

Low Gelt Quarry

Biodiversity Action Plan



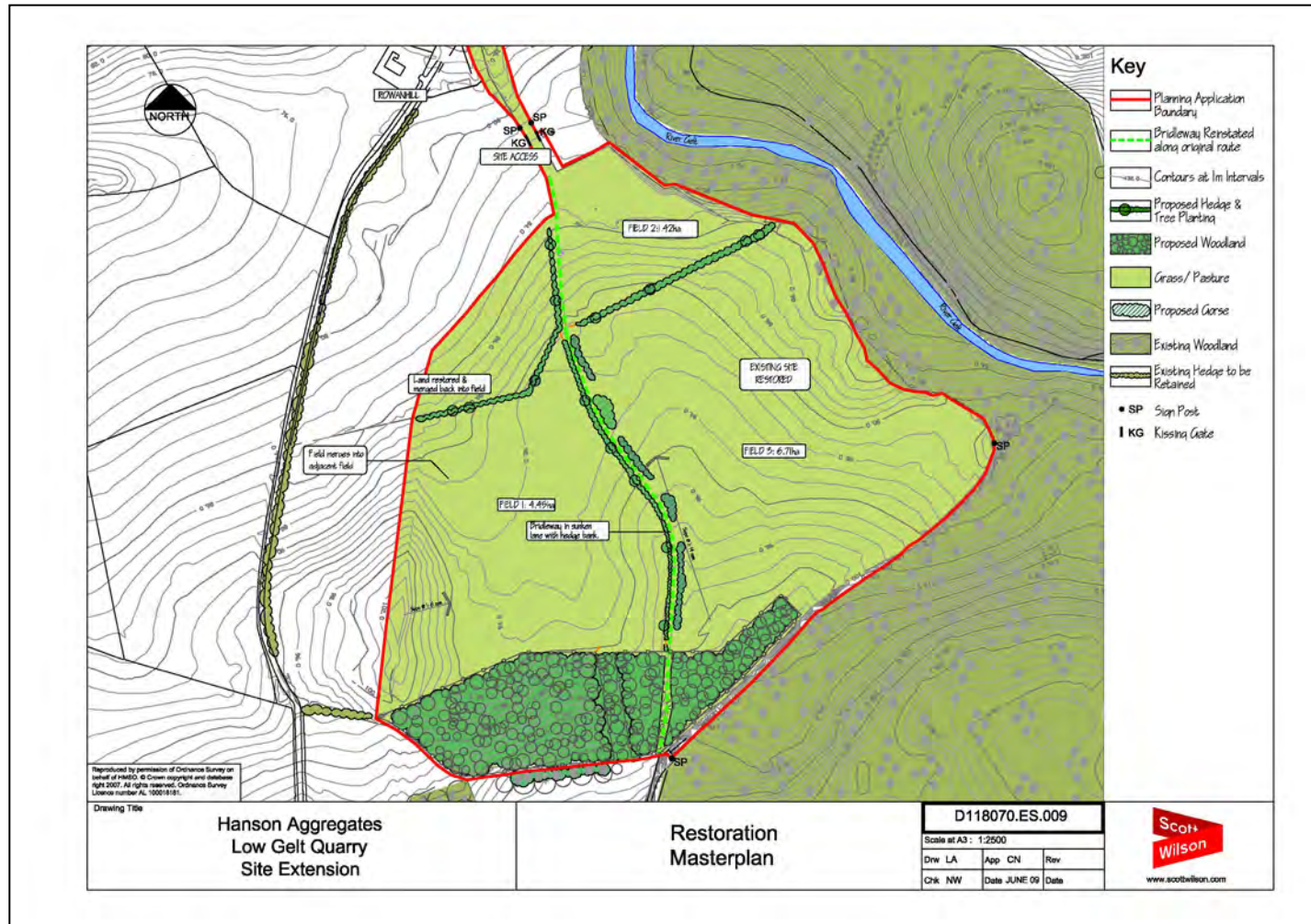
Prepared: December 2012

Updated: March 2023

Site Information- Low Gelt

Site Name and Location	Low Gelt Quarry, Cumbria Grid Ref – NY523 587
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates - North
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Cumbria BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Broadleaved woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	<i>Mammals:</i> Bats <i>Birds:</i> Barn Owl
Designated Natural Area	Eden Valley
Background and site description	The quarry is located within an area that is covered by a number of statutorily designated wildlife sites but the quarry itself occupies land of low ecological value. The active quarry comprises large areas of bare sand and sand cliffs with a small processing facility. Land still to be quarried comprises improved grassland and previously disturbed ground predominantly with scattered trees, scrub, hedgerows, acid grassland and marshy grassland. Final restoration is to agriculture with hedgerow boundaries and a small area of woodland.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	The River Eden Special Area for Conservation (SAC) and the River Gelt flows north west approximately 200m north of the quarry at its closest. The River Eden and Tributaries Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is designated for a wide range of habitats and species. Gelt Woods SSSI is situated to the north east of the quarry fringing the River Gelt and is designated as an important example of gorge woodland peculiar to north Cumbria and parts of Scotland. Unity Bog SSSI is situated approximately 800m to the north east and is designated because it is one of the few remaining examples of undisturbed lowland valley/basin mire in the County.
Resource Requirements	Restoration budget
Contribution to biodiversity	Most of area is to be restored to pasture but this is set within an area of higher nature conservation value and will contribute to the overall habitat available to species such as farmland birds. Broadleaved woodland and hedgerow planting will add to the local resource.
Partners and Local initiatives	Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Restoration Plan

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Creation of broadleaved woodland	Broad leaved woodland	Create approximately 1.5ha of broadleaved woodland using native grown species	Ash to be replaced with sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) as a result recent disease of ash.	Annual reports.	Landscape architect	Ongoing until 2027-2032
2	Increase hedgerows	Species rich hedgerows	To create hedgerows that links the woodland in the east to the hedgerow along the roadside.	Planting of hedgerows.	Annual reports.	Landscape architect	2027 to 2032
3	Species encouragement And conservation	Barn owl	To encourage use of area by barn owl by providing nesting habitat along woodland edge to pastures.	Erect 3 barn owl boxes as part of restoration along edge of woodland on eastern boundary.	Check nest boxes annually for signs of use by barn owl	Landscape Architect	2027 at final restoration of site
		Bats	To provide foraging and commuting routes in the longer-term through creating hedgerows and woodland edge habitat.	Planting of native broadleaved woodland and hedgerows as part of restoration.	No formal monitoring, as time scale too long	Landscape Architect	Ongoing until 2032
		Sand Martins	To provide sand faces for nesting sand martin for the duration of the quarry excavation.	Leave suitable vertical sand faces for sand martin to use.	Number of nesting holes in sand face each year	Site manager	Ongoing until site is fully worked.
4	Create dead wood habitat for invertebrates	Deadwood and associated invertebrates	Where cherry or other trees are to be felled as part of planning permission. Stack these within the new woodland area planted in 2022.	Fell cherry and willow/birch and place in new woodland area	Annual reports	Landscape Architect	2023/2024/2025