

Mere Farm Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



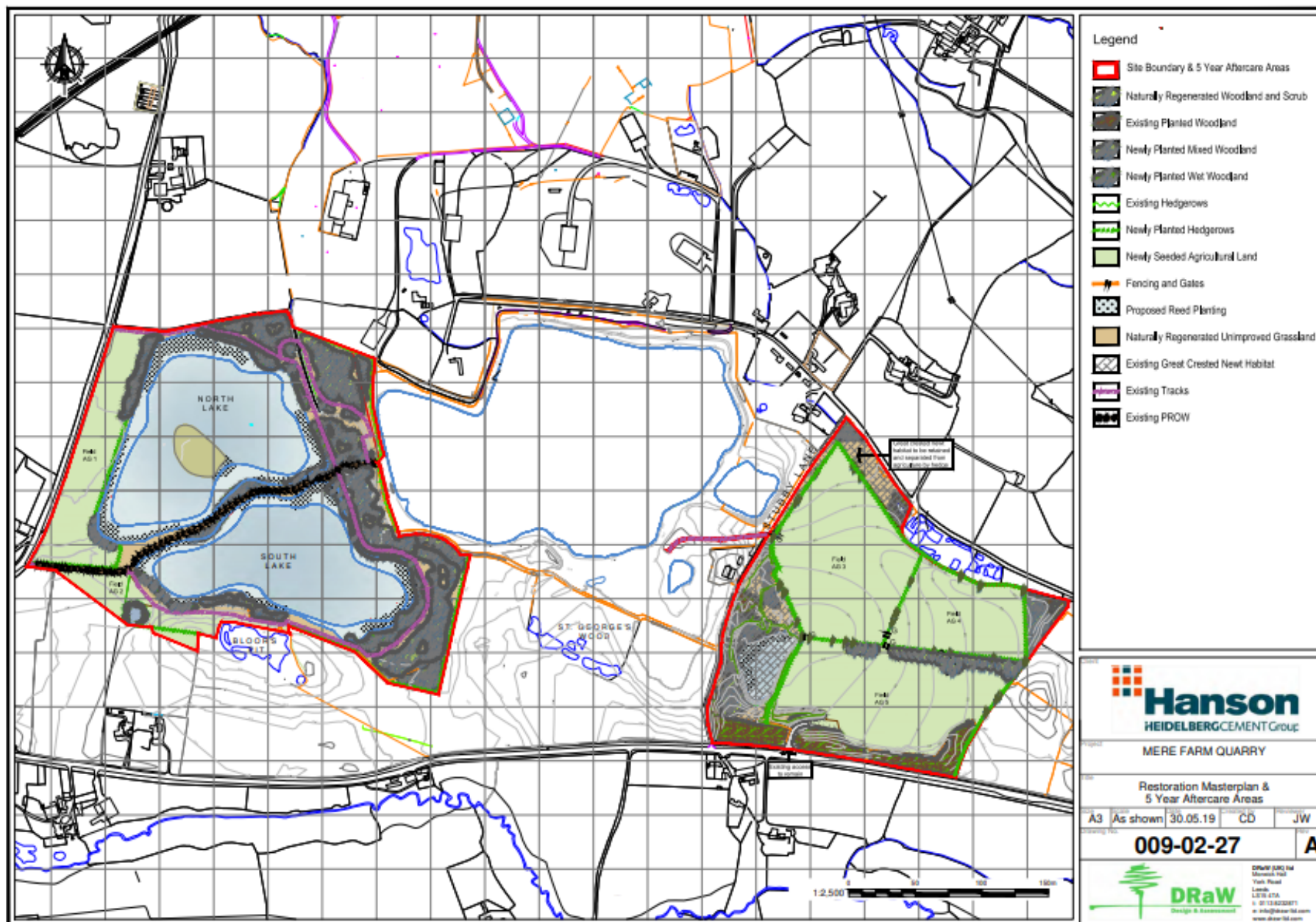
Prepared: December 2011

Updated: December 2022

Site Information- Mere farm

Site Name and Location	Mere Farm quarry located is approximately 8km southeast of Knutsford in Cheshire. Grid Ref – SJ 822 749
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates - North
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Cheshire BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Lakes, Ponds, Reedbeds, Hedgerows Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	<i>Mammals:</i> Bats, brown hare, harvest mouse <i>Birds:</i> Barn owl, hobby, black-necked grebe, spotted flycatcher, farmland birds (bullfinch, corn bunting, grey partridge, house sparrow, lapwing, linnet, reed bunting, skylark, song thrush, starling, tree sparrow, yellowhammer). <i>Invertebrates:</i> white clawed crayfish, lesser silver water beetle <i>Reptiles and Amphibians:</i> Great crested newt, common toad <i>Higher plants:</i> Black poplar
Designated Natural Area	Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain
Background and site description	Mere farm sand quarry is located to the south of Alderley Edge and lies within a predominantly agricultural landscape. Adjacent habitat, although none designated, include arable, pasture, woodland blocks, hedgerows and field ponds.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	None
Resource Requirements	Restoration budget.
Contribution to biodiversity	Mere Farm Quarry, is now fully restored and has the potential to hold UK and local BAP priority habitats and their associated species. The restoration of the site maintains existing and creates new wetland features within the Natural Area and as a consequence, increase the biodiversity value of the area as a whole.
Partners and Local initiatives	
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	To create and restore hedgerows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows 	Establish species rich hedgerows with connectivity to other features on site, preferably using species of local provenance.	1. Plant and/or restore hedgerows. 2. Manage hedgerows once established.	Lin. m. planted. Lin.m managed. Detailed in annual report	Landscape Architect	Completed Ongoing until 2032
2	To create, restore and manage woodland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad-leaved woodland. 	Maintain current broadleaved woodland areas and increase where possible using species of local provenance. Black poplar should be included in any woodland planting.	1. Plant new areas and include black poplar. 2. Manage existing areas	Increase in area of woodland and numbers of black poplar. Detailed in annual report	Landscape Architect	Ongoing until 2032
