

Whatley Quarry

Site Biodiversity Action Plan



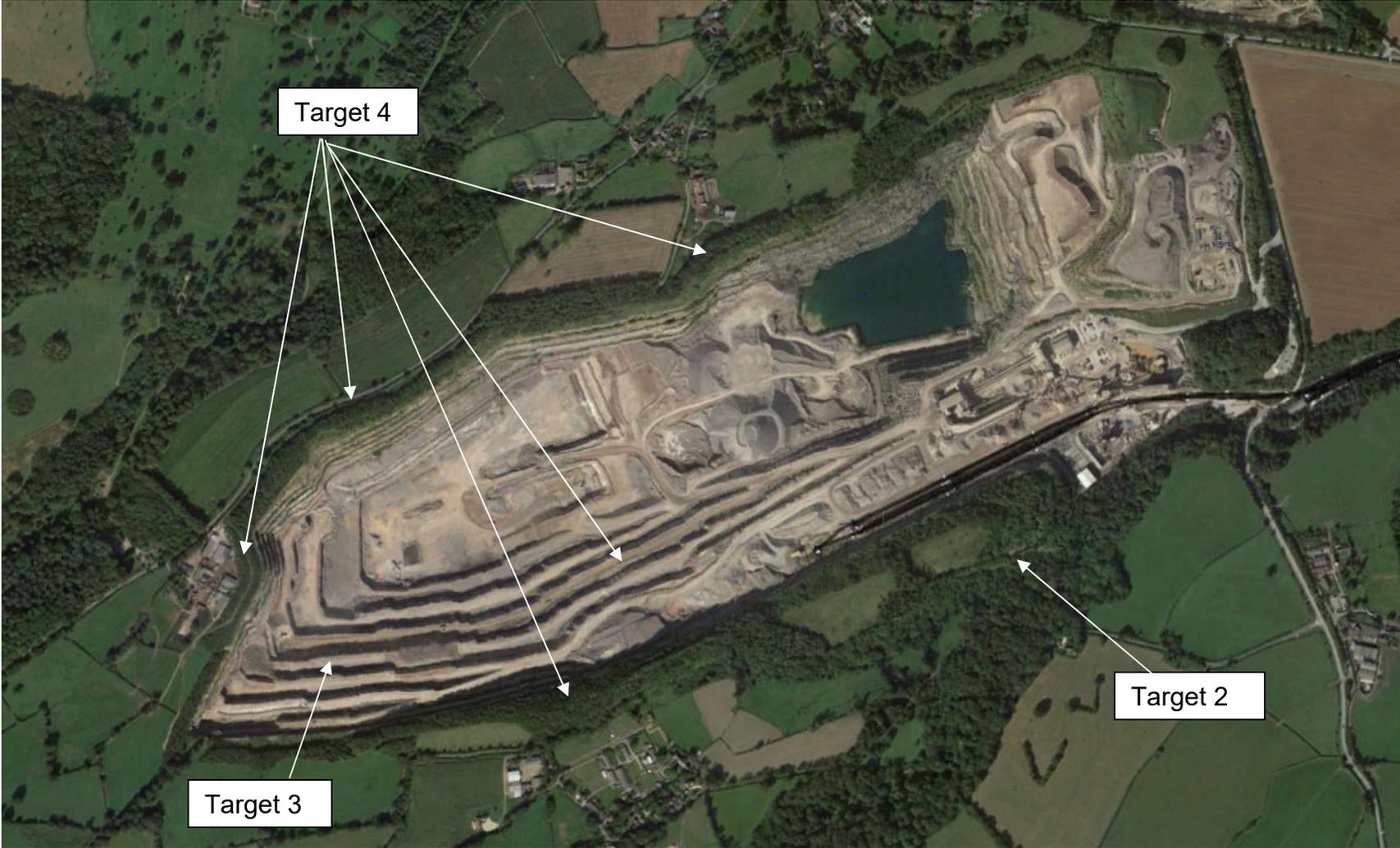
Prepared: November 2008

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January 2019
January 2022**

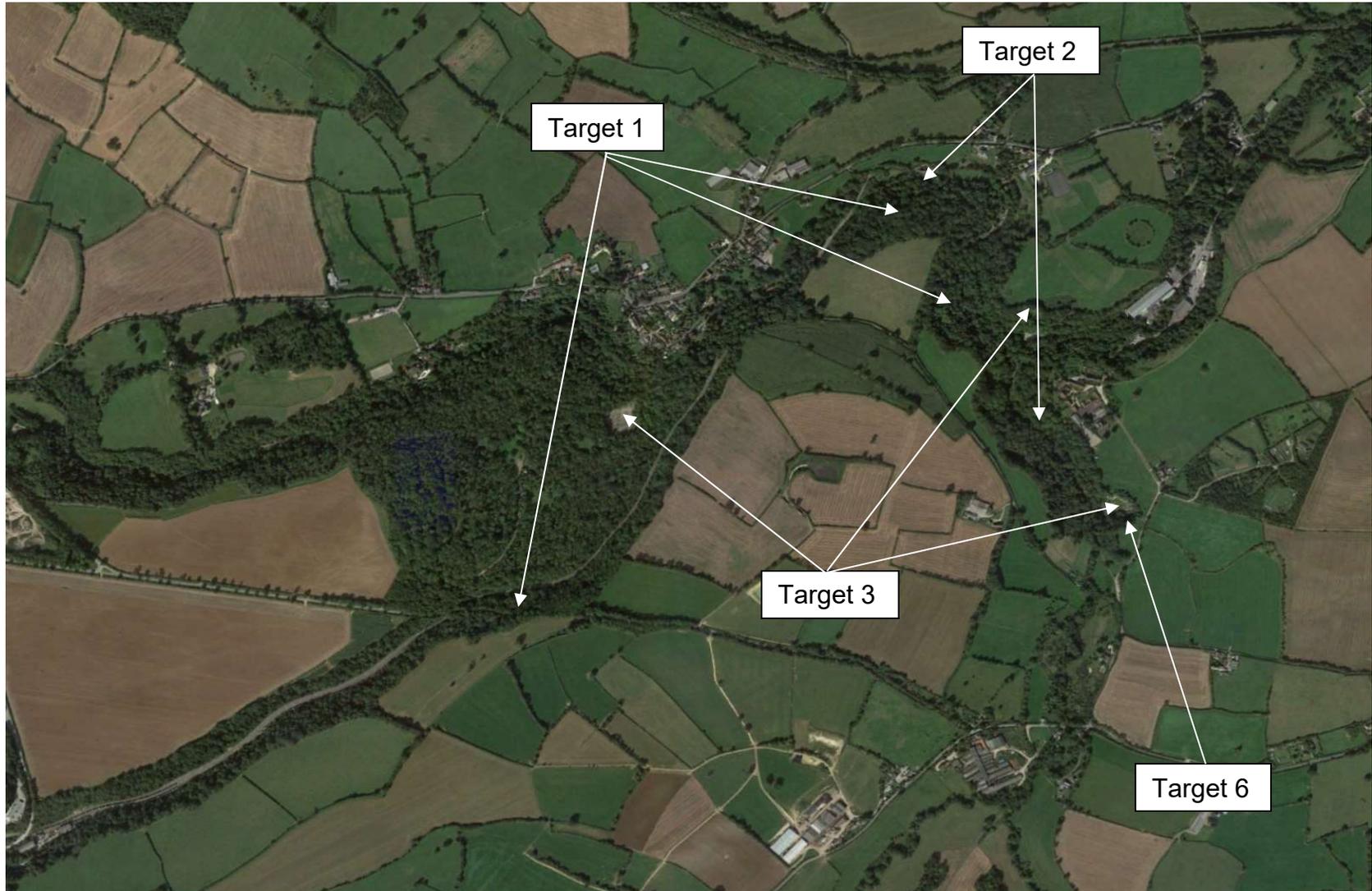
Site Information- Whatley Quarry

Site Name and Location (incl. Grid Ref.)	Whatley Quarry ST 73262 48214 (Site Entrance) Vallis Vale SSSI ST 75575 49170 (De la Beche unconformity)
Hanson Company	Hanson Aggregates
BAP(s) that will be targeted	UK BAP, Mendip BAP
Habitat(s) to be developed	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland Calcareous grassland Rivers and streams
BAP species to be encouraged	White Clawed Crayfish Water Vole Bat <i>sp</i> Dormouse Hedgehog Hare
Designated Natural Character Area	Mendip Hills
Background and site description	Large carboniferous limestone quarry (120ha) situated within the Mendip hills. The site complex comprises a large current extraction area set within an agricultural landscape with young plantations and hedgerows, but including semi-natural woodland associated with steep sided watercourses. The landholding includes Vallis Vale SSSI, Tedbury Camp, Fordbury and Whatley Bottom, consisting of valley-side ASNW, secondary woodland and calcareous grassland on former quarries and spoil tips, along with the Mells Stream, Whatley and Egford Brook. In addition there is considerable geodiversity and industrial archaeology interest.
National Designations (SSSI, SAC, SPAs, RAMSARs and NPs) within 500m	Included within the Whatley landholding, but not within 500m of the excavation is the Asham Wood SSSI/ Mendip Woodland SAC and Vallis Vale SSSI and Mells Valley SAC
Resource Requirements- comment on cost if appropriate	Restoration earthworks, tree planting, plantation thinning and coppicing and grass seeding will be covered within the quarry restoration budget. Additional funds may be available from the Forestry Commission for the management of the existing ASNW areas along with grants from NE for SSSI management.
Contribution to biodiversity	Contribution will be achieved by new habitat creation through quarry restoration; the positive management of semi-natural woodlands, statutory designated sites and young plantations; maintenance and improvement of limestone grassland; management of watercourses and riparian vegetation.
Partners and Local initiatives	Somerset Bat Group, Somerset Wildlife Trust, University of West of England, Bath Spa University, Natural England
Other documents supporting the site BAP	ROMP Quarry development and restoration plans and Environmental Statement and associated ecological surveys/ reports, Vallis Vale and Old Down Wood Management Plan (1998)

