activities at each defined quarry. The proposed site is situated approximately on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 07761 48753, as illustrated on **Drawing No. AI1008/08/01**.

1.2.2 To date the quarry has been extracted to a elevation of ~285mAOD with future extraction proposed to a basal elevation of 215mAOD. The northern edge of the quarry is elevated at between ~280mADO and ~320mAOD, increasing to between ~320mAOD and ~350mAOD along the western and southern edges of the quarry void. The eastern edge of the Cauldon Low Quarry is currently defined by a spine of limestone rock that rises to an elevation of between ~300mAOD and ~325mAOD, and defines the boundary between Cauldon Low Quarry and Cauldon Limestone Quarry, which is the primary source of limestone for the Lafarge Cauldon Cement Works located to the north. The spine of rock is proposed to be removed under future extraction options, for which a planning application is currently being determined.

1.2.3 Access and egress from the application site will be gained via a junction with an unclassified public road network located on the northwestern edge of the quarry, which subsequently provides access to the A52 located ~675m south of the junction.

1.2.4 Cauldon Low Quarry is located in a rural setting approximately 20km west of Stoke-on-Trent. Cauldon village is located approximately ~220m north of the quarry at it's nearest point and Cauldon Low village lies ~560m to the southwest. The extent of the approved extraction footprint for Cauldon Low Quarry and the operational areas for each of the proposed permitted activities is shown in **Drawing No. A11008/08/02**.

1.3 Habitats Screening

1.3.1 Details of the nature conservation areas identified within 1km of the application site is presented **Table 1** and **Drawing No. AI1008/08/05**.

Table 1: Summary of nature conservation areas within 1km of the site.

Receptor ID	Conservation Area	Designation	Approx. Closest Distance from Quarry	Direction
R3	Caldon Low	Site of Specific Scientific Interest	0m	N
R4	Rue Hill	Site of Specific Scientific Interest	0m	SE
R13	Caldon Low Railway Cutting	Site of Specific Scientific Interest	460m	N
R18	Caldon Dales	Site of Specific Scientific Interest	750m	E

1.3.2 Descriptions and reasons for the designation of each site is presented below.

Rue Hill SSSI

1.3.3 The Rue Hill site is located in an area of former mineral workings which has given rise to an irregular, small-scale topography of spoil mounds interspersed with pits, banks and levels, rock outcrops and cliff faces. The disturbed ground has revegetated with plants that have gradually colonised from neighbouring unimproved limestone pastures, these are now largely destroyed or botanically impoverished. Rue Hill thus provides an important refuge for many species intolerant of modern grassland management.

Caldon Low SSSI

1.3.4 The Caldon Low SSSI is designated as an Earth Heritage site a Carboniferous Limestone section of considerable palaeogeographic and stratigraphic significance. The sequence exposed includes the Hopedale Limestone (Asbian) and the underlying Milldale Limestone (precise age uncertain) with, separating the two formations, the quartzose Caldon Low Conglomerate.

1.3.5 The site is of significant geological importance only and is not therefore considered further in this risk assessment.

Caldon Low Railway Cutting SSSI

1.3.6 The rock exposures within this site provide an important cross-section through shales and limestones of the Namurian Series originally formed during the Carboniferous Period about 325 million years ago. The shales and limestones contain unusually well-preserved fossil remains of marine animals that inhabited the Carboniferous sea. Of particular importance at this locality are the fossils known as goniatites which enable geologists to date the strata accurately and make detailed comparisons with rocks of similar age elsewhere in Britain. This is an important reference locality for detailed geological study of the Namurian Series.

1.3.7 The site is of significant geological importance only and is not therefore considered further in this risk assessment.

