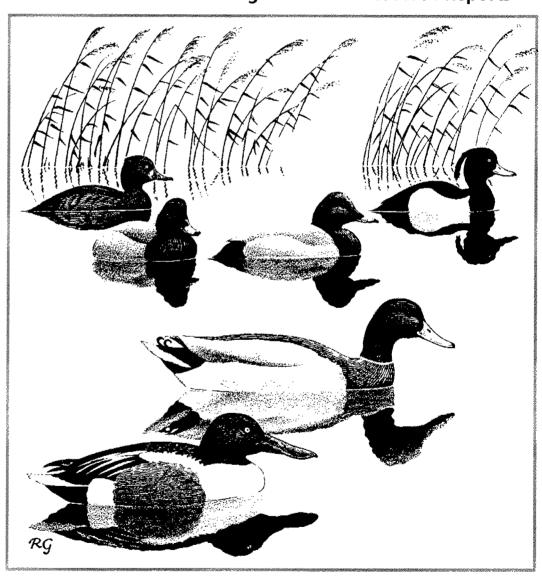


Good nature conservation practice in the minerals industry

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Good nature conservation practice in the minerals industry

David Tyldesley and Associates

Dr. T. Moat, Environmental Impacts Team

Refer to contact

1 December 1995

FOREWORD

This Research Report has been produced for English Nature by David Tyldesley and Associates. It was commissioned as the basis of a possible future guide for good nature conservation practice in the minerals industry.

Examples in the report were freely offered by mineral operators on the understanding that the information could subsequently be compiled and published. The examples quoted do **not** represent endorsement by English Nature of the working or restoration of these sites.

Copics of this report are held by all English Nature's Local Teams, and are available from English Nature's Enquiry Service at Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

Dr. T. Moat, Commissioning Officer, November 1995.

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METHOD 1.

- 1.1 The aim of this study was to collate 15 to 20 site-specific examples of cases where the mineral extraction industries had adopted working practices or schemes which were deliberately beneficial to nature conservation. In order to qualify for inclusion in the study it was required that schemes should be entirely voluntary or, where required by planning conditions or obligations, they should be demonstrably above or beyond the minimum required.
- 1.2 In order to compile a good cross section of examples it was necessary to establish contact with the various organisations involved in the minerals planning process, namely local mineral planning officers, local government ecologists, environmental consultancies known to work regularly with the minerals industry, and with the mineral operators themselves and their representative bodies. It was hoped that these groups would be able to nominate examples of good nature conservation practice within the minerals industry in which they had been involved.
- 1.3 Upon commencement of the project telephone contact was established immediately with BACMI and SAGA to notify them of the project and to encourage them to circulate the "word" among their members. BACMI were particularly helpful and despatched our letters addressed to their members with a covering note supporting the project. They also encouraged members to respond through their internal newsletter. Telephone contact was then made with a selection of minerals companies, local government ecologists, local minerals planning officers with a knowledge of nature conservation issues, and certain consultants with nature conservation expertise and known to work with the minerals industry on a regular basis.
- 1.4 The project was also advertised in *Planning Week*, *Minerals Planning* and in *Planning* for the Natural and Built Environment in the hope that any organisations not already contacted would be able to submit schemes which they felt would be of relevance and of interest.
- 1.5 Once initial telephone contact hade been made, each organisation was sent a standard letter and pro forma on which to nominate appropriate examples. The key mineral operators (see list) were written to either directly or through BACMI. The pro forma asked basic information about the nature of the project, those organisations involved in the project, and the planning conditions / agreements attached to the project. The pro forma was accompanied by a standard letter which fully explained the terms and aims of the project (see section 2). Having established by telephone contacts the most likely sources of nominated schemes a total of 6 local authorities, 23 consultancies and 20 minerals companies were individually invited to submit schemes for this report (for names see section 3). These contacts also included the full range of mineral operations, including sand and gravel, hard rock, peat and coal.

