Ystrad Meurig Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan

Prepared: December 2012	**Updated: August 2013**

Site Information- Ystrad Meurig Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Ystrad Meurig Quarry, Ceredigion SN 720 692 (site entrance)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Ceredigion UKBAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Upland acid grassland, upland heathland, Rhos (rush) pasture Upland mixed ash woodland Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
BAP species to be encouraged	Marsh fritillary, peregrine falcon, reptiles
Designated Natural Area	None
Background and site description	Approx 25Ha quarry, coating plant and blockworks, extracting 62 PSV early Silurian greywacke gritstone. Quarry is surrounded by fairly open rolling landscape of semi-improved pasture with patches of unimproved rough grassland/moorland /heathland and rocky outcrops/ridges to the west (including SSSI). Lower lying pasture to the east is more gently rolling with wet meadows and wooded shelter belts, hedgerow trees and scrub. Large expanse of upland conifer plantation lies to the north and west. Recently approved restoration scheme proposes acid grassland afteruse across quarry floor and remnant quarry benches, and some limited planting of steeper quarry waste tip slopes. Site has only limited quantity of indigenous soils and overburden for use as restoration cover so all sources of quarry waste and dust will need to be considered as soil forming material.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Cors Bwlch Y Baedd SSSI lies approximately 400m from the quarry site boundary and is notified because of its lowland raised bog and fen habitats as a result of the ground being permanently waterlogged with a layer of liquid peat occuring below the surface.
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration earthworks, soil placement, tree/scrub planting and grass seeding will be covered within the site restoration budget.
Contribution to biodiversity	Contribution will be through the creation of a varied mosaic of low fertility acid grassland, wetter rush pasture and patchy naturally regenerated scrub across quarry floor and worked out benches, in the course of progressive restoration. Appropriate management of perimeter plantations will improve structure and invasive alien species will be controlled if found to be present.
Partners and Local initiatives	Leanne Bird Ceredigion CC. Biodiversity officer
Other documents supporting the site BAP	URS Restoration masterplan ref 60053.SS.012 prepared for 2012 planning application and accompanying ES.

Site Layout


Target 1
Target 2
Target 3
Target 4
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Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Ecological monitoring and recording	All likely local flora and fauna	Improve and update site records to aid future BAP management and development	**1.** Appoint and brief ecological consultant to carry out surveys of surrounding area and identify appropriate target features.	Presence of resulting reports and action plans	Site Manager	Initial report by Q4 of 2014 then updated every 5 years
2	To develop mosaic of appropriate vegetation and bare ground habitats on restored land	Upland acid grassland, Upland heathland Rhos pasture and associated invertebrates	Establish trial plots on western quarry waste tip restoration to identify the best substrates and methodology for successful grassland establishment	**1.** Draw up design and methodology for trial plots **2.** Implement varied soil dressing and seeding treatments **3.** Monitor results	Design prepared Trial plots created Area of new wildflower grassland restored	Site Manager	Methodology drawn up by Q4 of 2013 Trial plots implemented by Q3 2014 Ongoing
3	To control invasive alien vegetative species	Locally native grassland and woodland ground flora	To successfully identify and eradicate invasive alien species , predominantly Japanese knotweed	**1.** Assess site for presence of Japanese knotweed **2.** Implement herbicide control measures if identified	Evidence of ongoing control of knotweed.	Site Manager	Complete eradication of Japanese Knotweed by Q4 2016
4	Positive management of existing woodland areas to improve habitat quality	Semi natural woodland and its associated flora and fauna	Manage plantations and regenerated areas of scrub to favour native species and improve structural diversity	**1.** Mark up appropriate trees to be thinned in roadside plantation **2.** Submit Felling Licence application if necessary **3.**Let felling contract	Area of plantation thinned Extent of understorey present	Site Manager	Trees marked and felled by Q1 of 2016