

Freehay

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Site Information- Freehay

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Freehay Quarry, Cheadle, Staffs (SK 015410)
Hanson Company	HANSON AGGREGATES – CENTRAL
BAP(s) that will be targeted	National BAP Staffordshire BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Lowland Heathland Broadleaved and Mixed Woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	Great Crested Newt Badger
Designated Natural Area	The Potteries and Churnet Valley.
Background and site description	Freehay is a 60 hectare sand and gravel quarry, working a deposit of the Sherwood Sandstone group. The site comprises the former Mobberley Quarry as a silt settlement and clean water resource; the former Freehay Wood Quarry now occupied by the mineral washing and grading plant, weighbridge and site facilities; and a quarry extension area to the north-east of the site extending to approximately 12 hectares, which is being extracted in phases. The site is being restored to recreate an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland to augment existing neighbouring ancient semi-natural woodland on the Freehay site; and on the Mobberley site, to develop areas of open water, wetland and lowland heathland.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	None
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Pre-stripping ecological surveys and protected species monitoring reports, which are planning and legislative requirements. Protection of existing habitat features. Creation of woodland, ponds, lakes, heathland and wetland features are all part of the approved restoration scheme
Contribution to biodiversity	Lowland heathland creation is both a local and national BAP habitat target. The restoration of the Freehay site will augment an existing ASNW and will create a significant wildlife resource in the area.
Partners and Local initiatives	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Freehay and Mobberley Quarries Environmental Statement. Protected species reports (confidential).

Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Restore important habitats.	Lowland Heathland.	Create 4.5 ha of heath/grassland mosaic.	In compliance with approved restoration scheme, seed areas with acid grassland mixture and encourage heather establishment by brash-laying and transplanting of stock, utilising existing heather stands on site as brash and transplant resource. Protect existing heathland by on-going management of trees and scrub.	Land area restored (ha). Successful establishment of planted species (report). Land area cleared of competing vegetation (ha).	Landscape Architect.	Annual report for life of site (26 years).
2	Restore important habitats	Broadleaved woodland.	Create 15 hectares of broadleaved woodland (including open areas and glades). Due to the confined nature of the site much of the restoration of the site can only occur at or near the end of the site's life.	Restore Freehay Quarry to extensive areas of broadleaf woodland with open areas (approx 20% area) allowing natural regeneration and increasing biodiversity potential. Woodland establishment will be by planting of native tree and shrub species to compliment the woodland in the surrounding area.	Area of woodland planted (ha).	Landscape Architect.	Report on woodland planting as it occurs throughout life of site.
3	Protect species.	Great Crested Newt, Badger.	Minimise disturbance to existing site populations. Monitor protected species at least once every two years.	Protect existing known nests/habitats and limit disturbance on site by making site staff aware of habitat areas. Monitor site for development of new nests/habitats	Bi-annual species monitoring reports. Site Manager and Landscape architect to inform site staff and contractors working close to habitat areas.	Landscape Architect. Site Manager.	Every two years for life of site.