

# Whatley Quarry Site Biodiversity Action Plan

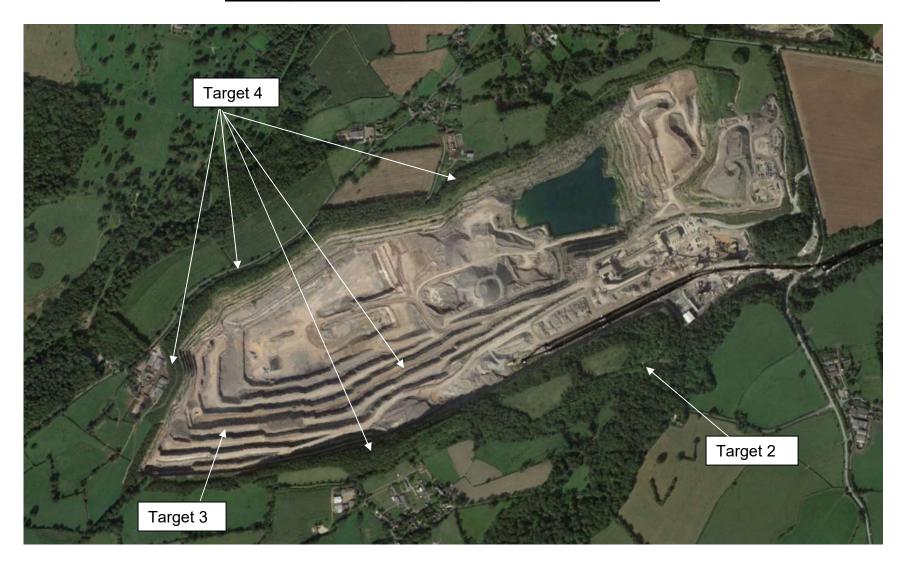


Prepared: November 2008 Updated: August 2015
January 2019
January 2022

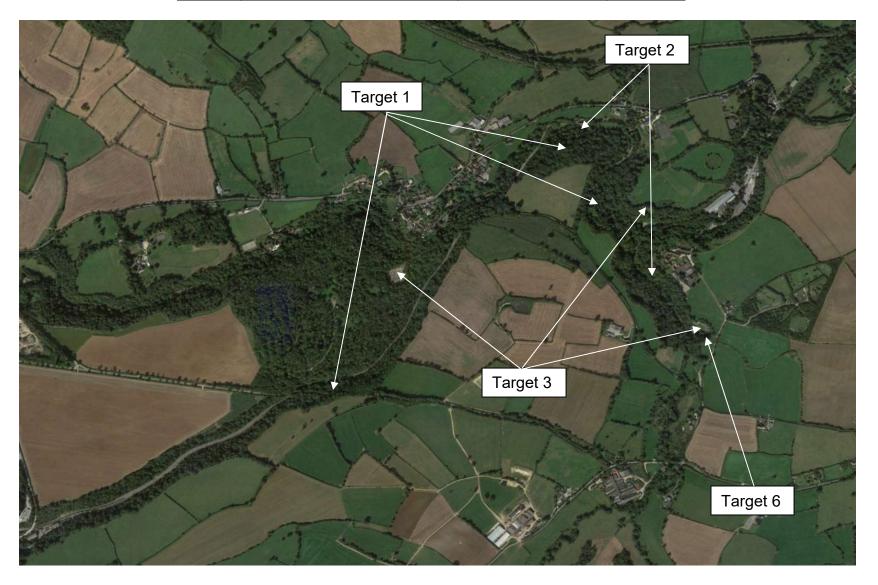
## **Site Information- Whatley Quarry**

Site Name and	Whatley Quarry ST 73262 48214 (Site Entrance)
Location (incl. Grid	Vallis Vale SSSI ST 75575 49170 (De la Beche unconformity)
Ref.)	
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be	UK BAP, Mendip BAP
targeted	
Habitat(s) to be	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland
developed	Calcareous grassland
	Rivers and streams
BAP species to be	White Clawed Crayfish
encouraged	Water Vole
	Bat sp
	Dormouse
	Hedgehog
Decimated Natural	Hare Mandin Hills
Designated Natural Character Area	Mendip Hills
Background and site	Large carboniferous limestone quarry (120ha) situated within
description	the Mendip hills. The site complex comprises a large current
description	extraction area set within an agricultural landscape with young
	plantations and hedgerows, but including semi-natural
	woodland associated with steep sided watercourses. The
	landholding includes Vallis Vale SSSI, Tedbury Camp,
	Fordbury and Whatley Bottom, consisting of valley-side ASNW,
	secondary woodland and calcareous grassland on former
	quarries and spoil tips, along with the Mells Stream, Whatley
	and Egford Brook. In addition there is considerable geodiversity
	and industrial archaeology interest.
National	Included within the Whatley landholding, but not within 500m of
Designations (SSSI,	the excavation is the Asham Wood SSSI/ Mendip Woodland
SAC, SPAs,	SAC and Vallis Vale SSSI and Mells Valley SAC
RAMSARs and NPs)	
within 500m	
Resource	Restoration earthworks, tree planting, plantation thinning and
Requirements-	coppicing and grass seeding will be covered within the quarry
comment on cost if	restoration budget. Additional funds may be available from the
appropriate	Forestry Commission for the management of the existing
Cantuib	ASNW areas along with grants from NE for SSSI management.
Contribution to	Contribution will be achieved by new habitat creation through
biodiversity	quarry restoration; the positive management of semi-natural
	woodlands, statutory designated sites and young plantations; maintenance and improvement of limestone grassland;
