

Blaise Farm

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: 2009

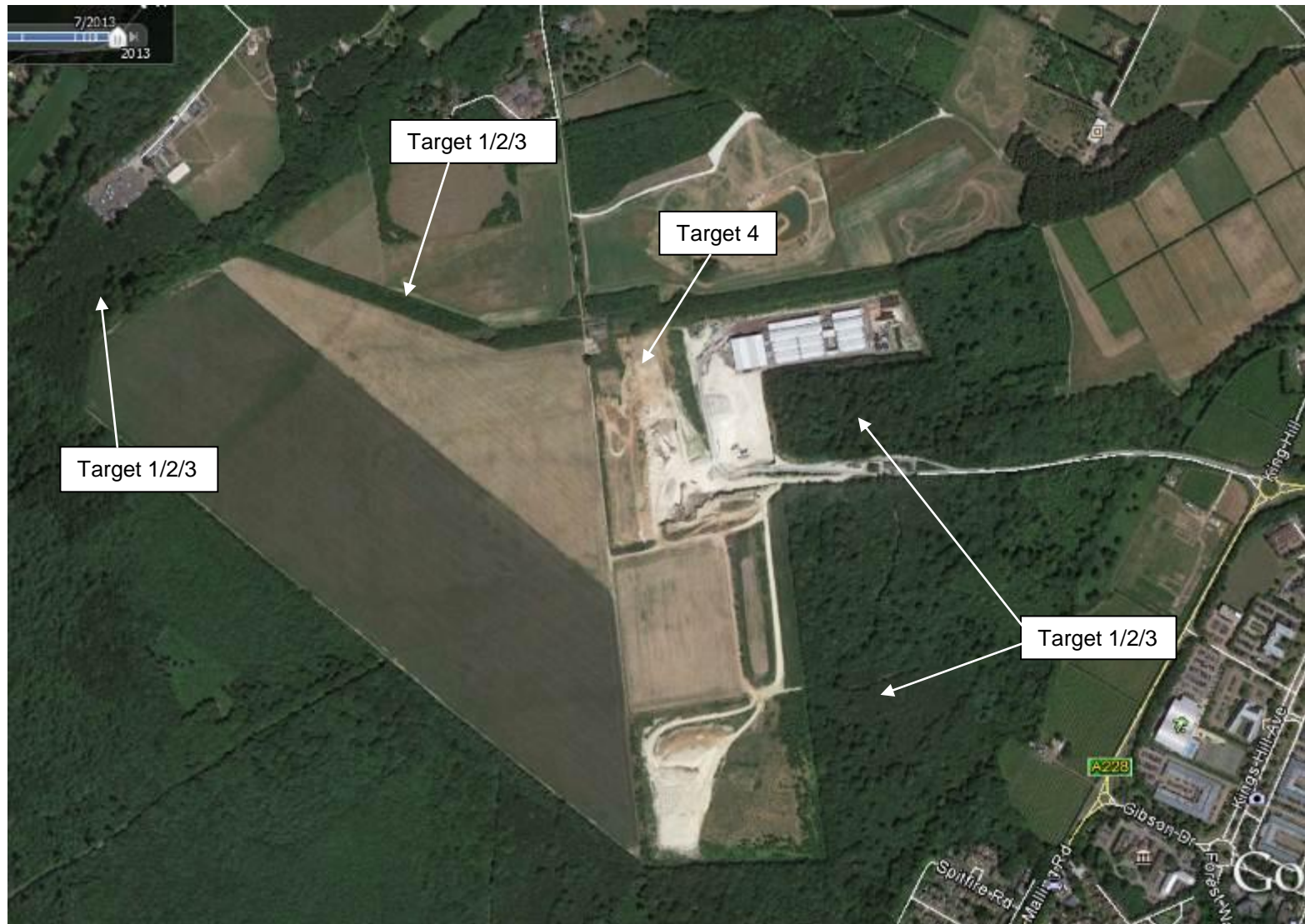
Updated: March 2014

Site Information- Blaise Farm

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Blaise Farm Quarry, Offham, Kent. Site Office Grid Reference TQ664 561 Access from East off Kings Hill roundabout
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP Kent BAP (Action for Kent's Wildlife)
Habitat(s) to be developed	Kent BAP priority habitat: 'Mixed Broadleaved Woodland and Plantations' UKBAP priority habitat Rock outcrop and scree
BAP species to be encouraged	Heath Fritillary Butterfly Dormouse Pipistrelle Bat Invertebrates
Designated Natural Area	Wealden Greensand (70)
Background and site description	<p>Blaise Farm is an approx.100ha landholding comprising Kentish ragstone quarry currently operated under Licence to Gallaghers, located within mainly agricultural land and bounded by a number of ancient woodlands and plantations. The quarry is currently in the early stages of extraction with only the north eastern corner having been worked out, now sold and developed as a composting facility.</p> <p>Ragstone extraction will continue in a westerly direction with overburden and hassock interburden being progressively placed in a storage bund to the south, then backfilled into quarry void when space available. No worked areas have yet been restored due to the presence of the composting facility and relatively slow rate of working, meaning very little worked out areas are yet available for restoration.</p> <p>Advance screen planting and landscaping operations took place prior to commencement of extraction and these relatively young woodland blocks are located along the northern boundary of the site and beside site access road.</p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural woodlands surround the site to the west, south and east, with a small area to the west and a larger block of St Leonards Wood to east of quarry excavation area within Company ownership. A Woodland Management Plan is a requirement of the quarry planning permission, which was originally drawn up for the woodland area in 1997 and has recently been updated into FC management plan format.</p>
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPA etc) within 500m	None
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Funding sufficient from site Restoration budget supplemented by Forestry Commission grant aid for woodland management through Woodland Improvement Grant (W IG) or annual Management Grant

<p>Contribution to biodiversity</p>	<p>Management of the ancient woodland will ensure long-term continuity of this habitat, and active management by coppicing, thinning and management of rides/glades will retain and improve the wood's structure and age-class diversity.</p> <p>Management of advance screen plantations will maintain habitat linkage around the periphery of the site for possible dormice and bat foraging corridors.</p> <p>Retention of open quarry faces with southerly aspect within Phase 2 working area (also adjacent to the compost facility) will add a rare element of open mosaic habitat and bare ground to benefit invertebrates</p>
