

Batts Combe Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



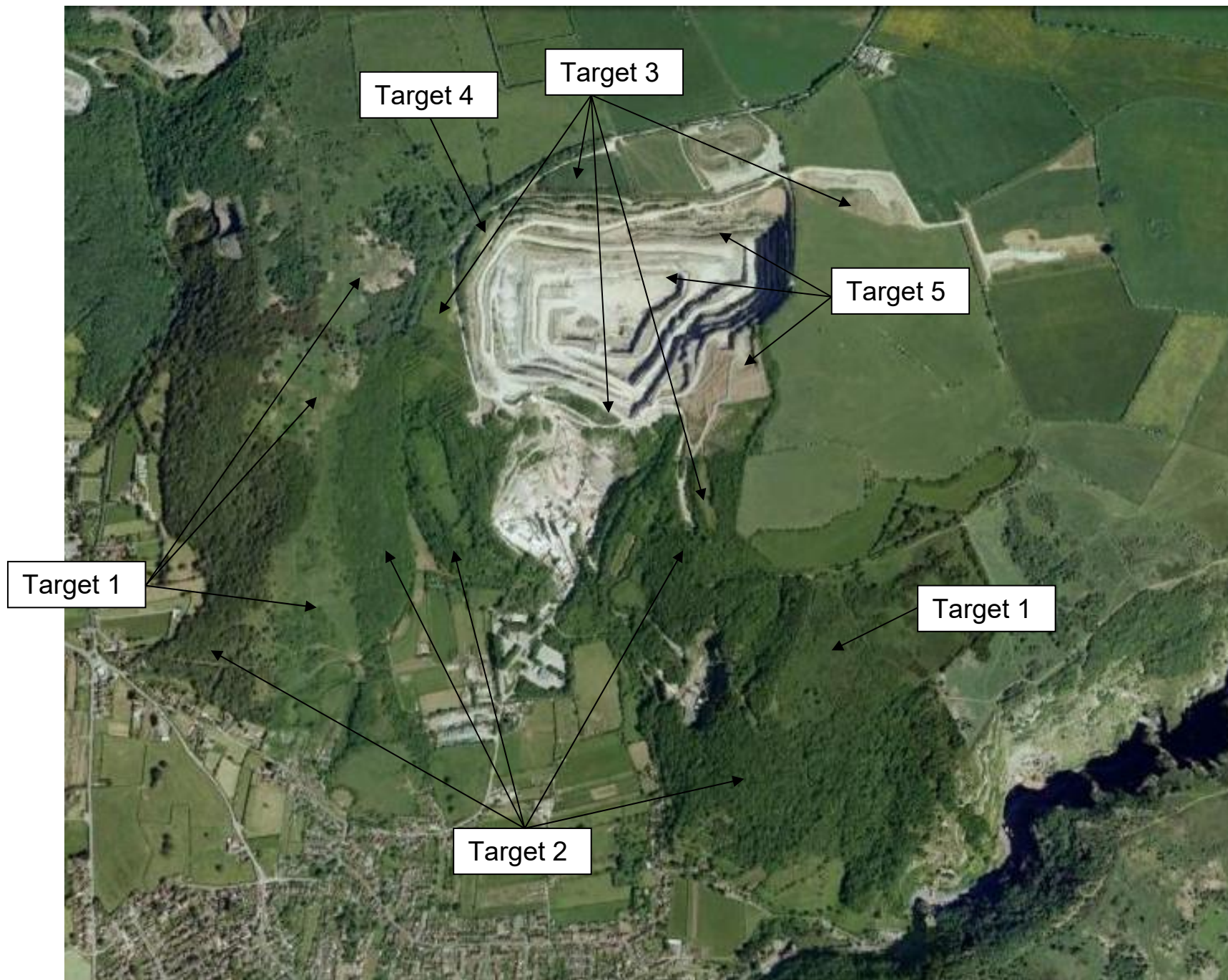
Prepared: August 2006

Updated: November 2018
July 2016
October 2013

Site Information- Batts Combe Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Batts Combe Quarry, Cheddar, Somerset ST 45870 54433 (site entrance)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	Mendip Hills BAP, Wild Somerset (The Somerset Biodiversity Strategy), West Somerset BAP, UK BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Calcareous grassland Lowland meadow Neutral grassland Lowland broadleaved woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	Dormice, Bat species including lesser and greater horseshoe Pearl bordered fritillary Cheddar pink
Designated Natural Area	Mendip Hills
Background and site description	Large carboniferous limestone quarry (c. 60ha excavation set in a total landholding of 180ha) located to the north of Cheddar on south slope of the Mendips just on the border of the Mendip Hills AONB. To the west lies The Perch SSSI (below) and to the east the site is bordered with pasture, woodland and scrub encroached grassland. The BAP was revised in 2013 after the majority of the 2006 targets were achieved resulting in The Perch SSSI condition changing from 'unfavourable declining' to unfavourable improving', large amounts of scrub being cleared to favour grassland habitats, woodland management and planting carried out to favour dormice and a reduction of non-native nurse tree species. The BAP seeks to maintain the habitats restored and created through the 2006 plan and extend them through ongoing management and restoration.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	The Perch SSSI lies within Hanson ownership and within 500m of the quarry excavation. Designated due to its calcareous grassland, woodland and notable species including the lesser and greater horseshoe bat, dormice and Cheddar pink. The Cheddar Complex SSSI is also within 500m of the quarry landholding.
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	C. £85k of HLS funds to carry out capital works and habitat management awarded to cover a 10 year period from 2013. The restoration fund will also cover works outside the HLS area and help to co-fund the capital works required under the HLS.
Contribution to biodiversity	Potential for condition of The Perch to move from 'unfavourable recovering' to 'favourable'. Further areas of priority habitat to be created and positively managed including lowland meadow, dormice and bat corridors
Partners and Local initiatives	Somerset Wildlife Trust, Natural England, volunteer dormice surveyors, Reptile and Amphibian Group Somerset, Butterfly Conservation, Aggregates Industries and Somerset County Council
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Restoration design B25m/113, The Perch SSSI citation, HLS agreement, Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan

Site Layout



Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Maintain and improve species rich grassland habitats	Limestone grassland, bracken, pearl bordered fritillary (PBF), Cheddar pink	Maintain, restore and increase extent of species rich grassland Achieve 'Favourable' status of The Perch SSSI Increase the range and numbers of Cheddar pinks on The Perch	<p>1. Grazing regime maintained on previously cleared areas to ensure positive management and open sward</p> <p>2. Capital works for scrub clearance, fencing and water installation to be progressed in accordance with NE HLS environmental stewardship plan</p> <p>3. Ongoing monitoring and management of scrub cover to maintain 25% cover</p> <p>4. Annual bracken management regime established to favour SPBFs</p>	<p>'Favourable' SSSI condition achieved</p> <p>Scrub coverage reduced to c. 25%</p> <p>No increase in scrub levels after Task 2 is complete</p> <p>Presence of SPBFs</p>	Site Manager	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Initial capital works complete Q2 2014</p> <p>Annual scrub management ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Commenced 2014 then annually</p>