Caldon Dales SSSI

1.3.8 Caldon Dales is a steep-sided valley on the southern edge of the Carboniferous Limestone dome of South Staffordshire and North Staffordshire. It's importance lies in the local combination of unimproved, traditionally managed calcareous and neutral grassland, a phenomenon now rare in Staffordshire and the Midlands generally. Furthermore, the site contains one of the largest surviving

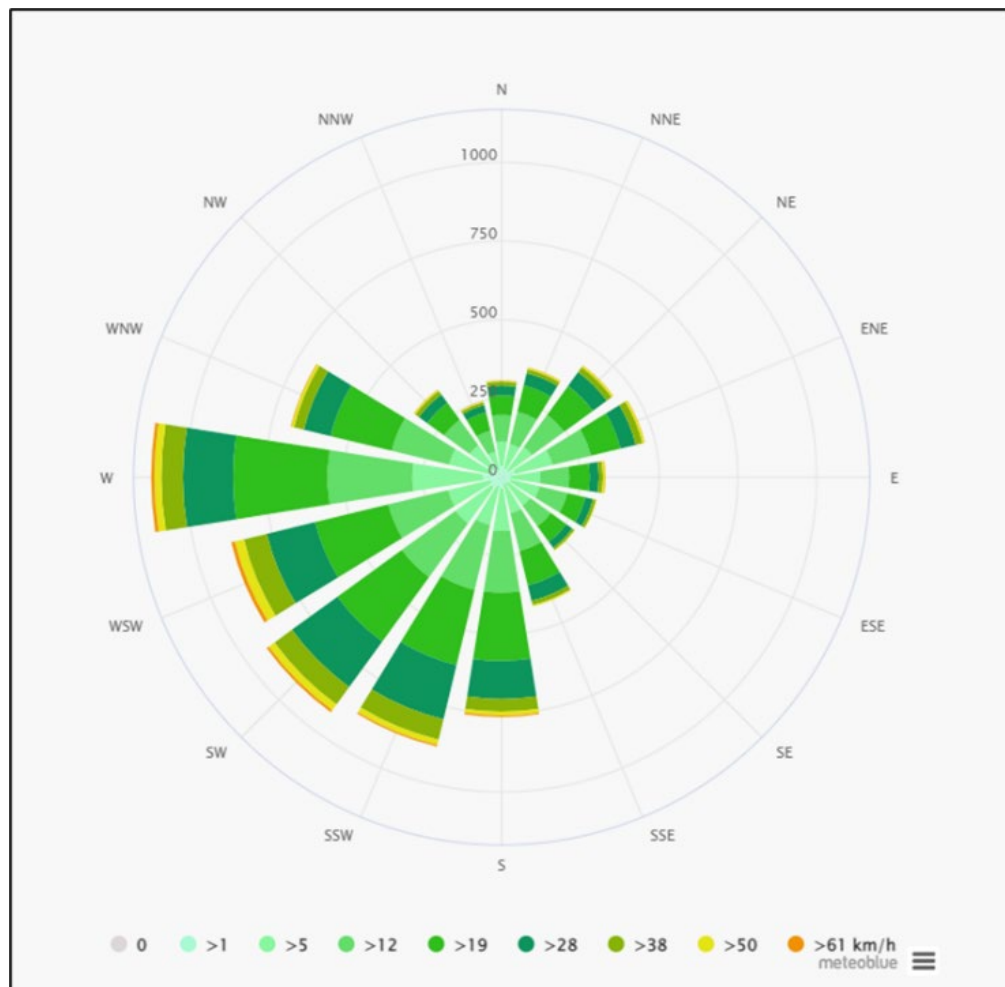
examples of the meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratensis* – sheep’s-fescue *Festuca ovina* grassland community in Staffordshire and many of the higher plants that occur are infrequent or rare in the county.

1.4 Meteorological Setting

1.4.1 The local wind speed and direction data has been obtained from the Meteoblue Meteorological Website for Cauldon. The wind rose, as shown by **Figure 1** shows the percentage of wind vector that could be generated in each of the 16 points of a compass.

