



**NEWS RELEASE – 16 January 2012**

**New Hills quarry opens for business**

Hills Quarry Products has marked the start of 2012 by opening a new quarry which is expected to have an operational life of 15 years.

Upwood Quarry is on the A338 Wantage Road, just half a mile from Tubney Wood in Oxfordshire which has reached the end of mineral extraction.

Alan Mackenzie, group director, said: "With Tubney Wood coming to the end of its operational life, Upwood is its natural successor.

"There are an estimated 1.5 million tonnes of reserves in Upwood Quarry which will supply dry screened sand and a range of limestone products."

The method of extraction at Upwood Quarry will be the same as at Tubney Wood and will work the same geological deposit of high quality sand and serve the same markets.

Meanwhile work to restore Tubney Wood Quarry by infill is expected to last another 4 to 5 years. It had been hoped that Tubney could continue longer but there was a restriction on workings below the water table.

Planning permission for Upwood Quarry, a few miles south west of Oxford, was given in 2009. The infrastructure has now been put in place to carry out the mineral extraction work.

Progressive restoration will take place with three of its four fields being backfilled to restore the land to agriculture at the original ground levels.

The fourth and largest field is to be restored without infilling at a reduced level with minimum overburden and transferred to the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. They will manage it for nature conservation and habitat biodiversity. The site will complement the ecological interest of the adjoining Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves.

**ENDS**

**Contact details for the site are as follows:**

Telephone number: 01865 390838

Address: Upwood Quarry, Besselsleigh, Abingdon OX13 5DW



### **Hills Quarry Products**

Hills Quarry Products specialises in the production and supply of quarry products and ready-mixed concrete to the construction and agricultural sectors. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest suppliers. Hills Quarry Products is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900. [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

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