Ripon Quarry

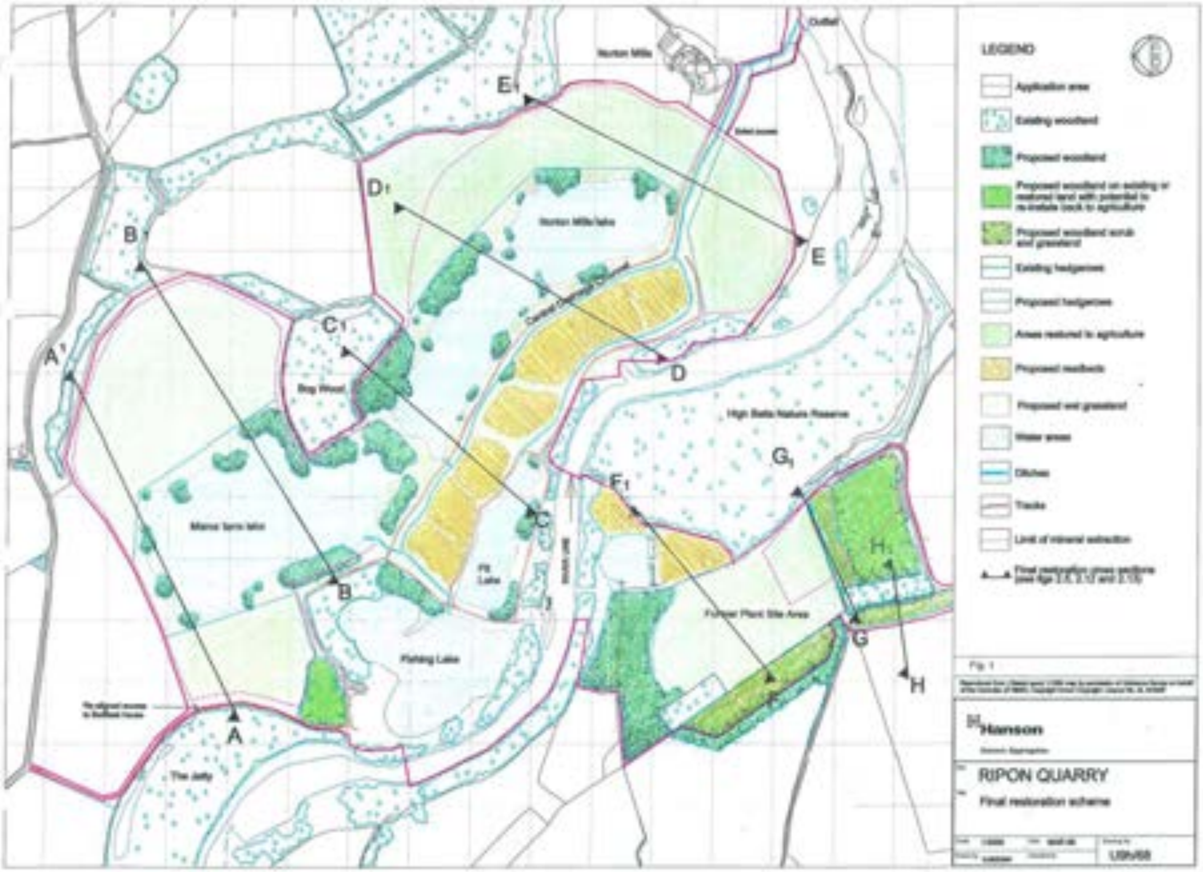
Site Biodiversity Action Plan

Prepared: December 2013	**Updated: Date**

Site Information- Ripon

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Ripon Quarry, North Stainley, near Ripon Grid Ref – SE297773
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates - North
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Harrogate LBAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Reed-bed Lowland Meadows Woodland Flowing Water Standing Water Arable Farmland
BAP species to be encouraged	*Mammals*: Otter, Water Vole *Birds*: Bittern, Reed bunting *Invertebrates*: Freshwater white-clawed crayfish *Higher plants*: Thistle broomrape *Other notable species*: Little ringed plover, Lesser spotted woodpecker*, Marsh tit*, Willow tit*, River lamprey, Yellow star-of- Bethlehem *Red listed species
Designated Natural Area	Pennine Dales Fringe
Background and site description	The quarry is located on the floodplain of the River Ure with the river and adjacent grasslands and woodlands. Ripon Quarry covers 90.5ha with current extraction from 38ha and the S106 'core' area of 44.5ha. Extensive biological recording is conducted by a local group. The management aims are to return the fringe sections of the site to productive agriculture and to restore and manage the core area to create high value biodiversity habitats including open water; reed-bed and wet woodland.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	The quarry is located on the floodplain of the River Ure northwest of Ripon Parks SSSI. The SSSI comprises a range of habitats associated with the river and adjacent grasslands and woodlands. Three SINCs, all woodlands, are also adjacent to the site.
Resource Requirements-	Restoration budget
Contribution to biodiversity	Ripon Quarry, when fully worked and subsequently restored, has the potential to hold national BAP priority habitats and species most notably reed-beds with a complex of other lowland habitats. The wetland habitats have the potential to be of SSSI quality and a popular location for quiet recreation including watching wildlife and angling.
Partners and Local initiatives	Conservation Advisory Group Bell Flask Ecological Survey Team
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Management Plan Bell Flask Ecological Survey Team reports

