

# Imerys British Lithium

## Newsletter | Winter 2024



## A Project Update

**We've come a long way since 2017 when we began researching and developing new methods of extracting lithium and producing lithium carbonate from the granite found near St Austell.**

Since then, we've built a world-class, integrated pilot plant that has been operational for more than two years and is already producing battery-grade lithium carbonate.

We are now moving toward construction of a full-scale plant capable of producing 21,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate each year – enough to power 500,000 electric vehicles – every year, for 30 years.

In a world first, mineral quarrying, beneficiation and lithium refining is proposed to all take place on the same site. Brand new, patented technology will reduce waste, chemical and water usage; transportation needs will be reduced, and our operations will be powered by local renewable energy as much as possible.

Importantly, our granite will be processed right through to the production of high-grade, high-value lithium carbonate, ensuring the maximum value is captured right here in Cornwall.

### What Next?

A pre-feasibility study is to be submitted and this will develop into an even more detailed definitive feasibility study next year.

At the same time, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is also being undertaken to help inform and shape our proposals to ensure that they respect the local environment.

Our community engagement sessions helped us to gather your views and feedback to help us shape our plans. We will continue this process next year, as we want to speak to as many local people as possible.

Then we can submit our full planning application towards the end of next year.

### Have your say



Your feedback and questions are important to us. **Please complete the survey here.** You can also fill in one of the paper forms available or contact us at [bl.info@imerys.com](mailto:bl.info@imerys.com)



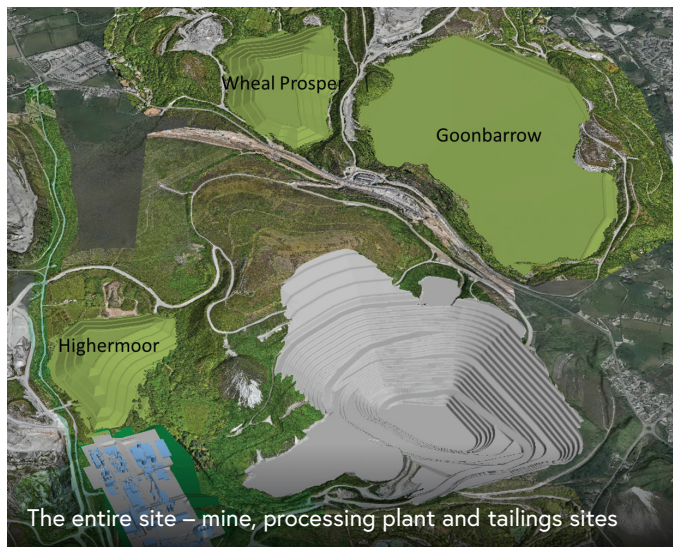


# What will it look like?

**We are now at a stage where we can show you visualisations of the project.**

We think this is essential to allow you to share your feedback and help us shape our plans.

Latest following images are design models showing the proposed lithium processing plant, the mine pit shell and tailings facilities at Highermoor, Wheal Prosper and Goonbarrow after 30 years of production.



## Welcoming two new metallurgists to our processing team

We have also recently welcomed two new team members – Chantelle Colquhoun and Rafaela Dellarossa!

They are both metallurgists and have joined the processing team – which means they are working in our pilot plant, which takes crushed granite and via a process including magnetic separation, calcination, filtration and crystallisation to produce battery grade lithium carbonate!

Chantelle, although relocating from Australia to join us, is actually Cornish – hailing originally from Camborne! She emigrated to Australia in 2001 after graduating from Camborne School of

Mining in minerals engineering – to work in the gold and iron ore industry. Her last role was with Rio Tinto where she was part of the processing studies team, where she specialised in geometallurgy and assessing future iron ore deposits. She is excited to be part of the mining industry in Cornwall, and giving her children the opportunity to connect with their Cornish heritage and family.

Rafaela is originally from Chile – she graduated from the University of Concepcion. She has over 15 years of experience in the mining industry. For the past five years she has been working as a senior process metallurgist at Metso, Finland.

In previous roles, Rafaela has been working on various project stages including scoping studies and basic



engineering for mineral processing plants – specialising in copper, gold, polymetallic and lithium.

She explains: "I'm really happy to be involved from an early stage in the Imerys British Lithium project and to contribute to its development. On a personal note, my family and I are excited to write a new chapter here in Cornwall, enjoying its beauty and lovely hospitality."

# Focus on... Water use

**Water is a precious asset here in the Southwest and Imerys has long been a custodian of vast quantities of water. This is thanks to our legacy of historic mining activity – many disused old pits are now flooded and hold huge amounts of rain water.**

Imerys uses and recycles some of this water for its ongoing kaolin mining operations – which means that kaolin mining does not need to draw water from Southwest Water's supplies. As the Clay Country receives significant amounts of rain – these old pits are naturally refilled.

