Great Crested Newt Project

As part of ongoing quarrying activities it was necessary to apply for a European Protected Species Licence for GCNs to extend the quarry waste tip footprint. The licence was granted and GCNs carefully captured and relocated by ecologists.
Many habitat enhancements were carried out in 2014 as part of the licence which included the creation of 6 new ponds, several temporary wet scrapes, planting of 2,900 trees and shrubs and 3 brushwood hibernacula. The species and ponds will continue to be monitored to ensure no adverse effects have occurred and it has already been found that GCNs have started using the new ponds only one year after their creation.

Further Information

The quarrying industry has an important part to play in re-shaping the landscape and enhancing biodiversity. For any further information on this site or Hanson's biodiversity and restoration work, or for copies of the Chipping Sodbury Site-BAP please contact:

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Chipping Sodbury Quarry

Biodiversity and Restoration

Chipping Sodbury Quarry

Chipping Sodbury Quarry is located immediately north of the town of Chipping Sodbury and west of Yate, South Gloucestershire.
The overall quarry complex comprises the two active carboniferous limestone quarries of Southfields and Hampstead Farm; the historical worked out excavation of Barnhill and two currently undeveloped areas of Brinsham East and West.
An area of broad-leaved woodland known as Ridge Woods and smaller areas of grassland occupy a ridge on the eastern edge of Yate, bordering the Barnhill Quarry and associated Hanson Aggregates offices.
The Brinsham Stream, separates the un-worked areas from the remainder of the quarry complex.

Quarry Restoration

Chipping Sodbury Quarry has the potential to contribute to UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats for mesotrophic open water, woodland and grassland through the restoration of quarry benches, the excavation voids and quarry waste tips.
On cessation of quarrying the excavated voids will fill with water to create deep clear lakes. Quarry benches are soiled and planted with native broadleaf woodland strips to provide bat and bird feeding corridors or left unsoiled to create low fertility calcareous grassland habitat for invertebrates. Quarry waste tips are landscaped, soiled and restored to a mixture of grassland meadows sown with a native seed mix and native broadleaf woodland and hedgerows.

Quarry Biodiversity

Chipping Sodbury Quarry has a Biodiversity Action Plan that aims to target and enhance the habitats and species found on site and to work with local communities. In addition the quarry also has a Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan that draws on the targets of the Site-BAP and lays out in detail the operations and timings required in order to achieve the plan's aims.

Priority Habitats

Chipping Sodbury Quarry has a variety of UK priority habitats and the points below identify these habitats and how they can be managed for biodiversity:
Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland- felling operations to reinstate historic coppicing regimes
Hedgerows- phased hedge coppicing and laying along the Wickwar Road
Streams- phased riparian coppicing along Brinsham Stream to increase light levels to stream edge
Calcareous grassland- clearance of invading scrub threatening grassland resource
Quarry tree plantations- felling operations to thin canopy to improve age diversity and structure

Priority Species

Chipping Sodbury is fortunate to support several important species including otters and great crested newts (GCN) both of which are UK BAP priority European Protected species .
Quarrying operations on site are strictly controlled and licenced where required by Natural England to ensure that otters and GCNs and their habitat are not harmed.

Brinsham Bridge Project

Otters use the Brinsham Stream as a commuting corridor. As part of quarry development to access Brinsham East a new bridge was required to cross the stream with quarry machinery. The bridge was carefully designed by engineers and ecologists to ensure that otters continue to use the stream at both low and high water events. The bridge was installed in 2014 and evidence has shown since its installation that the otters continue to use the stream and that they often rest and spraint under the new bridge.