

Criggion Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: 2008

Updated: December 2013

Site Information- Criggion

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Criggion Quarry, near Welshpool, Powys (SJ290144)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Powys LBAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Priority: Lowland acid grassland; dwarf shrub heath. Other: Woodland.
BAP species to be encouraged	<p>Birds: Peregrine falcon.</p> <p>Invertebrates: White letter hairstreak butterfly; Grayling butterfly.</p> <p>Higher plants: Rock cinquefoil*; Spiked speedwell*; Sticky catchfly*; Whitebeams (4 species)*; Shaggy mouse-ear hawkweed; Eyebright; Greater broomrape*; Bloody cranesbill*; Dropwort*; Meadow saxifrage*; Field pepperwort*; Hoary cinquefoil*; Mountain St John's wort*; Upright chickweed*; Small scabious*; Mountain melic*; Moonwort*.</p> <p>Lower plants: Bryophyte (<i>Scleropodium torettii</i>); Lichens (<i>Dactylospora saxatilis</i> and <i>Thrombium epigaeum</i>); Communities of <i>Lecanoretum sordidae</i>, <i>Pertusarietum corallinae</i> and <i>Lecideetum orosthaea</i>.</p> <p>Other notable species: Adder. * Red listed species</p>
Designated Natural Area	None
Background and site description	Criggion Quarry is situated approximately 10km north-east of Welshpool in Powys, Wales. The quarry is located within the Breidden Hills SSSI, a site designated primarily because of the presence of rare flora and unusual acidic grassland habitat. The management aims for the part of the SSSI within the quarry area is to encourage the populations of rare plant species and communities by removing trees from the crags on which they are found, encourage the spread of the acid grassland community onto the quarry benches and the floor of the quarry; Also to maintain and increase the stock of the rare whitebeam species by propagation of cuttings.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Breidden Hills SSSI within the site
Resource Requirements-comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration budget. Propagation and planting of whitebeam tree species and other plant rarities.
Contribution to biodiversity	Criggion Quarry, when fully worked and subsequently restored, has the potential to hold national BAP priority habitats and their associated species most notably lowland acidic grassland. The quarry is situated within the Breidden Hills SSSI and it is hoped that the restoration of the site will

	fit with the existing designated site and increase the biodiversity value of the area as a whole.
Partners and Local initiatives	Natural Resources Wales
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Criggion Management Plan

Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Habitat creation of calcareous grassland	Calcareous grassland.	Establish areas using seeds of local provenance where possible and natural regeneration.	1. Seed areas with suitable species	Grassland area restored (ha).	Landscape Architect.	2047
2	Increase rare plant species on existing crags and future bench restoration	Sticky catchfly Spiked speedwell Rock cinquefoil	Increase in populations of rare plant species	1. Propagation and establishment of plant populations for planting on benches. 2. Management of crags in consultation with NRW to prevent scrub succession through tree and scrub removal.	Increase in target plant populations on rock benches and existing crags. Annual reporting	Site Manager Landscape Architect	Ongoing until 2042
3	Management of rare whitebeam species to increase numbers on site	West Crags.	Re-establish populations of whitebeam species where possible.	1. Propagate and plant areas of whitebeam. 2. Manage areas of planted whitebeam to prevent scrub encroachment.	Area planted with target species (ha). Self-propagation of trees over time.	Landscape Architect.	Ongoing until 2042
4	Habitat creation of woodland and hedgerows	Broad-leaved woodland. Hedgerows.	Increase woodland cover in plant site area, benches and tip planting. Elm to be included in any woodland planting (see item No. 5). Ensure connectivity between woodland blocks through creation of hedgerows and shelterbelts.	1. Plant broadleaved trees including elm where possible. 2. Manage hedgerow development by cutting and laying.	Land area maintained by NVC type (ha). Length of hedges planted.	Landscape Architect.	Ongoing until 2042 2042
5	Species	Peregrine falcon.	Maintain breeding presence	1. Maintain vigilance of existing	Site Manager to	Site Manager	Ongoing

	conservation and management	<p>White letter hairstreak butterfly.</p> <p>Grayling butterfly.</p> <p>Adder.</p>	<p>Include elm in any planted woodlands to encourage White letter hairstreak butterfly.</p> <p>Increase calcareous grassland areas to encourage grayling butterfly.</p> <p>Maintain woodland edge habitat near areas of open grassland to provide suitable habitat for adders.</p>	<p>nest sites and limit disturbance on site by making site staff aware of habitat areas.</p> <p>2.Plant elm</p> <p>3. Seed areas with suitable species</p> <p>4.Manage/cut woodland edge</p>	<p>inform site staff and contractors working close to habitat areas.</p> <p>No. of trees planted</p> <p>Area seeded</p> <p>Area managed</p>	Landscape Architect	
6	Habitat and species monitoring	Maintain agreed monitoring programme.	Ensure target species are monitored and appropriate response agreed.	1. Monitor all target bird, reptile, invertebrate and plant populations for 5 years following restoration.	Monitoring reports.	Ecological consultants/ local groups	2042
7	Communications and publicity	Criggion Quarry biodiversity including flagship species.	Local schools and colleges use site as educational resource.	1.Open days or school visits	No of colleges, schools and students visiting site.	Site Manager.	Ongoing