

# ABERDUNA QUARRY

## Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: December 2010

Updated: December 2013

### Site Information- Aberduna

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)</b>                             | Aberduna Quarry, Mold<br>320500 361800 (entrance)   |
| <b>Hanson Company</b>   | Hanson Aggregates   |
| <b>BAP(s) that will be targeted</b>   | National BAP<br>Denbighshire BAP  |
| <b>Habitat(s) to be developed</b>   | Upland ash woodland<br>Calcareous grassland<br>Scrub woodland<br>Ponds  |
| <b>BAP species to be encouraged</b>   | <b>Mammals:</b> Bat species<br><b>Amphibians :</b> Great crested newt<br><b>Reptiles:</b> Adder, common lizard<br><b>Birds:</b> Bullfinch, Song thrush, Reed bunting<br><b>Invertebrates:</b> Pearl-bordered fritillary, grizzled skipper   |
| <b>Designated Natural Area</b>  | None in Wales   |
| <b>Background and site description</b>                                      | Aberduna Quarry is located to the north of the village of Maeshafn, 2 miles to the west of Mold in Denbighshire. The quarry is located on a limestone ridge and within an area of high nature conservation value. Approximately 400m to the north is the Alyn Valley Woods Special Area for Conservation (SAC) and close to the south east there is Moel Findeg Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and county wildlife site. Immediately to the south west of the quarry there is Aberduna Nature Reserve run by North Wales Wildlife Trust |
| <b>National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m</b> | Alyn Valley Woods & Alyn Gorge Caves SSSI<br>Alyn Valley Woods SAC<br>Chwarel Cambrian SSSI<br>Clywdian range and Dee Valley AONB   |
| <b>Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate</b>                | Funded via restoration budget. Woodland - planting and aftercare<br>Limestone grassland – Creation of areas of limestone grassland through appropriate management regime and seeding.<br>Rough grassland and scrub – seeding and scrub planting   |
| <b>Contribution to biodiversity</b>   | Increased habitat diversity for protected species listed on the UKBAP and the LBAP. Creation of woodland, grassland, scrub and aquatic habitats.<br>Re-connection between sites of nature conservation value to the south west and south east and to the north  |
| <b>Partners and Local initiatives</b>                                       | North Wales Wildlife Trust  |
| <b>Other documents supporting the site BAP</b>                              | Restoration plan produced in 2006 and updated in 2013   |

# Site Layout



## Action Plan

| Item No. | Objective                                | Biodiversity Feature   | Targets  | Tasks  | Assessing Indicator   | Responsible Person                                    | Timescale (Completion)                     |
|----------|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1        | Woodland creation                        | Broad leaved woodland based on NVC Classification W8 (Ash - field maple – dogs mercury woodland), the predominant woodland type in the local area. | Create areas of broad leaved woodland to act as visual screening for distance views of the quarry. Ensure connectivity between woodland blocks through creation of shelterbelts. | <p>1. Woodland and shelterbelt planting programme including fencing</p> <p>2. Manage woodland as per S106 management plan</p>  | <p>Area of trees planted and maintained.</p> <p>Annual works as per management plan and reporting.</p>                          | <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p> | <p>2015</p> <p>Annually until end 2027</p> |
| 2        | Limestone grassland creation             | Limestone grassland areas and associated fauna e.g Butterflies   | Achieve early establishment of grassland in visually prominent areas.  | <p>1. Prepare ground conditions, seed grassland and manage.</p> <p>2. Grazing programme to be initiated in conjunction with North Wales Wildlife trust.</p>  | <p>Areas created and maintained.</p> <p>Annual reporting.</p> <p>Programme set up</p>   | Landscape Architect                                   | <p>Ongoing until 2019</p> <p>2017</p>      |
| 3        | Rough grassland and scrub creation       | Areas of grassland and scrub   | Create areas of rough grassland and scrub.   | <p>1. Prepare ground conditions to allow natural regeneration of wildflowers and planting of scrub.</p> <p>2. Assess need for annual autumn cutting programme with arisings from cuttings to be removed.</p>                                   | <p>Areas planted and managed.</p> <p>Review annually</p> <p>Annual reporting.</p>   | Landscape Architect                                   | Ongoing until 2019                         |
| 4        | Creation of wetland area and small ponds | Waterbodies with aquatic and marginal plant species.   | <p>Establishment of a waterbody with permanent aquatic and marginal vegetative features and ephemeral ponds</p> <p>Habitat creation for invertebrates, amphibians and birds.</p> | <p>1. Allow quarry waterbody to form; grade margins and encourage natural colonisation. Construct small artificially lined ponds in plant site.</p> <p>2. Aquatic and marginal vegetation may need to be introduced to assist development.</p> | <p>No. of ponds created.</p> <p>Aquatic and marginal plant cover and species diversity assessed annually. Annual reporting.</p> | <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Ecologist</p>           | Ongoing until 2019                         |
| 5        | Increasing species diversity             | Great crested newt<br>Reptiles<br>Bullfinch<br>Skylark   | Maintain ponds and open water to create optimal habitat for great crested newt.  | 1. Protect existing known nests/habitats and limit disturbance on site through design of planting, fencing and   | Increased reports of presence of target species.<br>Monitoring.   | Ecologist<br>Landscape Architect                      | Ongoing until 2027                         |

|          |                                |  |   |   |   |   |                           |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
|          |                                | <p>Song thrush<br/> Reed bunting<br/> Peregrine falcon<br/> Bat species<br/> Pearl-bordered fritillary<br/> Grizzled skipper<br/> Bats (all species)</p>   | <p>Create limestone and rough grassland to improve habitats for invertebrates particularly butterflies.</p> <p>Create woodland and scrub to provide nesting for birds, foraging and commuting routes for bats and connectivity to other woodland blocks and site margins.</p> <p>Manage human disturbance to sensitive habitats</p> | <p>landform.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Create and manage habitats to become premium habitat for target species</p> <p><b>3.</b> Create and manage habitats to become premium habitat for target species.</p> | <p>Areas created and managed</p> <p>Areas created and managed<br/> Monitoring and reporting</p> |   |                           |
| <b>6</b> | Habitat and species monitoring | <p>Great crested newt<br/> Reptiles<br/> Bullfinch<br/> Skylark<br/> Song thrush<br/> Reed bunting<br/> Peregrine falcon<br/> Bat species<br/> Pearl-bordered fritillary<br/> Grizzled skipper<br/> Bats (all species)</p> | <p>Develop partnerships with local organisations to carry out surveys and/or staff, external volunteers and consultants.</p>  | <p>Monitor all target mammal; bird; amphibian; invertebrate and plant populations for 5 years following restoration.</p>  | <p>Annual monitoring and reporting</p>  | <p>Landscape Architect<br/> Ecologist</p> | <p>Ongoing until 2019</p> |