Whiteball Quarry

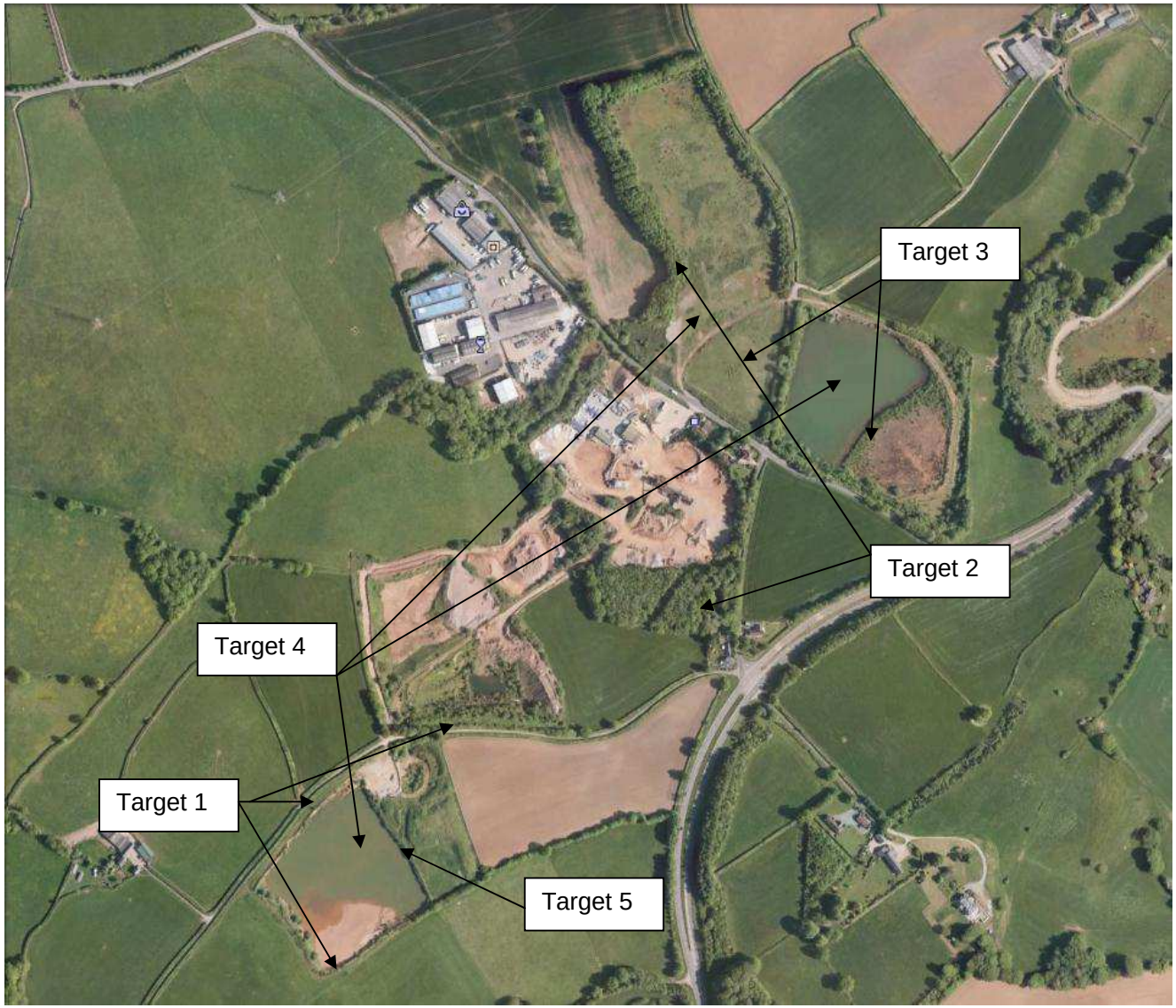
Site Biodiversity Action Plan

Prepared: November 2008	**Updated: December 2013** **August 2018**

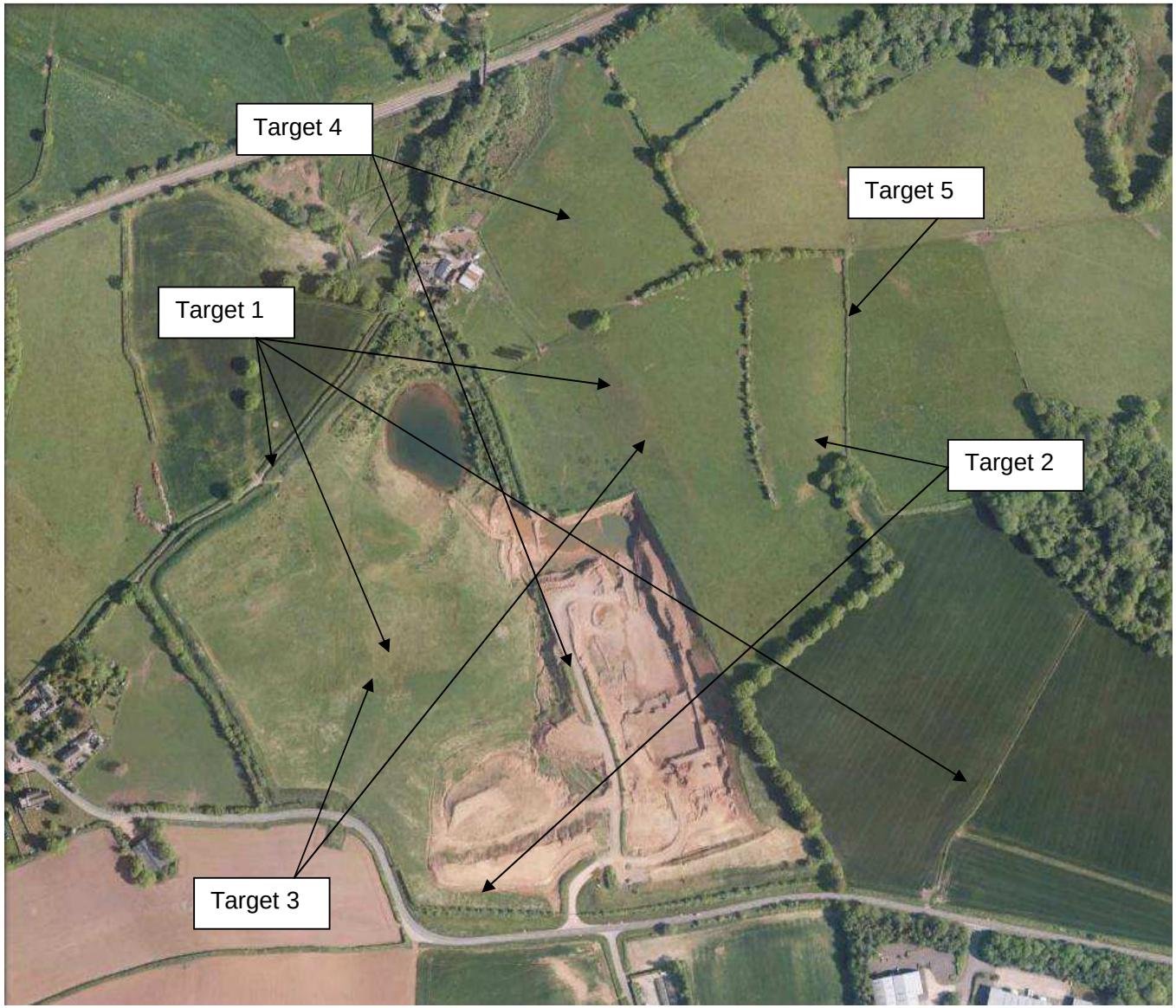
Site Information- Whiteball Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Whiteball Quarry ST 088 186 (plant site)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Action for Biodiversity in the South-West Devon BAP, Taunton Deane BAP, South Somerset BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Species Rich Hedgerows Unimproved Grassland Wet Woodlands-Alder and Wet Willow Broadleaved Woodlands Standing Open Water
BAP species to be encouraged	Dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) Sand Martins (*Riparia riparia*) Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) Great Crested Newt *(Triturus cristatus)*
Designated Natural Area	Devon Redland
Background and site description	Sand and gravel pit extracting mineral from Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds, located on the border of Devon and Somerset. Site comprises two extraction sites, plant site with wooded former silt lagoons and two active silt ponds. The surrounding landscape is agricultural pasture with a network of hedgerows and small pockets of broadleaved woodland. Within the complex there is a wide range of habitats from working faces supporting sand martins, species rich low fertility grassland and ponds on interim restoration and unimproved grassland, broadleaved and wet woodland and ponds on areas of completed restoration.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Maiden Down SSSI is approximately 500m to the south east of the Town Farm extraction area. It is designated for its heathland communities but is in 'unfavourable declining' status due to scrub encroachment.
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration earthworks, tree planting and grass seeding will be covered within the site restoration budget. Funds may be available from the Forestry Commission for the creation of new woodlands. Protected species issues may lead to additional consultancy costs.
Contribution to biodiversity	Contribution has and will be through the management of existing wet woodlands and hedgerows, creation of wet woodland, mixed broadleaved woodland, unimproved grassland and open water habitats, to improve the extent and linkage of these habitats and benefit target species.
Partners and Local initiatives	Buglife, Devon Reptile and Amphibian Group, South West Crayfish Partnership
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Quarry restoration designs and Town Farm extension planning application environmental statement. Amphibian surveys of pond created through restoration.