1.4.2 The wind rose indicates that the predominant wind directions are from the west and the south western quadrant. It can be observed from **Figure 1** that the prevailing wind is from the west.

Figure 1: Wind Rose for Cauldon (Source: Meteoblue)



2.0 HABITATS RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Rationale

2.1.1 This Habitats Risk Assessment has been conducted using the Source-Pathway-Receptor conceptual model to account for potential risks arising from the site to the local wildlife and habitats. The probability and consequence of the source-pathway-receptor linkage has also been considered in this assessment, as well as the risk management / mitigation procedures and the residual risk to the specified habitat.

2.2 Risk Assessment Criteria

2.2.1 The magnitude of risks is qualified by the probability and consequence, the criteria to be adopted for the risk assessment is presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Risk Assessment Criteria

Probability ⇨ Consequence ↓	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High
Very Low	Negligible	Very Low	Low	Low-Moderate
Low	Very Low	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate
Moderate	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High
High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	Very high

2.2.2 **Tables 3-6** assess the following risks for each identified nature conservation area identified in the screening report presented in **Appendix 1**:

- Fugitive emissions to air (dust and particulates which could cause habitat smothering)
- Odour
- Litter
- Noise and vibration
- Infestations of scavenging Birds, Vermin and Insects
- Fugitive emissions to water

2.3 Risk Assessment Matrices

2.3.1 Risk assessment matrices for each potentially sensitive habitat are presented in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Risk Assessment Matrix - Rue Hill SSSI

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Release of particulate matter and dusts from the processing, storage and haulage of minerals	Air and deposition	Low	Moderate	Low-Moderate	<p>Rue Hill SSSI is not located downwind of the site relative to the direction of the prevailing wind.</p> <p>The current basal levels of the quarry are ~55m below surface levels at Rue Hill.</p>	<p>All haul routes will be adequately maintained;</p> <p>Mobile plant (including mineral processing units) will be regularly serviced and equipped with effective exhausts to prevent fume emissions;</p> <p>All conveyors systems will be fitted with wind boards or enclosed in housing;</p> <p>Processing plant and mineral/aggregate stockpiles will be positioned as far away from any site boundaries near to any sensitive receptors;</p> <p>Drop heights from conveyors and hydraulic loading shovels into processing plant, dumpers and HGVs will be minimised.</p> <p>Water bowsers will be used during dry conditions on the access road and any other trafficked areas;</p> <p>Vehicle speed control on access and other trafficked areas will be implemented by the Site Manager and must be adhered to with due regard to weather and ground conditions in order to reduce fugitive dust generation;</p> <p>All shall ensure that all commercial vehicles pass through a wheel washing facility prior to leaving the site to prevent the deposition of material onto the public highway</p> <p>In the unlikely event that dust or mud from the site has been deposited on the public highway, a road sweeper will be employed</p> <p>The Site Manager or instructed site personnel will undertake regular inspections of the public highway in order to identify the need for any cleaning requirements. Observations from all inspections will be logged</p> <p>Loading and unloading of vehicles should ensure drop heights are minimised;</p> <p>Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather</p> <p>All site employees will receive appropriate training in order to ensure that they are conversant with the site dust control strategy</p> <p>A site speed limit will be enforced to limit dust suspension by vehicle wheels.</p>	Low

