

# Keepersshield Quarry Site

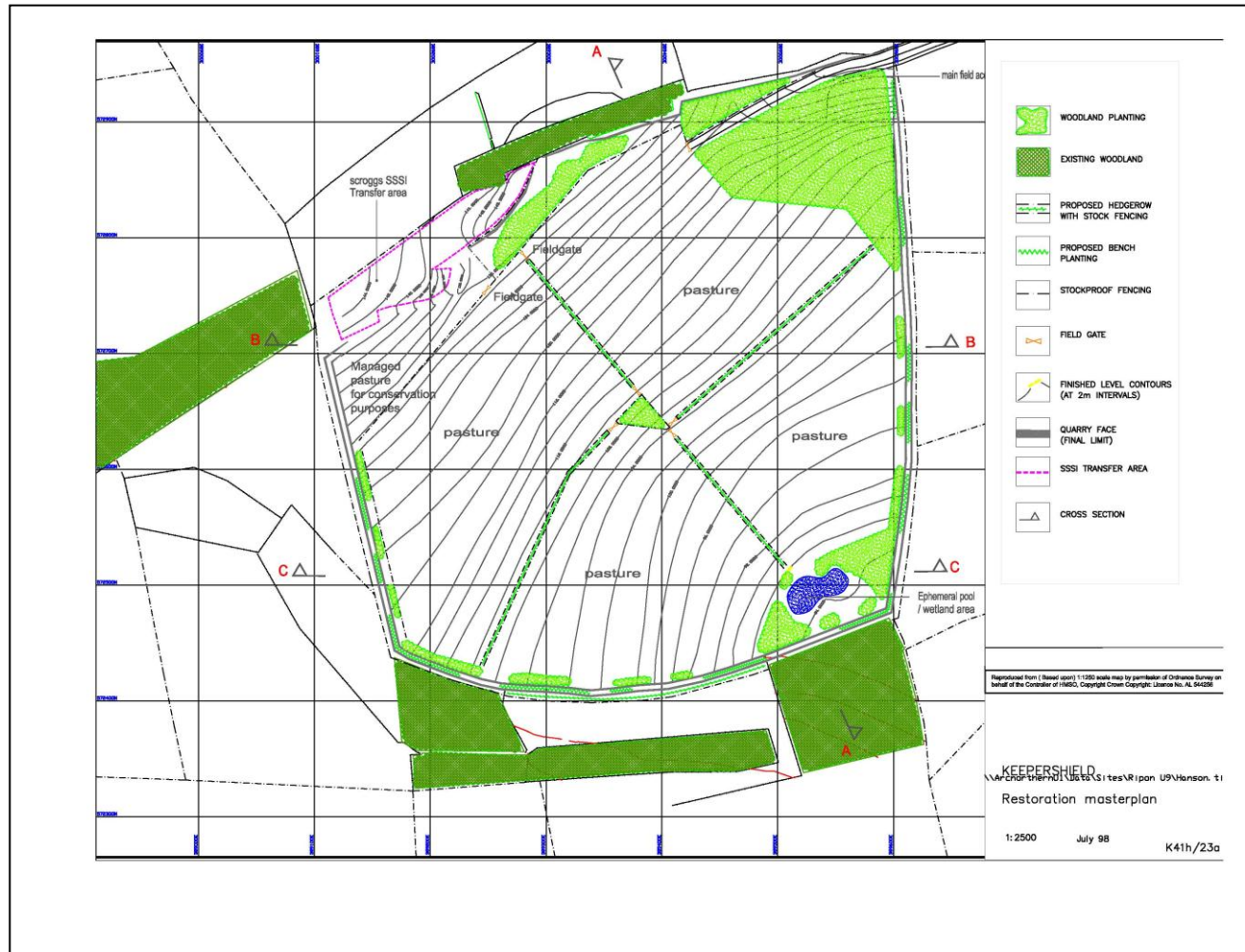
## Site Biodiversity Action Plan



**Site Information- Keepershield**

<b>Site Name and Location</b>	Keepershield Quarry, 1km to the north of the village of Chollerford, Northumberland Grid Ref – NY893727
<b>Hanson Company</b>	Hanson Aggregates - North
<b>BAP(s) that will be targeted</b>	UK BAP Northumberland LBAP
<b>Habitat(s) to be developed</b>	Whin Grassland Hedgerows
<b>BAP species to be encouraged</b>	Red squirrel Farmland birds
<b>Designated Natural Area</b>	Tyne Gap and Hadrian's Wall
<b>Background and site description</b>	The quarry is set within an agricultural area with pockets of higher biodiversity value habitats where the Whin sill and limestone outcrop meet.
<b>National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Scroggs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</li> <li>• Scroggs Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)</li> </ul>
<b>Resource Requirements</b>	Restoration budget
<b>Contribution to biodiversity</b>	<p>The Whin sill and limestone grassland comprising the Scroggs SSSI was relocated to an area of restored quarry in 1999, as the SSSI was within the permitted extraction area. In December 2010, Natural England issued their intent to designate the transferred grassland as The New Scroggs SSSI.</p> <p>Shining lady's mantle (<i>Alchemilla micans</i>) occurring with the Scroggs SSSI is rare and only found at three locations in the UK. Over 100 hundred plants of this and another more common species were moved as pot plants as part of the transfer of the Scroggs SSSI. The species continues to thrive in the New Scroggs pSSSI and is one of the reasons for designation of the new SSSI.</p>
<b>Partners and Local initiatives</b>	Whin Grassland Initiative, Northumberland Wildlife Trust
<b>Other documents supporting the site BAP</b>	The New Scroggs pSSSI citation and background papers Restoration Plan

# Site Layout



## Action Plan

Item No.	Objective	Biodiversity Feature	Targets	Tasks	Assessing Indicator	Responsible Person	Timescale (Completion)
1	To maintain pSSSI features	Whin sill grassland Calcareous grassland	To maintain short and diverse sward as requested by Natural England and in management agreement	1.Introduce grazing 2. Handpulling of ragwort as necessary	No. of Alchemmilla and other calcareous grassland species in sward	Landscape Architect Site manager  Ecological Consultants	Ongoing until 2048
