

Chipping Sodbury Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: May 2010

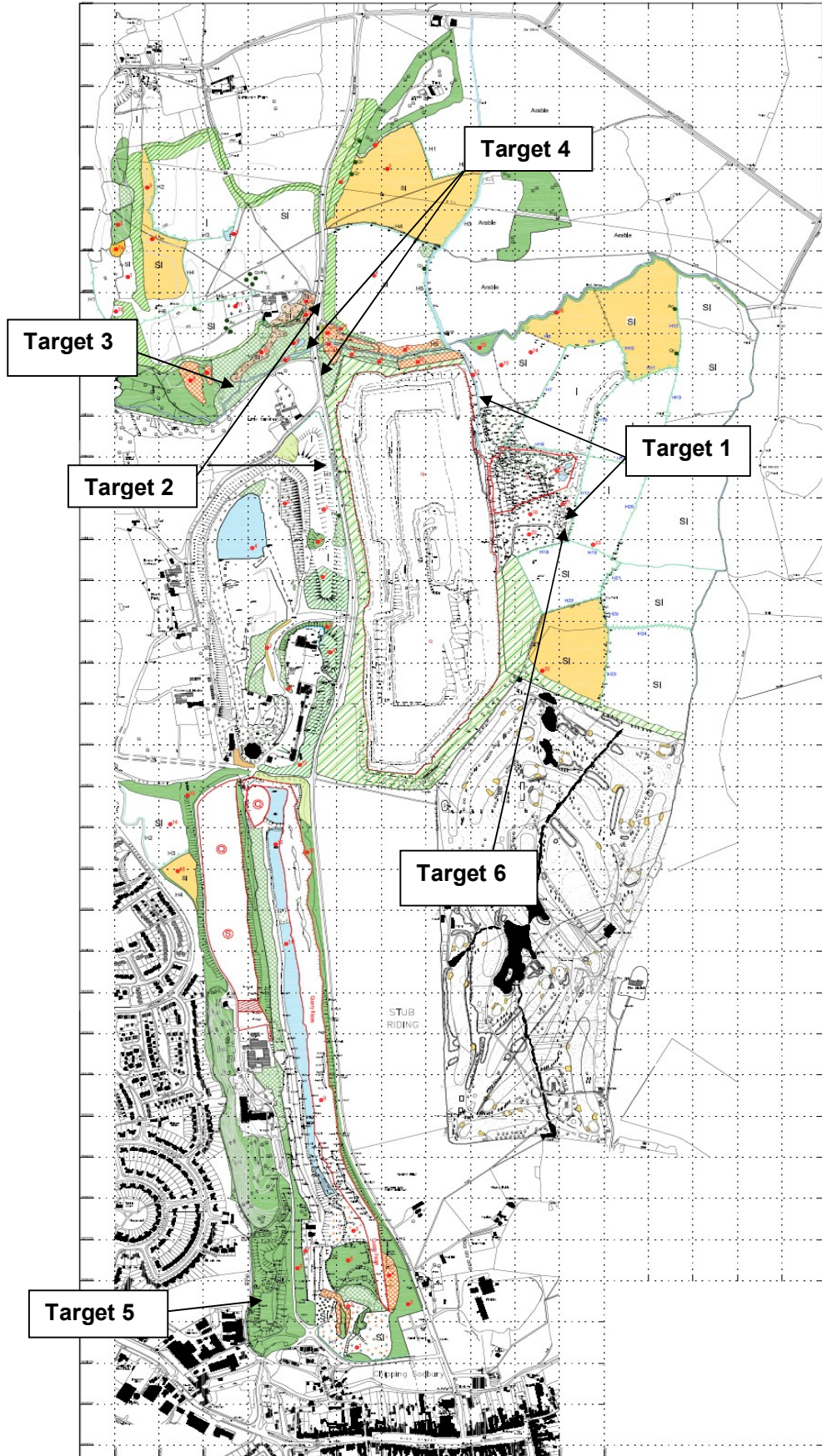
**Updated: August 2023
June 2018
June 2016
December 2013**