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Release of particulate matter and dusts from handling and unloading materials, storage of aggregates at the asphalt plant and processing and handling of waste waste road planings resulting in the smothering of habitats	Air and deposition	Very Low	Moderate	Low	<p>Rue Hill SSSI is not located downwind of the site relative to the direction of the prevailing wind.</p> <p>Most dust/particulates will deposit within 400m of the source. Rue hill SSSI is located ~780m from these activities.</p> <p>The current basal levels of the quarry are ~55m below surface levels at Rue Hill.</p>	<p>Mobile plant (including waste processing plant) will be regularly serviced and equipped with effective exhausts to prevent fume emissions</p> <p>Fine particle fillers will be stored in silo's fitted with manhole and overpressure/negative pressure protection systems, and an exhaust filter comprising a mechanical dedusting filter and weather protection roof. Inlets and outlets will be designed to emit <10mg/m3 of particulates</p> <p>Raw materials comprising a sub-3mm fractions will be stored in covered/sheltered bays.</p> <p>Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather</p> <p>All conveyors systems will be fitted with wind boards or enclosed in housing;</p> <p>Drop heights from conveyors and hydraulic loading shovels into processing plant, dumpers and HGVs will be minimised.</p> <p>Loading and unloading of vehicles should ensure drop heights are minimised</p> <p>All site employees will receive appropriate training in order to ensure that they are conversant with the site dust control strategy</p> <p>Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather</p>	Very Low

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Odour	Air	Very Low	Very Low	Negligible	<p>No known research to confirm that wildlife are sensitive to odours.</p> <p>Mineral processing and asphalt recycling operations are unlikely to result in odour releases.</p> <p>All activities will be carried out towards the lowest sections of the quarry void, which are at least 55m below surface levels at Rue Hill</p>	<p>Start-ups and shut-downs will be kept to a minimum in order to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Any fuel oil used in site shall have a certified sulphur content of no more than 1% wt/wt sulphur in fuel, or, if gas oil is used, no more than 0.1% wt/wt sulphur in fuel.</p> <p>Odour neutralizer equipment will be implemented in the stack of the asphalt plant to minimise odours produced from the hot mixing process.</p> <p>Bitumen storage tanks shall not be overfilled and care shall be taken throughout the delivery of bitumen to avoid venting of air from the tank that may cause an emission of odour.</p> <p>Temperature sensors will be used to ensure the temperature within the heated components of the plant is within the maximum specified limits.</p> <p>Odour will be assessed by olfactory monitoring at the site boundary at a suitable downwind location as part of the daily site checks.</p> <p>The number of start-ups and shut-downs will be kept to a minimum in order to reduce emissions.</p> <p>All plant, machinery and storage tanks will be inspected daily as part of management procedures for signs of any leaks or either odorous air or liquid.</p>	Negligible
Release pollutants (NO _x , SO _x and PM) from the combustion of fuel in the burner	Air and then deposition	Very Low	Moderate	Low	Refer to Air Quality Assessment Report (Doc. Ref.: J0773/1/F1)	Low sulphur fuels to be used that conform with The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.	Low

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Noise and vibration resulting in habitat disturbance	Air and ground	Very Low	Very Low	Negligible	Habitats are not sensitive to noise and vibration	All machinery used on site will be operated and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. Vehicles will adhere to specified speed limits when entering and exiting the site along the Main road. Unloading, processing and loading the materials will be undertaken within strict operational parameters, to ensure that noise and vibration from this activity is mitigated as necessary. Noise monitoring will be undertaken if necessary. Should unacceptable emissions of noise or vibration occur, the incident will be noted, and a record made.	Negligible
Litter generation resulting in physical harm to wildlife	Air and ground	Very Low	Low	Very Low	Proposed activities and the materials to be handled at the site very unlikely to generate litter. All activities will be carried out towards the lowest sections of the quarry void, which are at least 55m below surface levels at Rue Hill	Types of materials accepted are unlikely to lead to issues due to the lack of light fraction windblown elements. All vehicles hauling aggregate will be sheeted / netted or enclosed. Non-conforming fractions will be hand or mechanically extracted and stored within an enclosed receptacle. Good housekeeping will be promoted in order to keep storage areas, process areas and haul roads as clean as possible. Daily inspection of the site for windblown fraction will be performed.	Very Low
Birds, vermin, and insects resulting in disease, habitat disturbance/ loss and predation	Air and over land	Very Low	Low	Very Low	The nature of the activities will not attract pests or scavengers	First in, first out principles will be employed to prevent excessive stock storage timings. Daily inspection of the site for infestations will be performed as part of the management procedures. Regular visits from a registered pest controller can be programmed, if required.	Negligible