	maintenance and improvement of limestone grassland; management of watercourses and riparian vegetation.
Partners and Local	Somerset Bat Group, Somerset Wildlife Trust, University of
initiatives	West of England, Bath Spa University, Natural England
Other documents	ROMP Quarry development and restoration plans and
supporting the site	Environmental Statement and associated ecological surveys/
BAP	reports, Vallis Vale and Old Down Wood Management Plan
<b>2</b> 7 U	(1998)
	(1000)

# **Site Layout: Whatley Quarry and Railford Bottom**



# Site Layout: Vallis Vale, Tedbury Camp, Fordbury Bottom



# **Action Plan**

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	To increase and improve existing ancient and secondary semi-natural woodland	Ancient woodland flora and fauna  Dormice  Bat sp	To positively manage the existing pockets of woodland in Vallis Vale and Chantry, through Fordbury Bottom/Tedbury Camp, to Bedlam railway bridge	1. Apply for EWGS Woodland Planning Grant to update existing Vallis Vale woodland management plan and incorporate areas of woodland not currently covered e.g. Tedbury Camp to achieve positive woodland management to include:	WPG plan in place	Landscape Architect	Draft EWGS under review.  Agreed plan in place by Q3 2022
			To carefully manage the effect that ash die back (ADB) is having on woodland habitats whilst ensuring that dead, dying and diseased trees do not pose a threat to human health and safety.	a. Carry out regular hazardous tree surveys to assess the necessary felling work to remove infected, dangerous ash trees. Aim to retain those ash trees that show resistance or those that do not pose a threat to human safety.	Surveys completed and recommended work actioned.	Landscape Architect/ Arborist	Ongoing as recommended by consultant arborist
				<b>b.</b> Manage Old Down Wood to reinstate a rotational coppice regime.	Coupes coppiced	Landscape Architect	Coupes coppiced in 2023, 28, 33 and 2038.
				c. Liaise closely with Natural England and the Forestry Commission to manage restocking of the woodlands with a combination of natural regeneration and planting stock.	No. of naturally regenerated trees guarded and/ or planted.	Landscape Architect	Ongoing
				d. Install wildlife boxes in liaison with local partners to provide additional habitat for target species e.g. bats	No. of boxes installed	Landscape Architect	Boxes erected by Q4 2024