Site Information- Chipping Sodbury

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Chipping Sodbury Quarry, Chipping Sodbury, Nr Bristol ST 72498 84046 (Site entrance)
Heidelberg Materials Company	Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP South Gloucestershire BAP Action For Biodiversity in the South West
Habitat(s) to be developed	Broadleaved woodland Hedges, dry stone walls and field margins Old meadows and pastures Ponds, rhynes, rivers and water bodies
BAP species to be encouraged	Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Designated Natural Area	Cotswolds
Background and site description	Chipping Sodbury Quarry Complex is located immediately north of the town of Chipping Sodbury and east of Yate, South Gloucestershire. The overall quarry complex comprises the three active carboniferous limestone quarries of Southfields, Brinsham East and Hampstead Farm; the historical worked out excavation of Barnhill and one currently undeveloped area of Brinsham West. An area of broad-leaved woodland known as Ridge Woods and smaller areas of grassland occupies a ridge on the eastern edge of Yate, bordering the Barnhill Quarry and associated Heidelberg Materials offices. The Brinsham Stream, separates Brinsham West and East from the remainder of the quarry complex. The Brinsham stream corridor supports areas of dense scrub, tall herb, broad leaved semi-natural woodland, species rich calcareous grassland vegetation, the latter associated with rocky carboniferous outcrops left exposed following a previous phase of mineral working. Land to the east of Hampstead Farm includes an area which has been used for the deposit of quarry waste and overburden and which contains a series of shallow scrapes and permanent ponds, supporting a medium to high population of great crested newts.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Barnhill Quarry Geological SSSI
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if	Restoration earthworks, tree planting, plantation thinning, coppicing, hedge laying and management and grass seeding will be covered within the quarry restoration budget.

appropriate	Opportunities for available grant funding will be investigated.
Contribution to biodiversity	<p>Contribution will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New habitat creation and enhancement within the great crested newt conservation site to the east of Hampstead Farm, including new ponds and wetland creation scheme • Roadside hedge management/laying (northern end of Hampstead Farm) • Positive management of the SNCI in the Brinsham stream corridor including management of riparian vegetation, scrub and woodland thinning and clearance, opening up and expansion of existing areas of calcareous grassland associated with rocky outcrops and the rifle range and its environs. • Ongoing support of the management of Ridge Woods proposed Local Nature Reserve in conjunction with South Gloucestershire Council and Friends of Ridge Woods. • Final quarry restoration to create areas of species rich neutral grassland on quarry tips, new woodlands and hedges and enabling natural colonisation of top quarry benches to calcareous grassland and scrub. Final restoration of the Barnhill Quarry stocking yard, to enable natural regeneration of calcareous scrub as well as new planting and positive management of existing hedgerows. • Ecological monitoring of target species and also passage waders, raptors and raven usage in main quarries
Partners and Local initiatives	South Gloucestershire Council, Friends of Ridge Woods, Natural England (Barnhill Quarry SSSI)
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Quarry development and restoration plans, ecological surveys and reports, Chipping Sodbury ROMP review and accompanying Environmental Statement, Ridge Woods Management Plan (2010) Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan (HMMP)

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Maintenance and protection of great crested newt population	Ponds, marginal and scrub vegetation Great crested newts	Draw up detailed GCN mitigation plan (refer to GCN mitigation strategy in Chipping Sodbury ROMP review ES) and implement creation of new pond and wetland habitats	<p>1. Extend EPS licence</p> <p>2. Identification of mitigation strategy and subsequent site preparation and construction of new pond and wetland area, rough grassland and linking planting</p> <p>3. Draw up and implement GCN management plan in line with EPS licence and habitat management plan required by ROMP condition</p>	<p>Licence gained</p> <p>New habitat created in line with EPS licence</p> <p>Plan produced, on-going management operations commenced</p>	<p>Consultant ecologist</p> <p>Site manager</p> <p>Consultant ecologist</p>	<p>Licence granted Q1 2014 and extended in 2022</p> <p>Mitigation measures installed Q2 2015 incl. ponds, scrapes, planting, hibernaculars. Additional ponds created in 2021</p> <p>GCN plan produced and incorporated in to HMMP 2015 Implementation of EPSL conditions ongoing with surveys</p>

