

Builth Wells

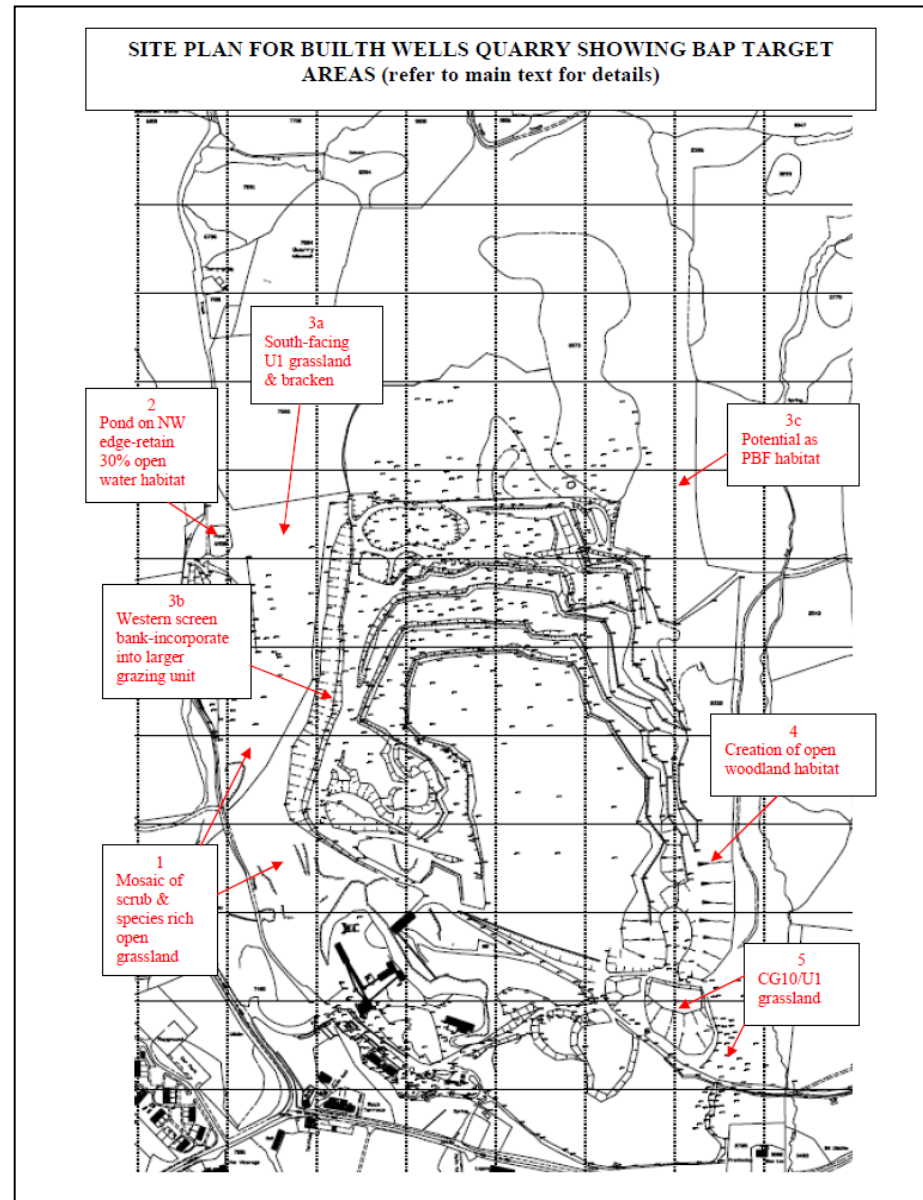
Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Site Information- Builth Wells

