

# Forest Wood Quarry

## Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: November 2011

Updated: August 2013

### Site Information- Forest Wood Quarry

<b>Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)</b>	Forest Wood Quarry, Pontyclun Grid Ref. ST 01876 79834 (Plant Site)
<b>Hanson Company</b>	Hanson Aggregates
<b>BAP(s) that will be targeted</b>	UK BAP, Vale of Glamorgan Local Biodiversity Action Plan Action for Nature, Rhondda Cynon Taf BAP
<b>Habitat(s) to be developed</b>	Ancient and/ or species rich hedgerows, lowland calcareous grassland
<b>BAP species to be encouraged</b>	Bluebell, peregrine falcon, song thrush, high brown fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary, bat spp.
<b>Designated Natural Area</b>	None
<b>Background and site description</b>	Approx. 30ha Limestone quarry situated partly within Vale of Glamorgan and partly Rhonda-Cynon-Taf just south of the M4 near Llantrisant. The habitats surrounding Forest Wood include remnant blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland (entire quarry was formerly woodland on 1945 aerial photo), improved pasture and screen bank plantations together with secondary woodland and scrub on old quarry waste tips. Western extension into V.of.G. permitted in spring 2011, and many proposed works are driven by operations required in conjunction with accessing extension land. Final restoration design will result in large deep water body with rock faces, screes and narrow quarry bench restoration, with main area of dry land being the current plant site and stocking areas.
<b>National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m</b>	None
<b>Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate</b>	Quarry stripping and restoration budgets will cover most aspects of the BAP including planting and maintenance of target habitats. Potential for grants for woodland management through the Forestry Commission Wales. Some fees likely to be required for ecological monitoring.
<b>Contribution to biodiversity</b>	Salvage and beneficial utilisation of woodland and hedgerow soils. Provision of replacement bat roost. Positive management of existing woodland resources and hedgerows within Company's control. Establishment of flower-rich calcareous grassland and associated invertebrate habitat on remnant tips and benches
<b>Partners and Local initiatives</b>	VofG and RCT County ecologists Richard May and Richard Wistow available for consultation if necessary
<b>Other documents supporting the site BAP</b>	Roadside screen planting details Plan F50-0120 12 year and final restoration plans and sections F50-121, 122 and 123

Site Layout



## Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Maintain and increase extent of flower-rich grassland	Flower-rich grassland including orchid populations and associated fauna and invertebrate species	<p>Manage existing resource to prevent decline of quality and extent.</p> <p>To provide further areas of open limestone grassland through new quarry restoration</p>	<p>1. Push back scrub and tree line from around areas of wildflower grassland and link woodland glades</p> <p>2. Monitor condition throughout life of site and implement butterfly monitoring programme</p> <p>3. Incorporate new wildflower grassland into restoration design</p> <p>4. Take opportunities to increase extent through restoration of appropriate tip/bench areas</p>	<p>Area of glades opened up and linked</p> <p>Presence of key indicator species eg butterflies</p> <p>Area of calcareous grassland created</p>	Site Manager	<p>Glades cleared and linked by Q1 2015.</p> <p>Butterfly monitoring by Q2 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing (Western screen bank restoration earthworks Complete 2013)</p>
2	Improve structure, diversity and linkage of existing hedgerows and woodland resources	Species rich hedgerows, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and associated flora and fauna to encourage L-BAP target	Draw up and implement woodland management scheme in accordance with Condition 5 of VofG application 56/93/0375 for old southern extension Strip and salvage woodland soil resource from areas of ASNW and hedge bottoms to ensure	<p>1. Assess all woodland and hedgerow resources within Company's control. Draw up and implement management plan</p> <p>2. Design stripping programme and earthworks contracts to make full use of</p>	<p>Management plan in place and implementation underway</p> <p>Area of woodland restored and</p>	Site Manager	<p>Management plan produced by Q4 2014 management commenced by Q1 2016</p> <p>(New western screen bank constructed)</p>

			beneficial use on restored tips and screen banks  Ensure good woodland habitat linkage around quarry perimeter, in accordance with Condition 14 western screen bank design	irreplaceable species-rich soil resources  <b>3.</b> Implement new planting as appropriate areas of tip and bench become available	planted using salvaged woodland soil  Area of woodland restored and tree-planted		2013)  Ongoing
<b>3</b>	To improve structure and diversity of middle aged plantations and areas of secondary semi-natural woodland	Broadleaved woodland and associated flora and fauna	Improve the habitat quality and linkage of middle-aged plantations and secondary scrub  Manage other existing woodland areas within quarry in accordance with management plan proposed in Target 2 to include RCT areas	<b>1.</b> Manage NE tip plantation by halo thinning to favour long-lived natives, thin by ring-barking alder and plant understorey where necessary  <b>2.</b> Introduce standing dead wood and habitat piles  <b>3.</b> Cut back buddleia and plant up gaps on NW screen bank and woodland between quarry rim and N boundary	Area of woodland thinned/ coppiced  Presence of understorey and desirable target species of ground flora  Presence of other target species	Site Manager	Ongoing management commenced by Q1 2014 to achieve favourable condition by 2025

4	Maintain bat population	Bat species	Construct replacement bat roost in accordance with EPS Licence Method Statement	<p>1. Construct bat house</p> <p>2. Enhance and manage surrounding retained land with pond/species-rich rough grassland. Implement post-licence monitoring as required</p>	Continued use of site by bat species as recorded by Post -Licence monitoring	Site Manager	<p>Bat house completed 2012</p> <p>Monitoring ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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