Masters Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan

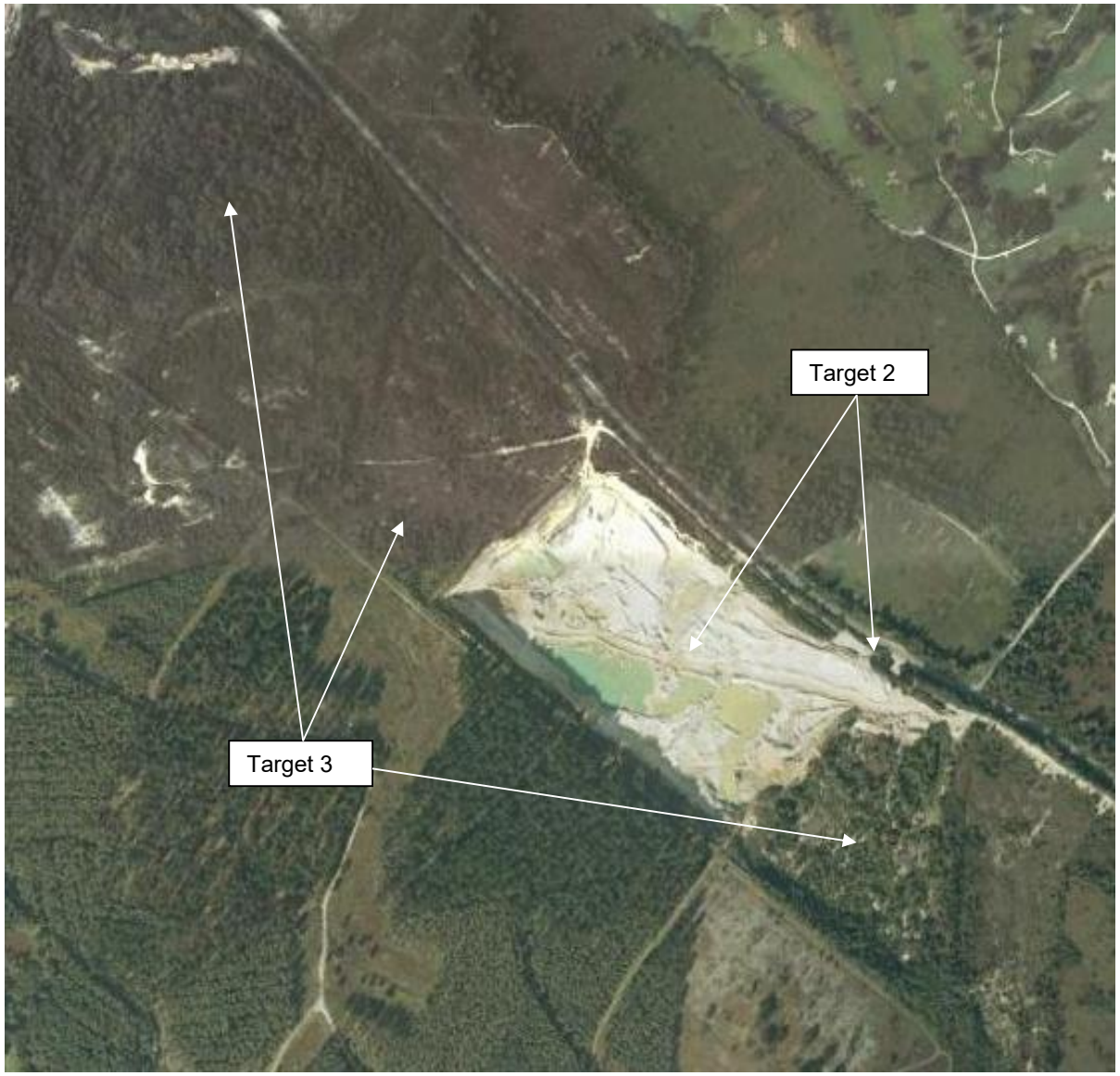
Prepared: May 2006	**Updated: March 2014** **Dec 2022**