2	Roadside hedge management/ laying and plantation management	Hedges & Scrub Broad-leaved woodland and associated flora and fauna	Improve structure of roadside hedges	<p>1. Coppicing of approximate 4km of roadside hedge along both sides of Wickwar road</p> <p>2. Planting of native trees and shrubs where retained hedges are gappy and species poor</p> <p>3. Selective thinning to favour long-lived native species, introduce dead wood and/or planting of native species to improve structure of under storey.</p>	<p>Presence of target flora and fauna species. Varied canopy structure and establishment of native trees and shrubs Reduction in dominance of non-native species</p> <p>Diverse canopy structure. Presence of dead wood</p>	<p>Site Manager</p> <p>Principle Landscape Manager</p>	<p>400m of hedge part coppiced in Q1 2016. 270m managed in 2020. Next phase of management completed by Q1 2025.</p> <p>Planting carried out in first available season</p> <p>50% of thinning completed under FC licence. New FC licence to be applied for by Q2 2024 with thinning commenced Q4 2025.</p>
		Plantations Breeding birds, particularly song thrush and bullfinch	Improve structure and biodiversity of peripheral plantations				
3	Restoration and management	Woodland & scrub plants: bluebell,	Woodland & scrub: coppicing of hazel within riparian	1. Preparation of habitat management plan for all site habitats including	Plan prepared and management	Consultant ecologist	Completed 2015

	of SNCI riparian woodland and scrub habitats	moschatel, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, early purple orchid, ramsons, wood anemone, ferns and bryophytes and notable invertebrates	woodlands to encourage woodland ground flora Management and thinning of semi-natural woodland to improve structure of canopy and understorey and maintain diverse fern and bryophyte flora	SNCI habitats in line with ROMP planning conditions 2. Implement management operations as laid out in plan to include riparian zone coppicing and thinning of woodland	agreed Habitat restoration Presence of woodland indicator species and potential colonisation by dormouse through periodic nut search survey	Site Manager	Initial phase of riparian coppicing completed Q1 2016. Next phase of riparian coppicing to commence Q1 2024 Initial phase of Brinsham stream corridor coppicing Q4 2025
4	Creation, improvement and enhancement of calcareous grassland habitats	Calcareous grassland plants: salad burnet, lady's bedstraw, mouse-eared hawkweed, tufted forget-me-not and associated invertebrates	Maintain and increase the extent of existing calcareous grassland within the SNCI and improve its current condition Enable natural recolonisation of open calcareous grassland habitats on top quarry	1. Preparation of habitat management plan for all site habitats including SNCI habitats in line with ROMP planning conditions 2. Implement management operations as laid out in plan to include scrub clearance of grassland	Plan produced Scrub reduced to <25%	Consultant Ecologist Site Manager	Completed 2015 Initial phase of scrub clearance completed Q1

			benches by leaving some areas unplanted	areas, stump treatment, possible introduction of grazing			2016. Second phase in 2022. Ongoing Cutting of corridor grassland ongoing
5	To maximise the nature conservation and public amenity value of Ridge Wood proposed Local Nature Reserve	Broad-leaved woodland and associated flora and fauna e.g. song thrush Unimproved neutral grassland and associated flora and fauna e.g. meadow vetchling	Maintain and enhance structural diversity Protect ground flora and tree regeneration through management of the tree canopy Control of non-native plant species Maintain and enhance the nature conservation value of unimproved grassland	1. Enable implementation of Ridge Woods Management Plan by becoming involved in the partnership and provide help and support where required.	Ridgewood meetings attended by Hanson representative	Site Manager	Site visit held with volunteers and SGCC. Stone to be donated by Heidelberg Materials for footpath repair works plus tree and shrub stock for supplementary planting when requested.
6	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. Continued survey and monitoring of GCN conservation area in preparation for required EPS mitigation licence/conservation licence, as appropriate	Resulting reports and Management Plans	Site Manager	Habitat management plan drawn up 2015 and reviewed in 2021. To be reviewed every 5-10 years

				<p>2. Implement monitoring of woodland and grassland indicator species within plantations, hedgerows and grassland habitats of the SNCI</p> <p>3. Review progress of Ridge Woods Management Plan by regular participation in partnership review meetings</p> <p>4. Support and enable survey collection and reporting by Bath Spa University and The University of the West of England through the Heidelberg Cement Quarry Life Award to help inform better restoration and biodiversity enhancement techniques.</p> <p>5. Support research project in to using sniffer dogs for GCN translocation</p>	<p>Resulting reports</p> <p>Meetings attended or minutes received</p> <p>Survey data collection complete and research reports drawn up.</p> <p>Research paper published</p>	<p>Site Manager</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect/ Site Manager</p> <p>N Glover</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Meeting held in Q1 2016. Ridgewoods rep to attend future liaison meetings.</p> <p>QLA complete</p> <p>Initial findings published in 2023. Ongoing</p>
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