- 1.6 It was then necessary to contact individuals by telephone to respond to enquiries, encourage submissions and clarify the information given in the pro formas and to fill in any gaps in the information. As no site visit was involved there was a heavy reliance on the submitted information. This process proved to be slow and ideally required further work in some cases where further information had not been received before the submission date. We have endeavoured to verify the validity of the schemes submitted as far as possible in the time and budget available. Our comments are included in the pro-forma and these were informed in a number of cases by our discussions with local Wildlife Trusts, Mineral Planning Authorities etc. It is anticipated that some selected cases may need to be omitted because of our uncertainty about the usefulness of publicising some of the schemes or because further investigation may reveal that they were not voluntary or were not successful ie. after checking the merits of the schemes with local officers of English Nature.
- 1.7 Further editing of the list will be needed to secure a fair balance of geographic distribution, minerals type, scheme type, programme, permanence, subject (biological/carth science) etc.
- 1.8 It is most unlikely that this range of nominated schemes is exhaustive of the potential number of qualifying schemes in England. (A Scottish submission has been excluded). Two factors in particular constrained the response from the industry and local authorities. The summary of responses in Section 4 indicate that several potential contributors in local authorities and the industry could not meet the timescale of the project. It is probable that other potential responders were deterred by the timescale but did not contact us to say so. Whilst this may have been an excuse in some cases the project timetable was very tight. The project commission was received on 22nd December 1994 which precluded any useful contacts being established over the Christmas and New Year holidays when many of the industry's offices were closed and local authority staff took annual leave in addition to the public holidays. However, telephone contacts started in December and continued into January. Most of the letters were despatched in the first week of January, in some cases concurrently with telephone contact being established. The deadline given was the 27th January to enable the submission date for the report of 1st February to be met.
- 1.9 Following discussions with the Project Officer we endeavoured to inform as many parties as possible of the extension of the deadline to the end of February, but it was too late to renotify all the consultees and to change the published entries in the planning journals. We have managed to contact some key potential contributors who had indicated they could not meet the original deadline, e.g. Levingtons, but we still await their submissions.

- 1.10 The second significant constraint on returns is that we have been advised that a number of companies have taken a policy decision not to reply to questionnaires. Although it would have been to the advantage of the company to do so in this case, some have not responded for this reason. A number of local authorities have also taken this decision, unless the questionnaire is distributed by the local authority associations themselves.
- 1.11 The return from consultancies was predictably low. They are generally reluctant to contribute to such surveys unless it is of business benefit. The excuse that client confidentiality precluded them from nominating a scheme is, in our view, an incorrect interpretation of their obligations. They could have passed the project on to their clients, as suggested in our letter (and as some did) or they would easily have obtained client approval in this case, if they had sought it. Some consultancies did, however, respond constructively and promptly.
- 1.12 Nevertheless, the project has achieved 17 returns, most of which are sufficiently full to assess. We await at least three more schemes which would bring the total up to the target of 20.

2. EXAMPLES OF LETTERS SENT

2.1 To Environmental Consultancies Working with the Minerals Industry.

3rd January 1995 Dear Sirs

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

We are commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council for England (English Nature) to undertake a research and advisory project relating to good nature conservation practice in the minerals industry. The object of the work is to carry out a desk top study collating site-specific case examples where the mineral extraction industries have adopted working practices or schemes which are deliberately beneficial to nature conservation. The final product will be a report detailing examples across a range of mineral extractive industry sectors and representing the spread of different types of work being carried out. It is intended that the report may inform a future English Nature publication on minerals and nature conservation.

Nature conservation includes the conservation and enhancement of wild flora and fauna and of geological and geomorphological (landform) features and natural processes. The examples chosen will be written up for a non-technical audience, and relate primarily to work undertaken by the minerals industry or by owners of recently disused mineral workings. It should be emphasised that the cases reported will primarily represent the ideas, work or research of the site operator rather than the planning authority. Thus, examples must clearly represent work undertaken **voluntarily** by the owner or operator. If undertaken as the result of a planning condition or obligation (unless unilateral, or advanced by the mineral operator), the work should be demonstrably above and beyond the minimum required to meet the conditions. Each example will clearly state this planning background. Individual cases may relate to one or more of the preparation, working, or restoration phases of a mineral operation.