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Builth Wells Quarry, Powys SO 050 520 305084 252090
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates- South West Region (South Wales Ops Area)
BAP(s) that will be targeted	Powys Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Shackle, H. 2002) Biodiversity Action Plan for Wales UKBAP Butterfly Conservation National Action Plan for Wales (Joy, J.)
Habitat(s) to be developed	Priority Habitat in UKBAP: lowland dry acid grassland Local Habitat: Farmland Powys upland oak wood action plan and UKBAP priority habitat Powys lowland wood pasture and parkland action plan and UKBAP priority habitat Powys ffridd and scrub action plan
BAP species to be encouraged	Pearl-bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>): priority species in UKBAP Butterfly Conservation National Action Plan for Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Designated Natural Area	Does not apply in Wales
Background and site description	A large stone quarry cut into south-facing hillside overlooking the Wye valley, 1 km north-east of Builth Wells. The site lies at between 140 and 330 m altitude, on Ordovician volcanic rocks of the Builth Igneous Complex. The quarry lies within the Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI, which also includes areas of un-quarried hillside around the periphery of the workings. These areas support a mosaic of dry acidic (and occasionally mildly calcicolous) grassland, with associated rock outcrops, interspersed with extensive stands of bracken, patchy scrub and woodland, with some small flush sites. More level areas of grassland in the north of the site comprise agriculturally improved grassland, grazed by cattle and sheep, on areas permitted for future quarrying.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	SSSI- Llanelwedd Rocks – Ref: 32WRH SSSI- River Wye (Upper Wye) / Afon Gwy (Gwy Uchaf) Ref:32WUQ SAC - River Wye / Afon Gwy (Wales) Ref: UK0012642
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	£1900 for site butterfly survey by Radnorshire Wildlife Trust; Potential costs of both new fencing and relocation of existing fence lines; Potential for jointly funded management projects with CCW (Section 15 agreements for positive management of SSSIs) and Radnorshire Wildlife Trust; Ongoing annual vegetation management costs to be budgeted under restoration; Annual monitoring costs?
Contribution to biodiversity	Improve habitat for Pearl-bordered Fritillary & Small pearl-bordered Fritillary. Only site for Grayling in Radnorshire Broad butterfly interest Maintain & increase extent of dry acid grassland
Partners and Local initiatives	Countryside Council for Wales · Powys County Council · Radnorshire Wildlife Trust · Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Pearl-bordered Fritillary project)
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Date of IDO consent: 09/09/46 · Issue of new conditions: 12/10/93, first periodic review due Oct 2008 · 5 year review of quarry working and restoration scheme imminent autumn 06 · CCW Lowland Grassland Survey, 1995 · Pearl-bordered Fritillary Monitoring at Llanelwedd Rocks (Powys): A Report for the Countryside Council for Wales, 2000 · Amphibian Survey of pond, David Clemence Ecology, May 2006 · SSSI Citation Sheet

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1 (SW hillside)	Maintain and increase area of species rich grassland	Mildly calcicolous grassland (CG10) and dry acid grassland (U1/U4)	Open up glades within encroaching woodland and scrub to improve and increase small patches of fragmented CG10/ U1/U4 grassland. 30% grassland habitat within 5 years in western field. Above to be carried out in accordance with CCWs Site Management Statement (applies to whole site and all BAP items)	Cut swathes into woodland & bramble scrub on virgin hillside or historic waste tips off the track at southern end of western field. Obtain Site Management Statement for Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI (applies to whole site and all BAP items)	Continuing presence of key species for U1/U4 grassland over wider area of western field: Festuca ovina, Agrostis capillaris, Aira praecox, Vulpia bromoides, Rumex acetosella, Hieracium pilosella, Thymus praecox, Sedum anglicum, Viola riviniana, in short-grazed (rabbit) open sward Annual Monitoring Programme..	CCW (for Site Management Statement) Unit Manager Forestry and Landscape Manager Monitoring: Ecological Consultants?	5 year target
2	Maintain smaller area of shallow, open water	Newts (palmate and smooth only) Dragonflies Possible alternative	30% of pond to remain as open water habitat following restoration to woodland of remainder, within 3 years, subject to satisfying health and safety requirements.	Fill with clean, inert material to reduce depth (discourage public swimming & remove H & S risk). Should be carried out in autumn/winter when	Continued presence of amphibians and open water habitat (30% of original	Unit Manager	2007

		water supply for grazing stock in West Field		amphibians have left the open water area.	area). Will require repeat survey in spring following restoration.		
3	Improve grassland habitat for Pearlbordered Fritillary	U1 grassland, south-facing bracken covered slopes, good population of violets (larval food plants)	Re-colonisation of West Field by pearl-bordered fritillary (last sighting in western field 12/05/00). Possible re-introduction site in future. Survey of habitat condition and current status of general butterfly population on annual basis.	New fence erected 04-05. Animals in field by mid-June but no grazing from Dec until end of May; cattle initially and then sheep. Some late winter trampling beneficial but not in March or April.	Habitat condition assessments with abundance scales for violets and vernal flowers recorded annually in conjunction with butterfly transect counts. Regular aerial photos to monitor extent of scrub.	Dr Simon Spencer, tel: 01691 648339 Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Consultancy arm	5 year target
4	Improve grassland habitat for Pearlbordered and small pearlbordered fritillary	None at present	Incorporate recent western screen bank and old quarry waste tip into grazing compartment of West Field within 5 years.	Clearance of scrub but leaving pockets in situ, targeting existing areas of open grassland and bracken mosaics over next 2-3 years. Aim to have grazing in place within 5 years. Monitor colonisation and add wildflower seed to open patches of western bund.	Habitat condition assessments with abundance scales for violets and vernal flowers recorded annually in conjunction with butterfly transect counts. Regular aerial photos to monitor extent of scrub.	Forestry and Landscape Manager & Unit Manager Dr Simon Spencer & RWT	5 year target