

Horcott Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



Prepared: 2009

Updated: 2013

Site Information- Horcott Quarry

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| Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.) | Horcott Quarry, Fairford, Glos. Grid Ref. SU 151 998 (entrance) |
| Hanson Company | Hanson Aggregates |
| BAP(s) that will be targeted | Cotswold Water Park BAP Gloucestershire BAP SW Region BAP UK BAP |
| Habitat(s) to be developed | Fen, marsh and reedswamp Standing open water Species rich wet grassland Wet woodland Ponds |
| BAP species to be encouraged | Dragonflies (esp scarce emerald damselfly) Black poplar <i>Chara</i> spp. (stoneworts) |
| Designated Natural Area | Thames and Avon Vales |
| Background and site description | Approx 75ha sand and gravel quarry mainly excavated since late 1980s but with parts of the landholding first dug in 1950s. Majority of the site comprised 1 st terrace gravel associated with the Totterdown Brook and adjoining ditches, with some areas of 2 nd terrace. Final reserves excavated from plant site Dec 2012 and restoration earthworks completed by end 2013. Older Northern lakes leased to fishing clubs and local Scout group, with permissive footpath agreement with Fairford Town Council. |
| National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPA etc) within 500m | None |
| Resource Requirements-comment on cost if appropriate | Quarry restoration budget is sufficient to cover most aspects of the BAP, though Forestry Commission EWGS grants have offset some restoration planting costs, and management of existing woodland areas is included in FC Woodland Improvement Grant scheme. |
| Contribution to biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of further lakes together with lake margin reedbeds and grassland through implementation of the approved restoration and aftercare schemes • Creation of wet woodland and mixed broadleaved woodland on silt lagoons and soil store footprints • Improving habitat quality through management of existing plantations and lake margin wet woodland • Submission of variations to approved restoration schemes to increase extent of habitat |
| Partners and Local initiatives | Cotswold Water Park Society Fairford Town Council Fairford Scout Group |
| Other documents supporting the site BAP | Approved ROMP and Western Extension restoration plans H28m/132 and H28m/101a 5-year Outline Aftercare schemes and annual reports/proposals |

Site Layout



Action Plan

| Item No. | Objective | Biodiversity Feature | Targets | Tasks | Assessing Indicator | Responsible Person | Timescale (Completion) |
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| 1 | Increase extent of target habitats by variation of approved restoration schemes | Wet woodland. Black poplar. Vegetated shorelines. | Vary approved ROMP restoration scheme to show increased wet woodland on silt lagoons. Vary Jenks/Keyser restoration scheme to show larger pond and increased wet woodland, as bird strike mitigation and to optimise use of soil resources. | 1. Design and draw up revised ROMP restoration scheme, discuss with CWPS, MoD and GCC, then submit. 2. Design and draw up revised J/K scheme, discuss with landlord and GCC, then submit. 3. Implement approved schemes | Schemes approved and earthworks implemented. Area of wet woodland planted No. of Black poplar included in woodland areas. | Landscape Manager, Estates Surveyor | ROMP and Jenks-Keyser schemes amended and approved 2011, and further amendment of ROMP scheme to show separate plant site lake approved 2012 Implementation ongoing in accordance with aftercare programme |
| 2 | To improve habitat quality of existing woodland resource | Wet woodland and associated flora and fauna including bats | Improve the structure and diversity of young and middle-aged plantations and lake shore woodland fringes. Introduce dead wood. Promote understorey and ground flora species. | 1. Selective thinning of silt lagoon plantation to favour long-lived native species. 2. Thin and/or coppice sections of shoreline woodland around old northern lakes. 3. Create habitat piles with surplus timber and lop/top. 4. Erect small no. of bat | Area of woodland thinned. Presence of dead wood habitat piles, understorey and ground flora. Presence of bat species using boxes/shorelines | Landscape Manager Boy Scouts? CWPS for bat boxes. | Plantation to be thinned by end Q1 2015 Significant coppicing and thinning completed around northern fishing lakes 2012/13 and 2013/14 |

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| | | | | boxes and monitor. | | | |
| 3 | Increase extent of vegetated shorelines | Standing open water; vegetated shorelines; marginal linear reedswamp esp. for invertebrates and possibly water vole. | Establish 2,000m (approx.) of new linear vegetated shoreline around Airbase Lake. | <p>1. Implement final shoreline restoration of Airbase Lake and allow to flood.</p> <p>2. Fence off final lake shoreline from grazing livestock to allow reed and scrub vegetation to develop.</p> | <p>Revised landform implemented.</p> <p>Length of lake margins fenced off, with marginal aquatics developing.</p> | Operations Manager. | <p>Earthworks all completed by end 2013</p> <p>Dense aquatic reed and scrub vegetation established by year 4 of Aftercare period</p> |
| 4 | Existing reedbed | Reedbed and associated bird populations | Manage existing Phase 11 Totterdown Lane reedbed (Lake 128) to maintain favourable status for breeding birds. | <p>1. Monitor and record breeding and wintering birds.</p> <p>2. Implement any necessary management eg. willow pulling and water level control.</p> | <p>Annual bird monitoring records to be made available.</p> <p>Phragmites-dominated vegetation present with <10% willow growth</p> | CWPS (WeBS local organiser) | <p>Ongoing during Hanson ownership</p> <p>Significant hand-pulling of willows carried out 2009-10</p> |
| 5 | Create new ponds | Ponds and associated invertebrates. | Create complex of ponds (say 5) within site. | <p>1. Include pond complex within revised restoration design (as per Pond Conservation guidelines).</p> <p>2. Implement pond construction during restoration earthworks.</p> <p>3. Maintain during aftercare period.</p> | Area of new ponds constructed and monitored for dragonflies | Landscape Manager CWPS | <p>Shown on ROMP plan</p> <p>Ponds constructed during 2013 earthworks</p> <p>Maintenance ongoing</p> |