2	Positive management of riparian zones	River and stream banks, kingfishers, dippers, Dasiops spatiosis, nettle-	Update existing Vallis Vale management plan and implement to create sunny areas along river.	1. Update existing Vallis Vale Woodland Management Plan and incorporate riparian management in new EWGS WPG application to include Fordbury Bottom.	Plan in place	Landscape Architect	EWGS in place by Q2 2020
		leaved bellflower and small teasel		a. Carefully create glades and open areas if required, alongside riparian zones after reviewing impact of ADB on light levels.	Presence of open areas.	Landscape Architect	30% streamside coppiced in 2013 Next phase of coppicing complete by Q4 2026
			Riparian management of Railford Bottom	2. Monitor impact of ADB on streamside woodland and create further open areas if required.	Presence of open areas.	Landscape Architect	Glades created by Q2 2027
3	Improve and expand the existing	Limestone grassland, birdsfoot trefoil,	Maintain and increase the extent of existing calcareous grassland	Monitor scrub on existing grassland areas	Review completed.	Landscape Architect	Q4 2022
	resource of calcareous grassland on old spoil tips, quarry faces	black medick, slender St. John's wort, and associated butterflies	resource and to improve its current condition	a. Clear scrub as required to achieve a maximum of 25% coverage	Area of scrub cleared	Landscape Architect	Scrub reduced to 25% on all areas by Q2 2026
	and floors eg. adjacent to the De La Beche unconformity and Tedbury Camp			2. Ensure wildflower bench restoration is put in place using low fertility substrates prior to access being lost.	Bench restoration in place and seeded with appropriate seed mix or left to naturally regenerate	Site Manager	Ongoing
4	To improve structure and diversity of middle aged	Broadleaved woodland and associated flora and fauna	Improve the habitat quality of middle-aged and young plantations within restored quarry areas	Review impact of ADB and non-native thinnings on the perimeter plantations for future	Review complete	Landscape Architect	Q4 2022

	and young plantations and increase extent of wooded habitat			thinning and restocking requirements  a. Restock thinned plantations as required with natural regeneration or planting stock  b. Ring bark or fell any remaining non native species.  2. Monitor young Finger Farm	No. of trees guarded or planted/  No non-native tree species present  Dead wood	Landscape Architect Landscape Architect Landscape	On-going  All non-natives felled or ring barked by Q4 2024  On-going
			Increase planted area	plantations for thinning by felling or ring barking to increase dead wood habitat  3. Promote understorey and ground flora species by setting up trial plots.	present and open canopy  Trial plots set up and results gained	Landscape Architect	Trial plots set up by Q3 2024
			Increase planted area through quarry restoration	Carry out bench restoration and planting prior to safe access being lost	Length planted (m)	Site manager	Ongoing
5	Ecological monitoring and recording	All likely flora and fauna with attention to target species	Improve and update site records to aid future BAP management	1. Appoint and brief ecological consultant or work with local volunteers to carry out surveys target species e.g. bees, bats, butterflies on site to guide land management	Resulting reports and action plans	Landscape Architect	Phase 1 habitat surveys and peregrine monitoring completed in 2021 Ongoing
6	Maintain existing bat populations	Bat sp	Ensure on-going use of Vallis Vale, Asham Conveyor tunnel and Whatley by bat sp	Ensure on-going bat grille security through regular checks and erection of signs	Grille always locked, signs erected	Site manager	Signs erected Q4 2020 Grille checks to form part of closed site

				inspection checks
	2. Appoint ecological consultant or work with Somerset bat group to monitor use of bat cave in Vallis Vale protected by grille	Bat surveys carried out	Landscape Architect	Re-establish contact with bat group Q4 2022
	3. Erect bat boxes to compensate for trees lost in	Boxes erected and evidence	Landscape Architect	Boxes up Q3 2022
	2013 quarry development.	of use established		Grille erected
	Grille Asham conveyor     tunnel bat roost in liaison with     SWT and local bat group	Grille in place	Landscape Architect	Q2 2020