



Brayford Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: August 2006

**Updated: December 2013
November 2018
August 2023**

Site Information- Brayford Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Brayford, Barnstaple SS 68813 33560 (site entrance)
Heidelberg Materials Company	Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	The Nature of Devon – A Biodiversity Action Plan UK BAP Action for Biodiversity of the South West
Habitat(s) to be developed	Pits, Quarries & Cuttings, Species Rich Hedges Flower Rich Meadows and Pastures, Oak Woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	No known sightings of L BAP butterflies but flower rich grassland and scrub mosaic habitat will encourage a wide range of butterfly species including silver-washed fritillary, meadow brown and common blue. Cirl Bunting, Peregrine, Primrose, dormice
Designated Natural Area	Exmoor and the Quantocks
Background and site description	The Company's Landholding of 77 hectares extends for approximately 1.5 kms along the western bank of the River Bray and comprises a series of deep quarries cut into the Pilton Shales. The semi-natural habitats associated with the Company's land-holding are primarily woodland (listed in English Nature's Inventory of Ancient Woodland) and grasslands of varying quality, with the woodland occupying the steep, east facing slopes in the southern area whereas the bulk of the improved and semi-improved grasslands occur on the plateau. The most important area of unimproved grassland occupies the steep, south facing slope and valley bottom in the northern section of the site, associated with Shutscombe Valley. A Woodland Tree Preservation Order covers the 3 remnant blocks of Charlestown Barton Wood (all ancient semi-natural).
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	None
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration and biodiversity works are covered by the site restoration and stripping budget. F.C. grants available for ongoing woodland management and planting (EWGS).
Contribution to biodiversity	Restoration of flower-rich grasslands in Shutscombe valley; Improved structure of ancient semi-natural woodlands and a reduction of habitat fragmentation; total increase in final woodland cover of over 75%.
Partners and Local initiatives	Devon County Council
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Bray Valley Quarries S106 Agreement – Grassland and Woodland Management Proposals. Bray Valley Quarries Ecological Report Phased Quarry Development Plans

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Positive management of existing ancient and secondary semi-natural woodland, and buffering/linking by new planting.	Ancient semi-natural woodland on steep slopes; Secondary woodland on disturbed ground; Wet alder woodland in riparian zone.	Implement existing S106 Agreement management plan prescriptions via the preparation and submission of an EWGS WPG	1. Update S106 woodland management plan with am FC WPG.	Plan approved	Consultant Forester	Q4 2024
				2. Implement plan to thin, re-stock, coppice as necessary	Thinning and coppicing works commenced	Site Manager	First phase of works commenced Q4 2025
				3. Ensure establishment of skyline planting in Main Pit and other areas affected by deer browsing by appropriate guarding	Trees established	Site Manager	Ongoing
				4. Identify management requirements of middle aged plantations and implement	Improved plantation structure	Principle Land Manager	Assess plantations by Q4 2025
2	Improved structure and diversity of hedgerows in Shutscombe valley and	Species rich hedges (majority on Devon banks)	Introduce phased programme of hedge restoration; Enhance their value as wildlife corridors by linking areas of scrub & woodland.	1. Carry out hedgerow assessment to agree management requirements	Report produced	Landscape Architect	Complete 2008
				2. Implement management requirements incl. hedge laying and coppicing	Metres managed	Site Manager	150m laid 2009. 120m coppiced

	on wooded banks elsewhere within freehold agricultural areas			3. Plant up gappy hedges using stock proof fencing where appropriate.	Gaps planted	Site Manager	2017 Next phase to be completed Q4 2024 10m gapped up 2009, 120m 2017 Ongoing as hedges are managed
3	Improve the diversity & structure of the unimproved neutral grasslands in Shutscombe valley.	Flower-rich meadows and pastures; species rich hedges; diverse butterfly & invertebrate fauna	Implement S106 Agreement management plan proposals: Reduce the rate of change from grassland to scrub; removal of invasive and undesirable species from open grassland; introduce an appropriate grazing regime to maintain and improve the diversity of species rich grassland throughout the life of the quarry.	1. Re-lay valley bottom hedgerow in line with target 2 2. Coppice stream side vegetation 3. Clear scrub on south facing slope 4. Monitor and spray or clear regrowth and brambles	Hedge laid and fenced Coppice est. on 10-15yr rotation Scrub cover reduced to <25% Scrub cover maintained at <25%	Landscape Architect Site Manager Landscape Architect Site Manager	Initial laid in 2019. Re-lay by Q4 2025 Coppiced 2010 Re coppice Q2 2026 Cleared in 2013 and again in 2018. Ongoing Ongoing

				5. Review and update S106 grassland management plan	Plan produced and approved	Landscape Architect	Phase 1 survey complete 2023. Review plan Q4 2024
4	Maintain presence of breeding peregrine falcons throughout life of quarry	Inland rock exposures; breeding peregrine falcons	No net loss to peregrine falcon population	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor nest sites within quarry through annual surveys 2. Avoid any disturbance to birds during the nesting season (March-August) 3. Retain at least one unworked face per breeding season 	At least one pair of breeding peregrines throughout life of working quarry	<p>Site Manager</p> <p>Site Manager</p> <p>Site Manager</p>	<p>Consultant engaged to carry out annual surveys</p> <p>Ongoing</p>