



**Back ground Information -**

Edwin Richards Quarry (ERQ) is an extensive former dolerite quarry, which was originally formed by the merging of two separate quarries divided by a road. These two quarries were amalgamated in the 1980s. All quarrying ceased permanently in 2004 as the consented area was effectively worked out.

It is not considered practical, sustainable or desirable to leave the site as it is. The site as it stands presents health and safety management issues in terms of public access, and has limited end-use to the wider public. As such, as part of a wider restoration masterplan for the site, three planning applications are being submitted to Sandwell Council. These applications cover the following key elements:

Overall, the Edwin Richards Quarry restoration masterplan will include the following key elements:

- Waste infrastructure, which will directly facilitate the restoration of the quarry void i.e. soil treatment centre, construction, demolition, commercial and industrial waste recycling facility, relocated gas compound facility and leachate treatment plant, and associated offices, weighbridge and vehicle parking;
- Revised infilling scheme, which will ultimately provide a more beneficial open space resource for the local community. Specifically, this will offer recreational, landscape/visual and ecological improvements; and
- The development of up to 281 houses across the southern part of the site.

Through infilling a substantial part of the quarry, the resultant landform will provide greater beneficial after-use for the public and reduce the health and safety management issues associated with the site as it currently stands. The revised scheme will provide a usable and long-term leisure facility for the local community, as well as biodiversity and landscape enhancements.