Such is our supply of water, that just this year we have been able to provide South West Water access to a huge 12 million litres of water every day, for seven months of the year, for five years – from Blackpool Pit. This will provide six per cent of Cornwall's domestic water needs every year!

When it comes to lithium production – our methods are far away from the images many people will have seen of evaporation ponds – in South America for example.

Our process is a 'hard rock' extraction – with much reduced water requirements.

We have already conducted detailed site-wide water balance modelling to develop a sustainable plan for water use for this project.

Our phased-modelling covering early construction, through operations and final remediation and closure in over 30 years time, and includes:

- baseline monitoring of long-term kaolin operations
- climate forecasting
- seasonal rainfall data collection and modelling
- sustainable water management plan (reduce, reuse, recycle)



Through capture of rainwater and careful recycling of the water we use for lithium mining and processing – we anticipate our project to be water positive. That means that water from rainfall and from our flooded pit will be more than sufficient to run our project.

We anticipate drawing down zero 'drinking' water from local public supplies for our process – with our only requirements for our basic welfare needs. Yes – that includes our life-giving teas and coffees!

**We are aligning our project with the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) standard. This includes strict guidelines for responsible water management and we are planning our project to meet these requirements.**

Lastly, we are working closely with our colleagues at Cornwall Council and the Environmental Agency to ensure our water discharge improves the long term quality and flow characteristics of our local, receiving water courses.



## Meet Edwin Berends Project Director

In September we were delighted to welcome Edwin Berends to our senior team as our new Project Director.

Edwin brings a wealth of experience gained over 30 years, with a PhD in chemical engineering, he has held several senior global positions with Albemarle.

Edwin explains: "This is such an exciting time to join Imerys British Lithium – who are so far the only UK project having produced battery-grade lithium and well placed to open the UK's first full scale lithium production plant.

"My previous role as Project Director for Albemarle's lithium project has provided me with experience which will be essential in this next stage for IBL.

"On a personal level I am really looking forward to getting settled here in Cornwall – I love the outdoors and plan to start exploring beautiful Kernow as soon as I can!"

Alan Parte, Imerys VP for lithium projects and CEO of Imerys British Lithium explains more:

"We are delighted to have Edwin join our growing team.

"This year, in addition to focusing on community engagement, we have been progressing on our pre feasibility study and planning application for the full scale production plant. Edwin will do a fantastic job of leading us through this and onwards to being the first UK commercial producer of lithium for electric vehicle batteries."





## Making sure the communities around our project benefit from our work is essential to us.

Imerys has always supported a range of local groups and charities in the Clay Villages – and we now work closely with them to continue that tradition.

So we were delighted to announce that a newly launched Surf Life Saving Club in Carlyon Bay, recently benefited from our first major donation!

The group, set up just last year, was in desperate need of kit and storage in order to get beach sessions running for the group of local kids.

Imerys was able to provide an old shipping container, which once delivered was then renovated by Carlyon Bay SLSC volunteers. Imerys also arranged the new signs and funded insurance for the club.

We then stepped in to provide seven 'nipper boards' - the mini rescue boards that young members of SLSC use to practise their paddling skills. The total support package of just under £10,000 has given the new club a real boost.

Mark Hewson, who leads Imerys in the UK and is an Imerys British Lithium director explains more:

"Carlyon Bay has such a strong historical link to the clay industry so we are delighted to be able to support such a fantastic club on this beach. We hope that over time this builds to more RNLI presence on this stretch on the south coast. Imerys has two ports and countless bodies of water in mid-Cornwall, so water safety education is incredibly important to us."

Ben Cordier from Carlyon Bay SLSC went on:

"The club was formed as a charity last year to provide water safety education

and to train our members in how to save people from drowning, both at sea and in inland water bodies such as the many disused clay pits surrounding St Austell. We have been incredibly fortunate to receive donations and support from across the local community, but the fantastic support we received from Imerys in our formative months was really vital to getting the club off the ground in the first place.

"As a new club, there is a huge range of equipment we need to train our members. With the addition of boards provided by Imerys British Lithium, our team of volunteers have been able to train more of our Sandhoppers (under 8's) and Nippers (8–12) to have the full range of skills they need to help someone in trouble in the water."

Other groups looking for funding or support around St Austell and the clay villages should email [jane.devereux@imerys.com](mailto:jane.devereux@imerys.com)

## Interested in joining our rapidly growing team?

Check out latest roles here:

[www.imerysbritishlithium.com/recruitment](http://www.imerysbritishlithium.com/recruitment)

or contact us with your CV here:

[bl.info@imerys.com](mailto:bl.info@imerys.com)

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