This is an important opportunity to demonstrate the excellent work which has been undertaken by the industry over recent years. The best examples are likely to be those undertaken under the auspices of an environmental consultancy. We are writing to invite you to nominate any case examples which fall into the project's brief outlined above with which you have been involved. The time programme for the research, however, is extremely tight and I should be most grateful if you could let me know by letter/fax whether you wish to nominate an example by Friday 20 January at the latest. Details of the example should be submitted to us at the above address not later than Friday 27 January.

For examples that you wish to nominate we should be grateful if you provide the relevant information on the attached pro forma together with any other material which is available relevant to the case, a photograph would be particularly helpful for those cases which may be published and would help us to appreciate the context of the scheme as we will not be able

to visit the sites personally.

You should, of course, seek the agreement of the operator concerned. We have written directly and through the mineral trade associations to most of the leading mineral operators so your clients may already be aware of the project.

Thank you for considering this request. I hope that you will consider the project to be an innovative and constructive approach to nature conservation in the minerals industry and that you will be able to nominate an appropriate example within the rather tight programme.

If you wish to seek clarification of any point please contact me or any of my colleagues below:-

Ian Collis, Associate Stephen Goodwin, Senior Assistant Planner Claire Snowdon, Assistant Ecologist

Yours faithfully

David Tyldesley Principal

2.2 To Mineral Companies.

Our Ref: DT/JT/847 3 January 1995 Dear Sirs

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

We are commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council for England (English Nature) to undertake a research and advisory project relating to good nature conservation practice in the minerals industry. The object of the work is to carry out a desk top study collating site-specific case examples where the mineral extraction industries have adopted working practices or schemes which are deliberately beneficial to nature conservation. The final product will be a report detailing examples across a range of mineral extractive industry sectors and representing the spread of different types of work being carried out. It is intended that the report may inform a future English Nature publication on minerals and nature conservation.

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undertaken by the minerals industry or by owners of recently disused mineral workings. It should be emphasised that the cases reported will primarily represent the ideas, work or research of the site operator rather than the planning authority. Thus, examples must clearly represent work undertaken **voluntarily** by the owner or operator. If undertaken as the result of a planning condition or obligation (unless unilateral, or advanced by the mineral operator), the work should be demonstrably above and beyond the minimum required to meet the conditions. Each example will clearly state this planning background. Individual cases may relate to one or more of the preparation, working, or restoration phases of a mineral operation.

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If you wish to seek clarification of any point please contact me or any of my colleagues below:-

Ian Collis, Associate Stephen Goodwin, Senior Assistant Planner Claire Snowdon, Assistant Ecologist

Yours faithfully

David Tyldesley Principal

3. LIST OF COMPANIES, CONSULTANCIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONTACTED

3.1 Companies (contacted directly)

British Gypsum Ltd
RJB Mining Plc
HJ Banks & Co Ltd
RMC Roadstone Products Ltd
Butterley Brick
Butterley Aggregates
Coal Contractors Ltd
Levington Horticulture

Companies (contacted via BACMI)

ARC Ltd
Blue Circle Industries Plc
ECC Construction Materials Ltd
Ennemix Holdings Ltd
Wimpey Asphalt / Wimpey Hobbs Ltd
Alfred McAlpine Quarry Products Ltd
Pioneer Concrete (Holdings) Plc
Redland Aggregates Ltd
Steetley Quarry Products Ltd
Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd
Tilcon Ltd
Evered Bardon Plc

3.2 Local Authorities

Avon County Council
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Durham County Council
Hampshire County Council
Nottinghamshire County Council

3.3 Consultancies

Wardell Armstrong

Kneight Piesold & Partners

Ark Associates Environmental Consultancy

Humphries Rowell Associates Ltd

Cobham Resource Consultants

Faulks Perry Cullcy & Rech

Anthony Goss Consultancy

Wimpey Environmental

Chris Blandford Associates

Ashdown Environmental Ltd

MJ Carter Associates

NA Duncan & Associates

Glen Kemp Hankinson

Greater Manchester Geological Unit

Herpetofauna Consultants International

Ironside Farrar Ltd

The Otter Conservancy

RSNC Environmental Services Ltd

British Geological Survey

Hunting Land & Environment Ltd

NEAP Environment Consultancy Ltd

RPS Group Plc

The Robinson Penn Partnership

4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

Avon C.C. Letter, 19.1.95, timescale and workload. Receipt acknowledged,

timescale extended.