Site Layout: Whatley Quarry and Railford Bottom



Site Layout: Vallis Vale, Tedbury Camp, Fordbury Bottom



2	Positive management of riparian zones	River and stream banks, kingfishers, dippers, Dasiops spatiosis, nettle-leaved bellflower and small teasel	Update existing Vallis Vale management plan and implement to create sunny areas along river.	<p>1. Update existing Vallis Vale Woodland Management Plan and incorporate riparian management in new EWGS WPG application to include Fordbury Bottom.</p> <p>a. Carefully create glades and open areas if required, alongside riparian zones after reviewing impact of ADB on light levels.</p>	Plan in place	Landscape Architect	EWGS in place by Q2 2020
			Riparian management of Railford Bottom	<p>2. Monitor impact of ADB on streamside woodland and create further open areas if required.</p>	Presence of open areas.	Landscape Architect	<p>30% streamside coppiced in 2013 Next phase of coppicing complete by Q4 2026</p>
3	Improve and expand the existing resource of calcareous grassland on old spoil tips, quarry faces and floors eg. adjacent to the De La Beche unconformity and Tedbury Camp	Limestone grassland, birdsfoot trefoil, black medick, slender St. John's wort, and associated butterflies	Maintain and increase the extent of existing calcareous grassland resource and to improve its current condition	<p>1. Monitor scrub on existing grassland areas</p> <p>a. Clear scrub as required to achieve a maximum of 25% coverage</p> <p>2. Ensure wildflower bench restoration is put in place using low fertility substrates prior to access being lost.</p>	Review completed.	Landscape Architect	Q4 2022
					Area of scrub cleared	Landscape Architect	Scrub reduced to 25% on all areas by Q2 2026
				Bench restoration in place and seeded with appropriate seed mix or left to naturally regenerate	Site Manager	Ongoing	
4	To improve structure and diversity of middle aged	Broadleaved woodland and associated flora and fauna	Improve the habitat quality of middle-aged and young plantations within restored quarry areas	<p>1. Review impact of ADB and non-native thinnings on the perimeter plantations for future</p>	Review complete	Landscape Architect	Q4 2022

	and young plantations and increase extent of wooded habitat			<p>thinning and restocking requirements</p> <p>a. Restock thinned plantations as required with natural regeneration or planting stock</p> <p>b. Ring bark or fell any remaining non native species.</p> <p>2. Monitor young Finger Farm plantations for thinning by felling or ring barking to increase dead wood habitat</p> <p>3. Promote understorey and ground flora species by setting up trial plots.</p> <p>4. Carry out bench restoration and planting prior to safe access being lost</p>	<p>No. of trees guarded or planted/</p> <p>No non-native tree species present</p> <p>Dead wood present and open canopy</p> <p>Trial plots set up and results gained</p> <p>Length planted (m)</p>	<p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Site manager</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>All non-natives felled or ring barked by Q4 2024</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Trial plots set up by Q3 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
5	Ecological monitoring and recording	All likely flora and fauna with attention to target species	Improve and update site records to aid future BAP management	1. Appoint and brief ecological consultant or work with local volunteers to carry out surveys target species e.g. bees, bats, butterflies on site to guide land management	Resulting reports and action plans	Landscape Architect	<p>Phase 1 habitat surveys and peregrine monitoring completed in 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
6	Maintain existing bat populations	Bat sp	Ensure on-going use of Vallis Vale, Asham Conveyor tunnel and Whatley by bat sp	1. Ensure on-going bat grille security through regular checks and erection of signs	Grille always locked, signs erected	Site manager	<p>Signs erected Q4 2020</p> <p>Grille checks to form part of closed site</p>

				<p>2. Appoint ecological consultant or work with Somerset bat group to monitor use of bat cave in Vallis Vale protected by grille</p> <p>3. Erect bat boxes to compensate for trees lost in 2013 quarry development.</p> <p>4. Grille Asham conveyor tunnel bat roost in liaison with SWT and local bat group</p>	<p>Bat surveys carried out</p> <p>Boxes erected and evidence of use established</p> <p>Grille in place</p>	<p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Landscape Architect</p>	<p>inspection checks</p> <p>Re-establish contact with bat group Q4 2022</p> <p>Boxes up Q3 2022</p> <p>Grille erected Q2 2020</p>
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