Table 4: Risk Assessment Matrix – Caldon Dales SSSI

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Release of particulate matter and dusts from the processing, storage and haulage of minerals	Air and deposition	Low	Moderate	Low-Moderate	<p>Most dust/particulates will deposit within 400m of the source. Caldon Dales SSSI is located ~750m from these activities.</p> <p>The current basal levels of the quarry are ~50m below the top of the spine rock.</p>	<p>All haul routes will be adequately maintained;</p> <p>Mobile plant (including mineral processing units) will be regularly serviced and equipped with effective exhausts to prevent fume emissions;</p> <p>All conveyors systems will be fitted with wind boards or enclosed in housing;</p> <p>Processing plant and mineral/aggregate stockpiles will be positioned as far away from any site boundaries near to any sensitive receptors;</p> <p>Drop heights from conveyors and hydraulic loading shovels into processing plant, dumpers and HGVs will be minimised.</p> <p>Water bowsers will be used during dry conditions on the access road and any other trafficked areas;</p> <p>Vehicle speed control on access and other trafficked areas will be implemented by the Site Manager and must be adhered to with due regard to weather and ground conditions in order to reduce fugitive dust generation;</p> <p>All shall ensure that all commercial vehicles pass through a wheel washing facility prior to leaving the site to prevent the deposition of material onto the public highway</p> <p>In the unlikely event that dust or mud from the site has been deposited on the public highway, a road sweeper will be employed</p> <p>The Site Manager or instructed site personnel will undertake regular inspections of the public highway in order to identify the need for any cleaning requirements. Observations from all inspections will be logged</p> <p>Loading and unloading of vehicles should ensure drop heights are minimised;</p> <p>Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather</p> <p>All site employees will receive appropriate training in order to ensure that they are conversant with the site dust control strategy</p> <p>A site speed limit will be enforced to limit dust suspension by vehicle wheels.</p>	Low

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Release of particulate matter and dusts from handling and unloading materials, storage of aggregates at the asphalt plant and processing and handling of waste waste road planings resulting in the smothering of habitats	Air and deposition	Very Low	Moderate	Low	<p>Most dust/particulates will deposit within 400m of the source. Caldon Dales SSSI is located ~1.2m from these activities.</p> <p>The current basal levels of the quarry are ~50m below the top of the spine rock.</p>	<p>Mobile plant (including waste processing plant) will be regularly serviced and equipped with effective exhausts to prevent fume emissions</p> <p>Fine particle fillers will be stored in silo's fitted with manhole and overpressure/negative pressure protection systems, and an exhaust filter comprising a mechanical dedusting filter and weather protection roof. Inlets and outlets will be designed to emit <10mg/m3 of particulates</p> <p>Raw materials comprising a sub-3mm fractions will be stored in covered/sheltered bays.</p> <p>Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather</p> <p>All conveyors systems will be fitted with wind boards or enclosed in housing;</p> <p>Drop heights from conveyors and hydraulic loading shovels into processing plant, dumpers and HGVs will be minimised.</p> <p>Loading and unloading of vehicles should ensure drop heights are minimised</p> <p>All site employees will receive appropriate training in order to ensure that they are conversant with the site dust control strategy</p> <p>Water sprays or surface binders will be utilised to maintain damp surfaces on exposed tip and stockpile faces and any exposed friable surfaces during dry and windy weather</p>	Very Low