Durham C.C. Letters 12 and 17.1.95 Nominated Thrislington NNR. Receipt

acknowledged.

Devon C.C. Letter 20.1.95, Nominated 2 examples. Receipt acknowledged.

M.J. Carter Letter 19.1.95, claim all work confidential for clients.

Associates Receipt acknowledged.

Associates

Chris Blandford Letter 1.2.95, unable to nominate a scheme, recommend contact

Mike Bellingham, Blue Circle. Receipt acknowledged. Blue Circle

contacted.

Knight Piesold Letter 23.1.95, timescale constraint. DTA written again with extension.

British Geological Letter 18.1.95, would draw up a list of schemes for £4,000.

Survey Receipt acknowledged.

BACMI Letter 10.1.95, concerned about timescale, receipt acknowledged,

advised of extension.

Pioneer Aggregates Letter 26.1.95 nominated a scheme in Scotland, receipt acknowledged.

RMC Letters 17 and 31.1.95, nominated Attenborough Nature Reserve,

receipt acknowledged.

Camas UK Ltd Letter 25.1.95 nominated three schemes, receipt acknowledged.

ARC Northern Letter 20.1.95, nominated three schemes, receipt acknowledged.

Humphries Rowell Letter 16.1.95, forwarded our letter to a client, receipt

Associates acknowledged.

Blue Circle Letter 11.1.95, sent context information, receipt acknowledged. DTA contacted them for more information but further help declined owing

4- -----

to company policy

Redland Aggregates Letter 21.02.95, sent information, receipt acknowledged.

Levington Horticulture DTA pursued by telephone and achieved telephone response.

Advised of time extension, agreed to submit 3/4 schemes,

submission awaited.

3.4 Response Rates

Consultants 21%

Local Authorities 50%

Mineral Operators 40%

5. LIST OF NOMINATED SITES

1. Thrislington Co. Durham

Grassland Translocation, Redland Aggregates Ltd.

2. Little Bradley Ponds, Bovey Tracey Devon

Watts, Blake, Bearne + Co, Wetland Scheme, Ball Clay restoration.

3. Chudleigh Knighton Heath, Devon

Watts, Blake, Bearne + Co, SSSI heathland, Ball Clay restoration.

4. **Lilleshall Quarry**, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

Camas Aggregates Ltd., restoration of limestone grassland, scrub and woodland.

5. Holme Park Quarry, Burton in Kendal, Cumbria

Camas Aggregates Ltd., Limestone Pavement and nature reserve, mineral extraction foregone.

6. Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottingham

RMC, Butterley Aggregates Ltd., sand and gravel workings, restoration and nature reserve.

7. Top Road, Misson, Notts.

ARC Northern, retention of silt ponds in sand and gravel workings.

8. Chainbridge Lane, Lound, Notts.

ARC Northern Ltd., nature reserve in sand and gravel workings.

9. Wykeham Pit, Wykeham, Scarborough, Yorks

ARC Northern Ltd., development of wetland habitats on aggregates site.

10. Wentworth Park Site, Barnsley, Yorks.

H J Banks Ltd., restoration of opencast coal site.

11. Frogmore Park, Herts.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., consented restoration plans altered for the benefit of wildlife.

12. Marfield Quarry, North Yorks.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., restoration of sand and gravel workings to wetland habitat.

ENGLISH NATURE

SUBMITTED SCHEMES CONT..

13. Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve, Kent.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., restoration of gravel workings to wildfowl reserve.

Panshanger Park, Herts. 14.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., management of surrounding wildlife interest during operational phase of minerals workings.

15. Cow Lane Sand & Gravel Pit, Cambs.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., restoration of mineral workings to wetland habitat.

16. Rammamere Heath, Beds.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., management of heathland as part of a wider scheme of strategic site management.

Kingswood SSSI, Beds. 17.

Redland Aggregates Ltd., management of woodland as part of a wider scheme of strategic site management.