Site Layout- Plant Site and Silt Lagoons



Site Layout- Town Farm



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Improve structure and diversity of existing hedgerows. and create new diverse hedgerows	Species rich hedgerows to improve foraging, dispersal and shelter for a range of species incl. bats, birds and small mammals	Following completion of hedgerow survey in 2009, identified management requirements to be carried out	**1.** Review management requirements of hedgerow survey and implement on a rolling program as required	Have at least one standard tree allowed to grow to maturity per 30m.	Site Manager	Review hedge survey and implement, identify trees to be retained to maturity
			Implement new hedgerow planting in accordance with approved restoration design in first available season after restoration earthworks are complete	**2.** Plant new hedgerows as restored land becomes available.	Aim for high species diversity of 5+ species per 30m.	Landscape Architect	Ongoing
2	To improve the structure and diversity of the existing woodlands and expand resource by new planting	Broadleaved/ wet woodland and associated flora and fauna	Bring existing woodlands into favourable condition.	**1.** Thinning identified and FC felling licence granted, thinning to be carried out	Varied canopy structure, presence of deadwood.	Landscape Architect	Felling licence obtained and first phase of thinning complete. Next phase to be completed by Q1 2026
				2. Review existing and introduce woodland ground flora if required.	Enhanced ground flora	Landscape Architect	Ongoing
			Achieve new planting in accordance with approved restoration schemes	**3.** Produce detailed planting designs and specifications for implementation.	No. of plants planted	Landscape Architect	Ongoing

3	Increase the amount of neutral and low fertility, flower-rich grassland and maintain existing	Lowland MG5 meadow. Various butterflies including marbled white, common blue. Reptiles including grass snake and adder	Manage existing grassland restoration To provide further low fertility, species-enhanced grassland areas through restoration	**1.** Ensure on-going positive grazing, cutting regime of enhanced restored grassland **2.** Seed future restoration with appropriate seed mix and leave some areas to colonise naturally as rough grassland	Well managed, species-enhanced, sward No. hectares seeded and managed	Site Manager Landscape Architect	Ongoing with new restoration areas under tenancy within 2 years of establishment Ongoing as restoration opportunities develop
4	Increase and maintain the amount of standing open water bodies	Reptiles, amphibians invertebrates and bat and bird foraging	Create further open, standing and temporary water bodies in accordance with approved restoration schemes	**1.** Ensure that recently installed water attenuation ponds allows clean water flow in to existing restoration pond **2.** Incorporate and enhance attenuation ponds into next phase of restoration **3.** Careful construction of approved future ponds e.g. ensure varied profile.	Clean water flowing in to pond Ponds and stream channel enhanced and land restored Ponds as per design and best practice	Site Manager Landscape Architect Landscape Architect	Ongoing Ponds created 2013 Restoration ongoing Ongoing as restoration occurs
5	Provision of sand martin nesting and breeding sites	Sand Martins, invertebrates	To maintain a breeding colony of sand martins within the Whiteball complex by provision of suitable open sand faces	**1.** Identify best locations for sand martin face in Town Farm extension as dig develops. **2.** Manage incidental sand martin nesting during excavation works to ensure colonies are not disturbed.	Continuing presence of breeding colony No disturbance of colonies during nesting.	Site Manager Site Manager	Ongoing Ongoing