2	Maintain and improve existing woodland	Dormouse, bat sp, lowland broadleaved woodland	Maintain favourable dormouse population by appropriate woodland management	1. Draw up woodland management plan in line with HLS agreement and in liaison with dormice	Plan produced	Site Manager	Complete Q1 2015

				surveyors 2. Implement management plan to establish long term rotational coppice and thinning regime	Area coppiced	Site Manager	First 2 phases of coppicing completed 2016 and 2017 Ongoing til 2023
3	Maintain species rich grassland	Limestone grassland, lowland meadow	Ensure continuing management of grassland on historic and recent tips and green hay donor site so that they not recolonized by scrub	1. Monitor scrub encroachment 2. Control scrub growth with mechanical or chemical means	Scrub coverage kept to <25% Area of scrub cleared	Site Manager Site Manager	Annually Ongoing
4	Reduce extent of invasive non-native species from plantations and native woodland	Native broadleaved woodland	Decrease extent of non-native species e.g. <i>Alnus cordata</i> and <i>Quercus cerris</i>	1. Remove all remaining , difficult to access, non-native species including non- native alder and Swedish whitebeam by ring barking from quarry areas 2. Remove all non-native oak species from HLS area by felling and herbicide injections	No. of trees killed No. of trees killed	Site Manager Site Manager	Q4 2022 2020
5	Increase the extent of grassland and	Broadleaved woodland, calcareous	Quarry restoration works to provide corridors and stepping	1. Ensure correct placement of quarry bench restoration material prior	Soil placement prior to removal of	Site Manager	Ongoing

	woodland habitats	grassland, bare ground	stones for grassland and woodland species across the site through appropriate	<p>to final face development</p> <p>2. Plant and/or seed restoration in first available season after creation</p> <p>3. Prevent access by deer or goats to woodland planting</p> <p>4. Maintain and enhance perimeter dormice and bat corridor</p> <p>5. Consider use of green hay in future restoration and enhancing existing swards where appropriate</p>	<p>safe access Vegetation established</p> <p>No evidence of browsing, deer management continued</p> <p>Continuous vegetated corridor, eventual use by dormice?</p> <p>Diverse grassland habitats created</p>	Site Manager	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
6	Improve site knowledge	Dormice, bats, butterflies incl PBFs	Monitor target species by maintaining existing partnerships and establishing new partners	<p>1. Ensure continued dormice monitoring on The Perch and Batts Combe East</p> <p>2. Re-establish links with Butterfly conservation to ensure butterfly monitoring on The Perch</p>	<p>Annual reports received</p> <p>Perch survey carried out</p>	Site Manager	<p>Annually</p> <p>Q2 2022</p>

				3. Progress surveys and research of how bats use quarry face and bench habitat in conjunction with UWE students.	Surveys conducted and report received		Initial surveys carried out 2015. Follow up MSc student project set up and surveys completed. Report due 2019.
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