6. LIST OF REJECTED SITES

Brandon Marshes Warwickshire, Redland.

Besthorpe Quarry Nottinghamshire, Redland.

Birnie Loch Scotland, Pioneer.

Grinshill Quarry Shropshire, CAMAS.

Houghton Main Colliery Yorks., MED Construction Ltd.

Eversley Common Hampshire, Redland.

Medway Woodlands Kent, Blue Circle.

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUS	TRY
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MARCH 1995

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Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA 1	reference1			
Mineral Operator: Name of CompanyRedland Ag	gregates Ltd			
AddressThrislington	Works			
West Cornfo	rth			
Ferryhill				
County Durh	am DL17 9EY			
•	Contact nameDavid Park (Restoration Manger). Tel. no0740 654461			
The work is *a physical scheme on a site *innovative research *an interpretive/information project *a trial or experiment for future application				
Site NameThrislington Plantation				
LocationDurham				
The relevant part of the site is open to the public Access is available by arrangement	Yes / No Yes / No			
If yes, contact nameDavid Park	Tel. no0740 654461			
Name of any environmental consultancy that assistedEnglish Nature and Durham Wildlife Trust				
Contact nameSimon Walker (EN)	Tel. no 091 586 0004			

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

Designated as a NNR and SSSI, this internationally important site holds the most extensive (22 hectares), diverse and representative example of semi natural magnesium limestone grassland in Britain. The site supports many botanical species at or near the northern limit of their distribution displaying interesting links between the chalk and limestone grasslands of the south and the arctic-alpine grasslands of the north. The site also has a considerable entomological interest including the largest inland colony of the Durham Argus butterfly.

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NOMINATED EXAMPLE Page 2

DTA reference1	
----------------	--

Brief summary of work carried out Following pressure to expand an existing quarry into the magnesium limestone grassland Steetley Quarry products, the then owners of the site, embarked on an experimental scheme involving the physical removal and transfer of the grassland to an adjoining site. A technical advisory group was set up to oversee the re-location scheme, made up of EN, DWT, the county mineral planning authority and the company's own specifically appointed restoration manager / ecologist. The actual process involved the removal of nine square metres of grassland at a time, together with the entire soil profile, resulting in the total removal of five and a half hectares. The scheme was completed over a period of 8 years and appears to have been a success. Redland Aggregates have subsequently gained control of Steetley Quarry products and remain committed to the protection and management of this ecologically important site as is evidenced by the subsequent designation of Thrislington Plantation, including those parts relocated, as a NNR in 1992.

Thrislington Plantation, inc	luding those p	arts relocated, as a NNR in 1992.	
Date work commenced	1982	Date completed	1990
The work is	Temporary /	Permanent	
The work was part of	site preparat	ion /-operational-phase / restoration	/ after care
The work was: Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process Yes / No Required by conditions on a planning permission Yes / No Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation Yes / No The obligation was unilateral Yes / No The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant Yes / No by the planning authority Yes / No The terms of the agreement (re-location, avoidance) reached between Steetleys and EN, DWT and the Minerals Planning authority were endorsed by the SoS and set out in a series of conditions following a public inquiry.			
		N and DWT	
The brief was prepared byRestoration Manager and the Technical Advisory Committee			
The design was prepared byRestoration Manager and the Technical Advisory Committee Who was consulted about the work?EN, DWT and the county minerals planning authority			
The work was carried out	by	Steetley Quarry Products	******************
THE WORK WAS CAFFICE OUT	on beman di		

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE Page 3

DTA reference	. 1	
The work was supervised bySteetley's appointed ecologist, EN, D'county minerals planning authority		
The cost of the work was paid bySteetley Quarry Products		
Was any grant aid or other funding used?	Yes / No	
The site is now managed byRedlands Aggregates and the Technica	al Advisory	
The cost of management is paid byRedlands Aggregates	********	
Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? If yes, at	Yes / No Yes / No	
Is the success of the work being formally monitored?	Yes / No	
A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English Nature free of charge Yes / No		
List of material submitted1. English Nature Information Sheet 5	n Scheme	

Commentary on nominated project

This well known and quite well publicised example of translocation and restoration was required as part of the terms of the grant of planning permission and cannot, therefore, be said to be entirely voluntary. However, the extent of the work, the extent of the research, experiment and monitoring almost certainly exceed what was required as part of the planning permission. The designation of NNR gives the case a high profile and readers of any subsequent publication may be surprised if the scheme is omitted as an example.

