

## Agricultural Impact Study Highlights

An agricultural impact assessment has evaluated the potential impacts on agriculture from the proposed Shantz Station Pit and identified mitigation measures to reduce those impacts on surrounding agricultural uses. The assessment reviewed two areas: a primary area that encompasses the proposed licence area and lands 120 metres outside it; and a secondary area within a one-kilometre radius of the proposed pit licence area.

An agricultural impact assessment is required under the provincial Growth Plan Act of 2017 for proposed new aggregate operations in prime agricultural areas.

Agricultural activities within the primary study area include mostly cash crop farming, along with some pasture lands for horses. The secondary area includes mostly large fields of cash crops, some pasture lands for smaller livestock operations including hobby horse farms and an equestrian operation, as well as a Christmas tree farm.

A Soil Survey confirms the land within the proposed licence area has a Class 2 average soil capability (32% Class 1, 38% Class 2, and 27% Class 3), and is not considered a specialty crop area. Surrounding lands are primarily Class 1 and 2 soils.

The Provincial Policy Statement, Region of Waterloo Official Plan and Township of Woolwich Official Plan all allow for mineral resource extraction in prime agricultural

lands. Provincial and municipal legislation requires that, for aggregate operations above the water table, substantially the same land area must be rehabilitated back to agricultural use.

Capital Paving is proposing to extract sand and gravel in five phases (or areas of the site), with each area rehabilitated shortly after moving to the next phase. In total, 96% of the total land area would be rehabilitated back to a Class 2 or better soil capability.

Farming of the licenced area would continue throughout the pit operations, outside of areas being extracted or rehabilitated.

Dust will be mitigated on site and is not expected to have an impact on surrounding agricultural uses.

Since the proposed pit will be above the water table, no adverse effects are expected on nearby wells, including those of neighbouring agricultural operations.

The final study report includes illustrated examples of former Capital Paving pits that have been successfully rehabilitated back to agricultural uses, including the Holman Pit in Guelph Eramosa Township, the Wellington Pit in Puslinch Township and the Whistle Bare Pit in the Township of North Dumfries.



**Crop cultivation and aggregate extraction are happening concurrently at Capital Paving's Whistle Bare Pit in North Dumfries, similar to what is being proposed for the Shantz Station Pit. In the photo above, the fields in the foreground as well as along the slope to the right have been rehabilitated back to farmland after sand and gravel was removed.**