Site Information- Masters Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Masters Quarry SY 86196 89159 (Hyde Site Entrance)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Dorset Biodiversity Strategy
Habitat(s) to be developed	UK-BAP Priority habitats: lowland heathland and lowland dry acid grassland
BAP species to be encouraged	Smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*, nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata,* heath bee-fly *Bombylius minor,* mottled bee-fly *Thyridanthrax fenestratus,* mason wasp *Pseudpipona herrichii,* marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata,*
Designated Natural Area	Dorset Heaths (81)
Background and site description	The Masters quarry complex comprises four sand excavations along the Puddletown Road: Hyde and Hines at the western and eastern ends respectively, covering a Hanson freehold extraction area of c.30ha, with Masters North and South between them, now operated by Holme Sand and Ballast. Hanson sites re-opened in 2016 with new processing plant and lagoons in floor of Hyde Outside the extraction areas there is c.20ha of important heathland habitat with varied plant communities including dry and wet heath, bog, pine and birch woodland, much of which was previously worked for minerals from 1960s to 1980s. The complex is important for rare reptiles and breeding nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler and is one of most important sites in the country for a number of rare heathland invertebrates. Continued extraction of sand in remaining permitted areas is closely linked to phased reptile translocation programme under NE EPS licences and restoration of worked out areas to dry heath.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and NP) within 500m	Stokeford Heaths SSSI, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site, and Dorset Heaths SPA cover the majority of the land around Hyde pit, and remaining other non-SSSI land is designated as SNCI.
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Costs of reptile translocation generally covered by site Stripping budget, ongoing quarry restoration and annual management costs of virgin heathland and will be covered by the site's Restoration budget. Natural England HLS grant is currently paying for significant heathland clearance to restore habitat on areas outside extraction limits.
Contribution to biodiversity	Ongoing restoration will increase and extend heathland habitat and will facilitate ongoing EPS licence applications. Management and restoration of heathland habitats will improve condition of SSSI units.

Partners and Local initiatives	Natural England, Dorset County Council, RSPB Nature After Minerals, Dorset Wildlife Trust
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Hines planning application Environmental Statement and restoration design - SLR drawing ref HP2/3 Hines Condition 23 management plan Hyde ROMP application Environmental Statement and restoration design SLR drawing ref HD3/2 Hyde ROMP Condition 3&8 working & restoration schemes Gallows Hill draft restoration concept W38m/143

Site Layout Hyde Pit



Site Layout- Hines Pit

Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Appropriate management and restoration of Hines Pit	Heathland, gorse scrub, smooth snake, sand lizard, invertebrates e.g. Anthophora retusa	Maintain existing population of European Protected Species by appropriate management of perimeter standoff receptor sites and linkage corridor in accordance with Condition 23	**1.** Carry out post licence monitoring and reporting of local population of EPS species	No net loss of target species	Landscape Manager	Ongoing
				2. Maintain EPS receptor sites and linking corridors	Presence of desirable heathland	Site Manager	Ongoing. Significant Hines Meadow gorse, scrub and bramble vegetation clearance winter 17-18
			Carry out progressive restoration to provide further heathland and invertebrate habitat, prevent geotechnical issues developing	**1.** Bench restoration of eastern eroding faces as per J.Sedman cross sections	Benches soiled, erosion reduced	Site Manager	E benches shaped and soiled progressively in 2018, 2019 and 2020
				2. Progressively restore extraction areas in first available season to create heathland incorporating sand banks, faces and woodpiles for invertebrates	Area of heathland created	Site Manager	
			Maintain existing Phase 1a restoration to ensure establishment of heathland habitat	**1.** Manage Phase 1 a restored “terraces” to develop desirable heathland	Aftercare in accordance with annual reports and proposals	Landscape Architect	Ongoing. Gorse flailing winter 2017-18, some follow-up gorse spraying since then