David Tyldesley and Associates
Sherwood House
144 Annesley Road
Hucknall
Nottingham NG15 7DD

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA 1	reference2
Mineral Operator: Name of CompanyWatts, Blake, I	Bearne & Co. Plc
AddressPark House	
Courtenay Par	k
Newton Abbo	t
TQ12 4PS	
Contact nameJohn Briggs (Estates Manager)	Tel. no01626 332345
The work is *a physical scheme on a site *innov *an interpretive/information project *a trial	
Site NameLittle Bradley Ponds	
LocationNear Bovey Tracey, Bovey Basin, Devon	
The relevant part of the site is open to the public Access is available by arrangement	Yes / No Yes / No
If yes, contact nameDevon Wildlife Trust	Tel. no 01392 79244
Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted	with the work
Not applicable	
Contact name	Tel. no

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

Site within Bovey Basin which contains a very important concentration of wetland habitats associated with former ball clay workings. A variety of habitats is present including ponds, streams, several boggy areas and birch, grey willow and oak woodland. Old workings are colonised by a fringe of wetland plants and support a wide range of aquatic invertebrates. The area is of national significance for its populations of dragonflies and damselflies. Existing pond and newly created pond form the Little Bradley Ponds Nature Reserve.

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE Page 2

DTA	reference	2	
D I A	I CICI CHICC.		

Brief summary of work carried out

Planning agreement for revocation of old planning consent by mineral operator (WBB) in return for payment for construction of a new pond on former clay pit site adjacent to an existing and well established pond. Both pond sites then transferred to local Wildlife Trust for management as a nature reserve. Actual work involved earth-moving and ditching works, tree planting, fencing and access provision. Forms part of a wider strategy for the conservation of wetlands within the Bovey Basin.

tree planting, fencing and ac of wetlands within the Boy		rms part of a wider strategy	for the conservation
Date work commenced	April 1991	Date completed	July 1991
The work is	Temporary / Pe	ermanent	
The work was part of	site preparation	/ operational phase / resto N/A	ration / after care
The work was: Entirely voluntary, ie no Required by conditions o Required by a section 52 1) Between Devon Count permission. WBB would not the pond. 2) Between DCC and DW site. The obligation was unilat The relevant part of the sections.	n a planning per / 106 agreement ty Council and out object providing VT allocating £15	mission / obligation Two agreemed WBB relating to the reverse funds were made available, 1000 for construction and	Yes-/ No ents were drawn up: ocation of planning le for the creation of management of the Yes-/ No Yes / No
The work was first propos	ed byJoint DCC	/ WBB based on DWT reco	ommendations
The brief was prepared by	DCC		
The design was prepared l	byDCC		***************************************
Who was consulted about	the work?DC	C / NRA	***************************************
The work was carried out	byWBB and	contactors and later by DW	/T
The work was carried out	on behalf of	DWT and CC	
The work was supervised	by DWT :	and DCC	
The cost of the work was	paid byDCC	subsidised by WBB	

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE Page 3

DIA referen	nce
Was any grant aid or other funding used?	Yes / -No
The site is now managed byDWT	
The cost of management is paid byDWT	
Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards?	Yes / No
Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? If yes, at	
Is the success of the work being formally monitored?	Yes / -No
A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available	Yes / No
The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] ph	otograph to English
Nature free of charge	Yes / No
List of material attached	*****
••••••	*************

Commentary on nominated project

The scheme was originally based on a voluntary agreement between 3 parties (DCC, DWT and WBB) although the situation was eventually formalised by a series of legal agreements. It illustrates a scheme which fits part of a wider strategy to safeguard wildlife interests from intensive mineral operations, through the creation of new habitats to compensate for those which will be lost in the future. It is also an example of a mineral operator foregoing the benefit of one site in return for another site, by way of agreed revocation.

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