Site Layout



LEGEND
Application area
Existing woodland
Proposed woodland
Existing hedgerows
Proposed hedgerows
Areas restored to agriculture
Proposed reedbeds
Proposed wet grassland
Water areas
Ditches
Tracks
Limit of mineral extraction
Fig 1
Hanson
RIPON QUARRY
Final restoration scheme
Norton Mills
Norton Mills lake
Bog Wood
High Batts Nature Reserve
Fishing Lake
Former Plant Site Area
The Jetty

Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	To restore agricultural land with wildlife friendly margins	Arable agriculture with wildlife buffer strips	29ha of agricultural land Wildlife buffer strips along hedgerows	1. Restore agricultural land 2. Create buffer strips adjacent to hedgerow planting	Land area restored (ha) Buffer strips created (lin. m) Annual reporting	Landscape Architect	Ongoing until 2021
2	To create and manage areas of open water	Open water: • Bellflask Lake • Manor Farm Lake • Norton Mills Lake • Pit Lake	Maintain good water quality Maintain disturbance-free zones for waterfowl Manage fishery by restricting pitches to Manor Farm only adjacent to agricultural land	1.Water quality monitoring Water level, quality and flow rate 2. Waterfowl (WeBS) counts 3.Appropriate signage; 4.Wardening 5.Regular liaison with angling club	Waterfowl counts Fishery management Annual reporting	Landscape Architect Ecologist	Ongoing until 2042
3	To create and manage reed-beds and wetland habitats	Reed- beds of Phragmites australis in 4 cells Establishment of small areas of inundation grassland at lake margins	10ha of phragmites australis reed-bed habitat. Ongoing planting and maintenance of existing reed beds. Manage hydrology between cells to control invasive species on reed-beds. Good water quality	1. Plant and maintain reeds. 2. Install sluices 3.Water quality monitoring	Ha. Planted and expanded Monitoring as detailed in the management plan for the site Provision of marginal	Landscape Architect Ecologist	Ongoing until 2042

				via BMWP surveys (using aquatic macroinvertebrates as biological indicators)	habitats around open water bodies (m) Annual reporting		
4	To create and manage woodlands and hedgerows.	• Broad leaved woodland • Wet woodland • Hedgerows	Maintain original woodland area pre-quarrying Create wet woodland adjacent to open water and ditches Ensure connectivity between woodland blocks through creation of hedgerows and shelterbelts	1.Establish and manage woodland along NW edge of Norton Mills Lake to mitigate loss of Bog Wood 2.Woodland and hedgerow planting programme including fencing 3.Manage hedgerow development by cutting, laying or other	Land area managed Area of trees planted and maintained Lin. m. Hedgerow planted and maintained Annual reporting	Site Manager Landscape Architect	Ongoing until 2021
5	To encourage conserve and manage species on site.	• Bittern • Reed bunting • Otter • Water vole • Thistle broomrape • Little ringed Plover and other nesting birds	Manage wetlands to create optimal bittern habitat (water levels, eel and fish prey) Manage human disturbance to sensitive habitats (reed beds, ditches, wet woodland and inundation grasslands)	1. Protect existing known nests/habitats 2. Limit disturbance on site by making site staff aware of habitat areas.	No of species on site. Annual reporting	Site Manager Landscape Architect Ecologist	Ongoing until 2042

6	To monitor habitats & species appearing on site.	Maintain agreed monitoring programme conducted by WYGE Encourage staff and public involvement where possible via local specialist groups	Ensure target species are monitored and appropriate response agreed Monitoring data on bird and rare plant species collected by staff or external volunteers and summarised in annual report/leaflet	1.Undertake winter WeBs counts and Breeding Bird Surveys 2.Monitor all target fish, invertebrate and plant populations for next 5 years (2007-2011)	Monitoring reports Monitoring reports in local specialist publications Annual Report	Site Manager Ecological Consultants	
7	To communicate and publicise interesting features on site (where appropriate)	Produce materials to explain importance of Ripon Quarry biodiversity including flagship species Encourage educational visits	Produce a BAP leaflet/display boards for Ripon Quarry for use on site Local schools regard and use site as educational resource	1. Leaflet to highlight habitat, species and the conservation work to support them. Displays for use on site. 2. School visits or open days per year	Production of leaflet and copies available on site and distributed. Display boards on site. No of colleges, schools and students visiting site.	Landscape Architect Site Manager	Leaflet and displays boards completed School involvement ongoing