			Manage perimeter standoff and Hines Meadow in accordance with Condition 23 management plan to provide ecological corridors for reptiles and invertebrates	**1.** Undertake periodic management to prevent scrub encroachment on to heathland and invertebrate features **2.** Monitor presence of invertebrate populations with particular reference to Anthophora retusa and retain and provide further nesting opportunities where possible to retain population	Standoff management in accordance with reports and proposals Ongoing population of Anthophora retusa	Landscape Architect Landscape Architect	Ongoing, tractor and flail work winter 17-18 Monitoring carried out 2013 and student visit in 2019 shows ongoing presence
2	Appropriate restoration and management of Hyde Pit ROMP area	Heathland and woodland corridors and associated species e.g. sand lizards, smooth snakes, bat spp.	Design progressive working and restoration schemes in line with ROMP conditions 3&8	**1.** Draw up scheme for all phases in conjunction with external consultants. **2.** Amend Condition 3&8 schemes as necessary to reflect actual operational progress re Phase 1 lagoons, And retention of SSEN pylon infrastructure	Plans and schemes submitted and approved by DCC	Lands and Planning Manager	Condition 3&8 schemes approved for Phase 1 in 2016, Phase 2&3 in 2020, and Phase 4 in 2022
			Maintain existing populations of European Protected Species and W&CA reptiles	**1.** Prepare EPS Licence applications for translocation, then implement fencing, capture and translocation works as per EPS Licence Method Statements	Licences approved and reptiles translocated from Stripping areas in accordance with Ops timetable	Landscape Manager	Licences approved and translocation completed from Forestry track; 1c; 1f; 1d; 1g; 2&3 cells a-p
			Carry out progressive restoration	**1.** Ensure phased working scheme is adhered to so	Area of new heathland and	Site Manager	Ongoing

				progressive restoration can be carried out in the first available season to provide further heathland habitat	acid grassland created		
			Balance need for heathland linkages for EPS reptiles with other needs for visual screening in long distance views, retention of wooded skyline, retention of bat corridors and management of hazardous roadside trees	**1.** Carry out tree survey of roadside vegetation and implement recommendations	Survey carried out and hazardous trees removed	Site Manager	Ongoing. Tree survey completed Q4 2022
				2. Implement measures on plan W38m/99 submitted in accordance with ROMP Condition 35	Scheme approved and implemented	Landscape Architect	Roadside tree belt gaps interplanted 2017
3	Positive management of areas outside permitted extraction boundaries	H2a & H2c dry heath; H2c & H3a moist-dry heath; M16 & M25 wet heath; U1 parched acid grassland and associated species e.g. smooth snake; sand lizard; nightjar; woodlark; Dartford warbler; heath bee-fly; mottled bee-fly; mason wasp; marsh clubmoss	Restore heathland extent and quality on remaining landholding outwith ROMP planning boundary through implementation of Natural England HLS Agreement for Capital Works followed by Annual Management, or successor NE/Defra agri-environment schemes	**1.** Implement HLS 10-year capital works and annual management program to reduce extent of gorse and woodland coverage to favour heathland and acid grassland	Gorse and tree coverage reduce to 5-10% SSSI units 11 & 7 to achieve Favourable status	Landscape Manager	All Capital Works 2012-2017 and annual management completed to end of 10-year scheme in 2022. SSSI Unit 7 already Favourable, Unit 11 (Spratley) now improved to Unfavourable Recovering. Remaining land to await availability of follow-on schemes
				2. On completion of initial 10-year HLS, consider options for submission into Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship or ELMS when schemes confirmed	Remaining land entered into follow-on scheme following transfer of Spratley Pits landholding	Landscape Manager	

			Restore Gallows Hill to heathland in accordance with historic blockworks consent	Agree submission timeframe with DC planners, arrange site meeting with DC and DWT as previously planned pre-Covid. Draw up and submit design for approval.	Restoraiton scheme approved and implemented through to completion of Aftercare		Planning required restoration by Feb 2019. Restore by end 2024, complete Aftercare 2029