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Odour	Air	Very Low	Very Low	Negligible	<p>No known research to confirm that wildlife are sensitive to odours.</p> <p>Mineral processing and asphalt recycling operations are unlikely to result in odour releases.</p> <p>All activities will be carried out towards the lowest sections of the quarry void, which are at least 50m below the top of the spine rock.</p>	<p>Start-ups and shut-downs will be kept to a minimum in order to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Any fuel oil used in site shall have a certified sulphur content of no more than 1% wt/wt sulphur in fuel, or, if gas oil is used, no more than 0.1% wt/wt sulphur in fuel.</p> <p>Odour neutralizer equipment will be implemented in the stack of the asphalt plant to minimise odours produced from the hot mixing process.</p> <p>Bitumen storage tanks shall not be overfilled and care shall be taken throughout the delivery of bitumen to avoid venting of air from the tank that may cause an emission of odour.</p> <p>Temperature sensors will be used to ensure the temperature within the heated components of the plant is within the maximum specified limits.</p> <p>Odour will be assessed by olfactory monitoring at the site boundary at a suitable downwind location as part of the daily site checks.</p> <p>The number of start-ups and shut-downs will be kept to a minimum in order to reduce emissions.</p> <p>All plant, machinery and storage tanks will be inspected daily as part of management procedures for signs of any leaks or either odorous air or liquid.</p>	Negligible
Release pollutants (NO _x , SO _x and PM) from the combustion of fuel in the burner	Air and then deposition	Very Low	Moderate	Low	Refer to Air Quality Assessment Report (Doc. Ref.: J0773/1/F1)	Low sulphur fuels to be used that conform with The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.	Very Low

Hazard / Source	Pathway	Probability	Consequence	Magnitude	Justification for Risk Level	Risk Management	Residual Risk
Noise and vibration resulting in habitat disturbance	Air and ground	Very Low	Very Low	Negligible	Habitats are not sensitive to noise and vibration	All machinery used on site will be operated and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. Vehicles will adhere to specified speed limits when entering and exiting the site along the Main road. Unloading, processing and loading the materials will be undertaken within strict operational parameters, to ensure that noise and vibration from this activity is mitigated as necessary. Noise monitoring will be undertaken if necessary. Should unacceptable emissions of noise or vibration occur, the incident will be noted, and a record made.	Negligible
Litter generation resulting in physical harm to wildlife	Air and ground	Very Low	Low	Very Low	Proposed activities and the materials to be handled at the site very unlikely to generate litter. All activities will be carried out towards the lowest sections of the quarry void, which are at least 55m below surface levels at Rue Hill	Types of materials accepted are unlikely to lead to issues due to the lack of light fraction windblown elements. All vehicles hauling aggregate will be sheeted / netted or enclosed. Non-conforming fractions will be hand or mechanically extracted and stored within an enclosed receptacle. Good housekeeping will be promoted in order to keep storage areas, process areas and haul roads as clean as possible. Daily inspection of the site for windblown fraction will be performed.	Very Low
Birds, vermin, and insects resulting in disease, habitat disturbance/ loss and predation	Air and over land	Very Low	Low	Very Low	The nature of the activities will not attract pests or scavengers	First in, first out principles will be employed to prevent excessive stock storage timings. Daily inspection of the site for infestations will be performed as part of the management procedures. Regular visits from a registered pest controller can be programmed, if required.	Negligible

3.0 REPORT CLOSURE

- 3.1.1 A Habitats Risk Assessment (HABRA) has been prepared in support of an Environmental Permit Application to carry out Part B scheduled mineral processing and roadstone activities, and associated asphalt recycling operations at Cauldon Low Quarry, Stoke-on-Trent.
- 3.1.2 The risk assessment considers the potential hazards, risk sources, pathways, and receptors as well as the probability and consequence of each risk linkage to the protected habitats and species identified within 1km of the quarry.
- 3.1.3 The risk assessment also considers the mitigation measures that will be implemented by Aggregate Industries UK Limited to prevent environmental harm. The resulting risk levels to these habitats and species is considered to be Low to Negligible.
- 3.1.4 This document will be subject to on-going review and revision where necessary. This review will be undertaken in response to events which may occur on site, and also to ensure that it accords with the latest regulations and associated guidance documents. Any revisions made to this document will be recorded and details of said revisions will be described as part of the required record relating to document review.