

Reigate Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: December 2011

Updated: January 2014

Site Information- Reigate Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Tapwood and Park Pit, Buckland nr. Reigate, Surrey Site Office Grid Ref TL 745 106
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK-BAP Surrey BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	UK BAP priority habitat: Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land Surrey BAP: Target Habitat – Woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	Sand martin Invertebrates
Designated Natural Area	Wealden Greensand (70)
Background and site description	<p>Reigate Quarry consists of two separate operational areas of high quality silica sand excavation used for industrial and glass sand, making up a total of approx. 47Ha of disturbed land, adjacent to a small complex of historic sand pits to the north now restored to small water bodies and generally surrounded by wet woodland:</p> <p>1) Park Pit (32ha) to the south of A25 which is now worked out and has been restored to a lake with grassland margins for at least 10 years and is now used for fishing. The processing plant site is located in the northern part of this area. The lake margins have not yet been planted with trees and shrubs as per approved scheme due to perceived conflict with fishing afteruse. There are however areas of wet woodland further back from the lake edge, around the site boundary which help to integrate the site with the surrounding landscape and offer nature conservation benefits. There is a 'heather island' and shallow area in the northwest corner of the lake which creates a diversity of aquatic and lake margin habitat</p> <p>2) Tapwood Pit (15Ha) to the north will be fully exhausted during 2014 and consists of a large excavation void which is dewatered and an area of previously restored land, known as Tapwood East. The void is surrounded by a number of benches and sand faces with grassland and trees around the perimeter screen banks. Proposed restoration comprises grassland and tree planting on higher land and perimeter track created around shoreline of future lake when de-watering ceases.</p>
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs)	Reigate Heath SSSI less than 500m to south east of Park Pit, of which Unit 1 comprises the area known as the western alder woods, of wet woodland affected by historic reduction in groundwater levels. Remainder of SSSI to east

within 500m	is mainly heathland/acid grassland
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration budget will be fully accrued to account for planning requirements for restoration and aftercare, including agreed sum for remedial work within SSSI in lieu of re-wetting alder woods or raising lake levels
Contribution to biodiversity	<p>Active management of perimeter screen plantations should improve ecological structure and functionality and linkage to adjacent Tapwood Plantation with remnant ancient woodland flora.</p> <p>Restored grassland can incorporate wildflower element subject to aftercare programme, and retained open sand faces will provide sand martin and invertebrate habitat</p>
Partners and Local initiatives	Buckland Estate (landlord) need to be approached to approve biodiversity aims
Other documents supporting the site BAP	BAP plans R44r/285 Tapwood and R44r/286 Park Pit based on currently approved restoration designs

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Habitat creation through quarry restoration	Lake margins and linear reedbed	Establish lake margin wetland and woodland habitat in accordance with revised restoration schemes	1. Plant <i>Phragmites</i> reed and marginal aquatics as per Restoration and Aftercare schemes	No.of reeds planted	Site Manager	Q3 2016
		Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland		2. Plant up woodland blocks as per approved schemes	Area of woodland planted		Q2 2016
		Open mosaic habitats and associated fauna (eg. sand martins/ invertebrates)	Retain open sand faces where geotechnically feasible	3. Retain sand faces	No. of sand martin holes in use		ongoing
		Flower-rich grassland and associated invertebrates	Enhance lake margin grassland restoration by over-seeding with suitable pasture/meadow wildflower mix	3. Sow wildflower mix on appropriate areas of grassland restoration	Area of grassland seeded with wildflower mix		Q4 2015
2	Manage existing habitats	Woodland flora and fauna	Manage existing woodland and plantations to improve habitat quality	1. Thin 20-year old perimeter plantations 2. create deadwood habitat piles	Area thinned Habitat piles present	Site Manager	Q2 2017
3	Off-site mitigation	Reigate Heath SSSI	Fund management works in wider SSSI as mitigation for historic de-watering of Western Alderwoods Unit 1 of Reigate Heath SSSI	1. Agree £25K lump sum to be spent elsewhere on SSSI	Funds remitted to appropriate organisation	Lands and Planning Manager	Q4 2015