

Coln Gravel Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Site Information- Coln Gravel Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Coln Gravel, Lechlade SU 185 997 (weighbridge office)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UKBAP Gloucestershire BAP Cotswold Water Park BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Wet woodland Fen, marsh and reedswamp Standing open water Ponds
BAP species to be encouraged	Otter, Water Vole, Sand Martin Heron <i>Chara</i> species (stoneworts)
Designated Natural Area	Border between Cotswold (55) and Thames and Avon Vales (63)
Background and site description	Extensive Upper Thames sand and gravel pit complex operational since 1970s, working River Coln floodplain terrace deposits up to 6m deep, with large areas of the site previously restored to attractive lakes/lake margins now sold for second home development. Remaining area still under Company's control (55ha) comprises plant site, active and restored silt lagoons, final "Arkells 40 acre field" extraction area and recently restored Lake 126. Current working area proposed for restoration using imported inert fill to give intricate shoreline of islands and shallows
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Whelford Pools Nature Reserve (Glos. Wildlife Trust) immediately adjoining 40 acre field final working area to SW, part of Cotswold Water Park SSSI.
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration fund and ongoing accrual sufficient for main restoration earthworks and landscaping costs. Partnership with GWT and CWP may give opportunities for volunteer work parties and species recording esp. birds
Contribution to biodiversity	New habitat creation through ongoing restoration of lakes and lake margins of Arkells Land to quality wetland habitat. Safeguarding and management of remnant riparian woodland beside Courts Brook
Partners and Local initiatives	Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWP) Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT)
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Approved ROMP Restoration scheme Plan C131m/73a

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Sensitive management of semi-natural riparian woodland	Wet woodland Otter Water vole Heron	Implement appropriate management to rejuvenate and conserve existing fragments of riparian wet woodland along Courts Brook	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify selected willow pollards to be re-cut and stools to be coppiced 2. Thin and coppice mixed woodland 3. Utilise arisings to construct otter holt in partnership with GWT volunteers from Whelford Pools. 4. Ensure safe standoff to heronry 	<p>No. of willow trees re-pollarded.</p> <p>Area of riparian woodland re-coppiced</p> <p>Otter holt created, monitored and signs of use by otters.</p>	<p>Site Manager</p> <p>Site Manager</p> <p>GWT nature reserves manager (Steve Edmonds)</p>	<p>Management commenced by March 2015 (FC. Felling Licence in place 2013)</p> <p>Otter holt constructed by Q4 2015</p>
2	Habitat creation through ongoing new restoration	<p>Reedbed and fen Vegetated lake margins Standing open water <i>Chara</i> spp</p> <p>Wet woodland Black poplar Barberry</p>	<p>Create >2.5km new vegetated shoreline with promontories and shallows. Create islands in accordance with RSPB best practice guidance.</p> <p>Establish linear reedbed along majority of shoreline.</p> <p>Plant up silt lagoons and lake margin groups with appropriate native wet woodland and scrub</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement approved restoration scheme for Arkells Land with careful setting out of future islands, shorelines and shallows 2. Plant up reedbed fringes as per approved Aftercare programme 3. Plant silt lagoons once non-operational 4. Plant lake margin 	<p>Length of new shoreline completed.</p> <p>No. of high quality islands created</p> <p>No. of reeds or area of linear reedbed planted</p> <p>Area of native woodland and scrub groups planted</p>	Site Manager	<p>Ongoing for remaining life - Lake margin restoration dependent on imported fill but grass seeding and reed planting to be completed within 24 months of completion of landforming and soil placement</p>

			species including native black poplar and barberry.	tree/scrub groups including Barberry and native black poplar	Number of locally sourced black poplar and barberry planted	CWP nursery stock supplier	15 locally sourced poplar planted 2012
3	Provision for sand martin faces	Sand martins	Identify opportunities and partnership to enable creation of new artificial sand martin face	1. Encourage and assist ALSF bid or similar for artificial sand martin face to be created at W end of Arkells 5-acre field lake	Sand martin face constructed	Site Manager CWP GWT	In place within 12 months of completion of 5-acre field lake margin backfilling, est. 2016?
4	Enhance existing and previously restored lake margins	Ponds and associated flora and invertebrates	Create pond complex within lake 126 restored margins.	1. Agree siting and design of pond complex with CWP or GWT staff 2. Implement pond Excavation 3. Monitor colonisation of ponds	No. of ponds created Monitoring records of colonising species	Landscape Manager CWP/Pond Conservation	Pond complex completed at W end of lake 126 in March 2012
5	Improve habitat value of existing young plantations	Native broadleaved woodland Wet woodland Woodland birds and bats	Thin young plantations to favour long-lived native species and improve structure	1. Mark up trees for thinning and submit Felling Licence 2. Arrange thinning by firewood contractor 3. Retain dead wood habitat piles 4. Erect bird/bat boxes	Area of plantation thinned No. of bird/bat boxes erected	Site Manager GWT volunteers	Felling Licence in place 2013. Substantial thinning completed by Q1 2015 Boxes in place in time for 2015 nesting season