3	Manage open standing water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake, ponds reedbed & running water. 	Create shallows and marginal habitat suitable for amphibian/ invertebrate species. Creation of reedbeds. Maintain disturbance-free zones for waterfowl	1. Shallow margins created during final earthworks. 2. Plant reeds 3. Appropriate signage & restrict access to any particularly sensitive areas (i.e. bird nesting sites)	Vegetated shallows with diverse invertebrate & breeding amphibians Bird counts	Landscape Architect. Ecological Consultant	Completed Ongoing until 2032
4	Species conservation and management.	Bats Brown hare Harvest mouse Barn owl Hobby	To have bats roosting and foraging on site Maintenance of presence on site Management of habitat to be suitable for this species Manage field margins and grassland areas to provide suitable hunting areas. Retention of Scots pine for nesting.	Managing habitat to increase insect diversity. Limit/not use herbicides. Management of arable land and field margins to encourage brown hare Management of hedgerows and field margins Provide nest boxes. Management of hedgerows and field margins	Bats using site Annual count of numbers Nest counts Monitor nest box use and record of sightings Sightings of birds	Ecological Consultant Landscape Architect.	Ongoing until 2032 Barn owl boxes installed

		<p>Black necked grebe</p> <p>Farmland birds including BAP species</p> <p>Lesser silver water beetle</p> <p>Great crested newt, common toad</p> <p>Black poplar</p>	<p>Provide suitable habitat for this species</p> <p>To provide suitable habitat for range of farmland species</p> <p>To establish populations in more water bodies than currently present</p> <p>To establish black poplar from local stock</p>	<p>Provide suitable emergent vegetation around water bodies on site for breeding</p> <p>Management of field margins and hedgerows to provide suitable nesting and foraging areas.</p> <p>Create ponds and ditches</p> <p>Development of suitable breeding habitat. Provide suitable terrestrial refugia and connecting habitat between ponds</p> <p>Establish whether there is a scheme for propagation and reintroduction of local trees</p>	<p>Sightings of birds</p> <p>Records of breeding of one or more species</p> <p>Record of species on site</p> <p>Recorded breeding in new ponds (egg counts)</p> <p>Successful establishment of a number of trees in suitable habitat</p>		
5	Habitat and species monitoring.	As above or as agreed with LPA	Ensure target habitats/species are monitored by staff or external volunteers/ecologist and summarised in annual report.	Monitor features/species at end of 5 year aftercare	Appropriate survey for target species. Detailed in annual report	Local groups Ecologist	2023