2	Increase in area of grassland of conservation interest	Calcareous grassland	To provide a link between the pSSSI grassland and the County wildlife site grassland to the west	1.Ongoing restoration of area and spread seed/hay from pSSSI to create species diverse grassland.	Include within pSSSI monitoring. Ongoing restoration detailed in 3 yearly reports	Landscape Architect	Every 3 years from 2013 until 2048
3	Creation of blocks of broadleaved woodland connected by hedgerows	Broadleaved woodland Hedgerows	To provide general habitat around the fringes of the quarry and connect with existing blocks of plantation woodland with hedgerows	1.Establish and manage broadleaved woodland and hedgerows as part of restoration	Annual assessment of establishment success within aftercare period	Site Manager Landscape Architect	2043 to 2048
4	Species conservation and management	Alchemilla micans  Red squirrel  Farmland birds	1.To maintain and potentially increase the population of <i>A. micans</i>  2. Plant species such as Norway spruce; Scots, Corsican and lodgepole pine; larch; yew; hawthorn; blackthorn; bird cherry; wild cherry and guelder rose  Create hedgerows to provide nesting for birds, foraging and commuting routes for bats and connectivity between woodland blocks	1.Introduce grazing  2. Tree planting  3. Plant hedgerows	1.No. of Alchemmilla species in sward  2.No of trees planted  3.Length of Hedgerows planted  Details in 3 yearly reports.	Landscape Architect  Site Manager	Ongoing until 2048

			and site margins.				
<b>4</b>	Creation of permanent/ ephemeral open water habitat	Open water and wetland margins	To provide a small wetland area within an otherwise largely agricultural restoration	None other than creation of suitable conditions for natural development of a small wetland	Area created	Site Manager Landscape Architect	2043
<b>6</b>	Habitat and species monitoring		Monitoring data on target animal and plant species collected by staff or external volunteers and summarised in a report	1. Monitor pSSSI every 3 years 2. Monitor other features as are restored for aftercare period	Monitoring reports and local specialist publications	Site Manager Ecological consultants	2016 onwards and every 3 years after until 2048
<b>7</b>	To communicate and publicise interesting features on site	Produce materials to explain importance of Keepersheild Quarry biodiversity including flagship species  Encourage educational visits	Update Scroggs display board  Local schools regard and use site as educational resource	1. Display board 2. School visits	Display board in place  No of colleges, schools and students visiting site	Site Manager Landscape Architect	2014 and ongoing until 2042