<p>Partners and Local initiatives</p>	<p>"Tower shoot" sporting tenants Links to be developed with NGOs eg Kent Wildlife Trust to facilitate ecological surveys/monitoring</p>
<p>Other documents supporting the site BAP</p>	<p>BAP plan W109r/49 Woodland Management plans - original 1997, 2010 update and latest 2014 FC 10-year plan</p>

Site Layout



Action Plan

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Biodiversity Feature</u>	<u>Targets</u>	<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Assessing Indicator</u>	<u>Responsible Person</u>	<u>Timescale (Completion)</u>
1	Revise Woodland Management Plan	Ancient Woodland flora and fauna	Update 1997 Management Plan as required by Condition 9 of planning permission TM/88/1002	<p>1. Draw up management plan in Forestry Commission WPG format</p> <p>2. Submit to KCC for approval</p>	Woodland Management Plan in place and approved by KCC	<p>Landscape Manager</p> <p>Lands and Planning Manager</p>	<p>Plan approved by FC March 2014</p> <p>Submission to KCC by Q3 2014</p>
2	Implement Woodland Management Plan	<p>Ancient Woodland flora and fauna</p> <p>Bat spp.</p>	<p>Implement stand management and maintenance of rides and open spaces in accordance with Management Plan.</p> <p>Increase deadwood within young plantations</p>	<p>1. Undertake ride creation and management in accordance with FC plan</p> <p>2. Undertake coppicing and thinning as per plan</p> <p>3. Thin northern screen plantation</p>	<p>Length of new rides created</p> <p>Area coppiced</p> <p>Area thinned</p>	Landscape manager	Completion within first 5-year period of FC plan, by Q1 2019
3	Develop ecological database	Various	Increase knowledge of the existing ecology of the site.	<p>1. Develop links with local volunteers or NGOs for ecological monitoring.</p> <p>2. Undertake baseline ecological survey of ancient woodland, perimeter screen plantations and accessible operational areas</p>	Survey records available including Dormouse records	<p>Landscape Manager</p> <p>NGOs or volunteers</p>	Baseline survey by Q4 2015 and updates at 5-year intervals

				3. Update surveys periodically at 5-year intervals to coincide with planning submissions			
4	Habitat creation through quarry restoration	Open mosaic habitats/rock outcrop Invertebrates	Increase provision for biodiversity in restoration designs and aftercare schemes	1. Incorporate biodiversity aims in future restoration submissions 2. Create species-rich rough grassland, lowland mixed broadleaved woodland and open mosaic habitats in future quarry restoration	Features incorporated into submissions for 5-year working and restoration schemes Area of new habitat creation	Lands and Planning Manager Site Manager	Q4 2014 Ongoing