

Hingston Down Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: November 2009

**Updated: 1st October 2013
9th January 2019
2nd January 2024**

Site Information- Hingston Down Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Hingston Down Quarry, Gunnislake, Cornwall Grid Ref. SX 410 720 (Office)
Heidelberg Materials Company	Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	Cornwall's Biodiversity SW Region BAP UK BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Heathland Acidic Grassland Broadleaved woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>) Heath Fritillary (<i>Mellicta athalia</i>) Barbastrelle Bat (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>)
Natural Character Area	Cornish Killas
Background and site description	22ha Granite quarry situated within the Tamar Valley. Habitats associated with and adjacent to this quarry include woodland fragments, hedgerows, species diverse grassland, heathland and agricultural pasture. Restoration of the site is to include broadleaved woodland, a water body and acid grassland/ heathland. Part of the site is designated as 'Hingston Down Quarry and Consols SSSI' for its geological interest.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Hingston Down Quarry and Consols SSSI designated due to mineral exposures of granite and associated mineralized zones. The SSSI citation refers to the quarry being the world type locality for the copper iron arsenate mineral arthurite and other good specimens of a number of interesting minerals that can be found in the old spoil heaps.
Resource Requirements-comment on cost if appropriate	Quarry restoration budget will cover most aspects of the BAP including planting and maintenance of target habitats.
Contribution to biodiversity	Preserving and improving existing grassland and heathland habitat fragments that have arisen through soil stripping operations around quarry boundary and through historic mine workings Improving habitat quality of existing plantations, increasing and linking woodland resource Preservation of access to historical mine workings and maintaining heathland fragments by clearing encroaching scrub
Partners and Local initiatives	Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project (part of Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site)
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Quarry development and restoration plans, Environmental Statement from ROMP application

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Maintain and improve existing resource of acid grassland and heathland	Species rich sward, Southern Marsh Orchid. Various butterfly and invertebrate species. Basking habitat for slow worms	Manage existing resource to prevent decline of quality and extent.	<p>1. Control scrub re-growth and non-native <i>Cotoneaster</i> encroachment on grassland areas</p> <p>2. Monitor condition throughout life of site</p>	<p>Area cleared</p> <p>Area cleared retained</p>	<p>Site Manager</p> <p>Site Manager</p>	<p>Annual cotoneaster control ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	Increase the extent of acid grassland and heathland	Species rich sward, Southern Marsh Orchid. Various butterfly and invertebrate species. Basking habitat for slow worms	During quarry restoration increase the quantity of grassland habitats	<p>1. Ensure bench restoration is installed prior to final face development</p> <p>2. Set up acid grassland trial plots to explore best method for establishment</p>	<p>Area restored</p> <p>Plots set up and results monitored</p>	<p>Site Manager</p> <p>Site Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Quarry waste trials set up 2016. Monitoring ongoing. Woodland bench trials set up 2023 heathland/ grassland seeding by Q3 2024</p>

3	To improve habitat quality of woodland resource	Broadleaved woodland and associated flora and fauna	Improve the structure and diversity of middle-aged plantations and other woodland areas	<p>1. Apply for FC felling licence to thin plantations</p> <p>2. Thin plantations to increase structural diversity, improve groundflora and increased quantity of dead wood.</p> <p>3. Review freehold remnant woodland pocket for management requirements and implement as required</p>	<p>Licence granted</p> <p>Area thinned, woodland habitats with every stage of succession</p> <p>Review undertaken and management works carried out.</p>	<p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p>	<p>Western and eastern plantations thinned 2016.</p> <p>W and E plantations thinned 2016. Northern plantation thinned 2018. Review ongoing thinning requirements Q4 2026 and implement as required by Q4 2029.</p> <p>Review Q4 2025 Management Q4 2029</p>
4	To increase the extent and linkage of woodland habitat	Broadleaved woodland and associated flora and fauna	<p>To incorporate more woodland into restoration design particularly eastern tip</p> <p>To create further</p>	<p>1. Update current approved IDO restoration design for 2010 ROMP</p> <p>2. Take opportunities to</p>	<p>Plan approved</p> <p>Net increase</p>	Landscape Architect	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

			areas of woodland	increase extent through restoration of appropriate bench areas	over life of quarry		
5	Control non-native, invasive species	Broadleaved woodland and grassland	To eradicate non-native, invasive species.	<p>1. Control Japanese knotweed with annual applications of Roundup.</p> <p>2. Control Himalayan balsam by hand pulling, strimming or applications of Roundup.</p>	<p>No presence of species.</p> <p>No presence of species</p>	Landscape Architect	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Species eradicated 2022/23. Keep under review for any re-encroachment.</p>