

Shap Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Site Information- Shap

Site Name and Location	Shap Beck quarry is located approximately 2.3km north of the village of Shap, Cumbria Grid Ref – NY 54801830
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates - North
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Cumbria LBAP; Lake District National Park LBAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Lakes, Ponds, Reedbeds, Hedgerows Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
BAP species to be encouraged	<i>Mammals:</i> Red squirrel, Bats <i>Birds:</i> Barn Owl, *Song Thrush <i>Amphibians:</i> Great crested newt; <i>Higher plants:</i> Early purple orchid * Red listed species
Designated Natural Area	Cumbria High Fells/Cumbria Fells and Dales
Background and site description	Part of the quarry lies within Cumbria and part within the Lake District National Park and as such it is covered by two local Biodiversity Action Plans. It is bordered by improved pastures and limestone outcrops. There are undisturbed areas of broadleaved and conifer woodland and calcareous grassland. An area of old lagoons with associated calcareous grassland and scrub (Sweetholme Ponds) is the locus of a large population of great crested newts. Red squirrel is present in the woodland to the north of the offices. Two artificial badger setts were created and are in use.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Lake district National Park River Eden and Tributaries SSSI and SAC
Resource Requirements	Restoration budget.
Contribution to biodiversity	Shap Beck Quarry, when fully worked and subsequently restored will hold a large population of great crested newts that has flourished in lagoons created as part of the quarrying operations. Red squirrels are present in the woodland alongside the north part of the quarry and further woodland planting will occur as part of the restoration. The species planted will be those that are preferred by red squirrel. There are fringes of calcareous grassland and these will be supplemented with further areas on restoration.
Partners and Local initiatives	Lowther Estate red alert scheme for red squirrels.
Other documents supporting the site BAP	Restoration Plan

Site Layouts





Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	Habitat restoration of agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasture 	Restore 40ha of agricultural pasture	1. Restore agricultural land. 2. Promote environmentally sensitive agriculture	Land area restored (ha) Buffer strips created (m)	Landscape Architect.	Ongoing with completion on final restoration no later than 2042 Areas restored as per earthworks schedule
2	To create and restore hedgerows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows 	Create hedgerow boundaries. Ensure connectivity between woodland blocks through creation of hedgerows and shelterbelts in agricultural zone	1. Plant and/or restore hedgerows. 2. Manage hedgerows once established.	Lin. m. planted. Lin.m managed. Increase in number of species associated with hedgerows.	Landscape Architect.	Ongoing and 5 years from final restoration
3	To create, restore and manage calcareous grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calcareous grassland 	Maintain existing grassland. Restore approximately 8ha.	1. Continue conservation grazing of fringing species diverse grassland. 2. Potential to use green hay from existing grassland to create new areas of species	Area created and maintained Annual walkover for five years following restoration	Site Manager Landscape Architect.	Ongoing and 5 years from final restoration

				rich grassland			
4	Open water and shallow marginal vegetation	Open water Marginal vegetation Ponds for great crested newts	Approximately 1ha open water shallows with marginal vegetation Maintain/increase great crested newt population	1.Periodic management of ponds to maintain proportion of open water/aquatic species and marginal vegetation	Population estimate of great crested newts every 3 years until end of quarrying then twice during 5-year aftercare	Ecologist	Ongoing
5	Habitat restoration of woodland	Broad leaved woodland/conifer woodland Hedgerows	Approximately 20ha of woodland Maintain existing woodland area	1.Establish and manage woodland with consideration of species to maximise for red squirrel 2.Manage hedgerow development	Land area maintained (ha).	Landscape Architect	Ongoing
6	Species conservation and management	Red squirrel Great crested newts	Maintenance of population Increase in population through provision of further breeding ponds	1.Eradication/Prevention of invasion of woodlands by grey squirrel in liaison with Lowther Estate 2.Creation and maintenance of ponds/management of terrestrial habitat	Grey free woodlands/ continued red squirrel presence Population estimate of great crested newts every 3 years until end of quarrying then twice during 5-year aftercare	Site Manager Landscape Architect Ecologist	Ongoing throughout life of site and 5 year aftercare period

		Early purple orchid	To maintain large population of early purple orchid in grassland on west side of quarry	3.Graze following orchid flowering period	Annual walkover until end of 5-year aftercare period		
7	Communications and publicity	Encourage educational visits and links with local schools.	Contact with local schools.	1 .Open Day/Event /Contact or school days per year.	No of colleges, schools and students visiting/have involvement with site	Site Manager	Ongoing