

**GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS
INDUSTRY**

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA reference.....3.....

Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....Watts, Blake, Bearne & Co. Plc.....

Address.....Park House.....

.....Courtenay Park.....

.....Newton Abbot.....

.....TQ12 4PS.....

Contact name....John Briggs (Estates Manager)... Tel. no....01626 332345.....

The work is *a physical scheme on a site ~~*innovative research~~
*an interpretive/information project *a trial or experiment for future application

Site Name.....Chudleigh Knighton Heath.....

Location.....Chudleigh Knighton, Devon.....

The relevant part of the site is open to the public Yes / No

Access is available by arrangement Yes / No

If yes, contact name.....Devon Wildlife Trust..... Tel. no.....01392 79244.....

Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work

.....

Contact name..... Tel. no.....

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

Chudleigh Knighton Heath SSSI is the last extensive area of lowland heathland in the Bovey Basin. Consists of wet and dry heathland, scrub and woodland and many small ponds. Considerable entomological interest with a particularly good range of Odonata.

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 2

DTA reference....3.....

Brief summary of work carried out

Construction of a series of ponds within an area of wet heath in order to benefit dragonflies, damselflies and other aquatic wildlife.

Date work commenced March 1990 **Date completed** March 1990
(10 days work)

The work is Temporary / Permanent

The work was part of ~~site preparation / operational phase / restoration / after care~~
N/A

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 work was first proposed by.....Devon Wildlife Trust.....

The brief was prepared by.....DWT.....

The design was prepared by.....DWT.....

Who was consulted about the work?.....English Nature (due to SSSI designation).....

The work was carried out by.....Watts, Blake, Bearne & Co Plc (WBB).....

The work was carried out on behalf of.....DWT.....

The work was supervised by.....DWT.....

The cost of the work was paid by.....WBB.....

Was any grant aid or other funding used? Yes / No

The site is now managed by.....DWT.....

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 3

DTA reference3.....

**The cost of management is paid by....DWT with assistance through a Countryside
.....Stewardship Agreement.....**

Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No

Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No

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] photograph to English

Nature free of charge Yes / No

List of material attached.....

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Commentary on nominated project

This scheme appears to be entirely voluntary, with the DWT suggesting the scheme and the mineral operator co-operating to create net benefit through habitat creation. It was not directly connected with a planning application and was achieved without any form of legal agreement. The mineral operator undertook the original work but the DWT have designed and managed the scheme.

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NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA reference.....4.....

Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

Address.....Greystones.....

.....Huncote Road.....

.....Croft.....

.....Leicester LE9 3GT

Contact name.....Alan Bulpin..... **Tel. no.**.....0455 288222.....

The work is *a physical scheme on a site *innovative research
*an interpretive/information project *a trial or experiment for future application

Site Name.....Lilleshall Quarry.....

Location.....Much Wenlock, Shropshire.....

The relevant part of the site is open to the public Yes / No

Access is available by arrangement Yes / No

If yes, contact name.....Alan Bulpin..... **Tel. no.**.....0455 288222.....

Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work

.....English Nature, Shropshire Wildlife Trust.....

Contact name.....Jan McKelvey..... **Tel. no.**.....0952 432545.....

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

Limestone grassland, first notified as a biological and geological SSSI in 1954.

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 2

DTA reference.....4.....

Brief summary of work carried out

Site restoration following the cessation of quarrying in 1990 involving the reinstatement of stored overburden and topsoil. The aim is to develop limestone grassland, scrubland and woodland habitats.

Date work commenced 1990 **Date completed** On going

The work is ~~Temporary~~ / Permanent

The work was part of ~~site preparation / 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 work was first proposed by.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd through liaison with EN.....

The brief was prepared by.....Shropshire Wildlife Trust.....

The design was prepared by.....SWT.....

Who was consulted about the work?.....EN and SWT.....

The work was carried out by.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

The work was carried out on behalf of.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

The work was supervised by.....SWT.....

The cost of the work was paid by.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

Was any grant aid or other funding used? ~~Yes~~ / No

The site is now managed by.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 3

DTA reference4.....

The cost of management is paid by.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No

Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No

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] photograph to English Nature free of charge Yes / No

List of material attached.....

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Commentary on nominated project

Planning permission imposed vague restoration conditions such as "overburden and topsoil shall be removed and stored separately and shall be subsequently re-spread over the whole area in a proper sequence to levels and gradients satisfactory to the Local Planning Authority". The company therefore, following the cessation of quarrying, sought help from EN and SWT to generate improved restoration plans. EN congratulated the company on their positive outlook and appreciation of nature conservation and opportunities for the site. A series of Aftercare Management Proposals were produced by SWT. This is a particularly useful example of an old and inadequate restoration scheme / condition being brought up to date by imaginative habitat creation work and of the industry taking the opportunity to promote nature conservation rather than merely carry out the minimum restoration that would have complied with the old condition.

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NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA reference.....5.....

Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....CAMAS Aggregates Ltd.....

Address.....Greystones.....

.....Huncote Road.....

.....Croft.....

.....Leicester LE9 3GT

Contact name.....Alan Bulpin..... **Tel. no.**.....0455 288222.....

The work is *a physical scheme on a site *innovative research
*an interpretive/information project *a trial or experiment for future application

Site Name.....Holme Park Quarry.....

Location.....Burton in Kendal, Cumbria.....

The relevant part of the site is open to the public Yes / No

Access is available by arrangement Yes / ~~No~~

If yes, contact name.....Alan Bulpin..... **Tel. no.**.....0455 288222.....

Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work

.....English Nature.....

Contact name.....Mr. Elliot..... **Tel. no.**.....05394 45286.....

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

Limestone pavement and associated flora and fauna. The 35 acre site is notified as a geological and biological SSSI and a Limestone Pavement Order was confirmed in February 1990. Site occurs within Clawthorpe Fell NNR.

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 2

DTA reference.....5.....

Brief summary of work carried out

This is a very low input scheme. CAMAS's role has been simply to refrain from working a 35 acre site containing limestone pavement within the quarry. Management objectives of the site include the maintenance of surface features of geological and geomorphological interest and ecological features of scientific interest (including those species which are rare or threatened) associated with modified and unmodified pavement rock and crag outcrop, and to facilitate research and monitoring of this highly significant site.

Date work commenced 1974 **Date completed** On going.

The work is Temporary / Permanent

The work was part of ~~site preparation~~ / operational phase / ~~restoration~~ / ~~after care~~

The work was: The site is the subject of a Nature Reserve Agreement between the quarry owners, CAMAS Aggregates Ltd and EN whereby the limestone pavement is protected from all quarrying activities. The 21 year agreement due to expire in March 1995 has recently been extended for a further 10 years.

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 work was first proposed by.....CAMAS and EN.....

The brief was prepared by.....CAMAS and EN.....

The design was prepared by.....CAMAS and EN.....

Who was consulted about the work?.....EN.....

The work was carried out by.....CAMAS and EN.....

The work was carried out on behalf of.....EN.....

The work was supervised by.....CAMAS and EN.....

The cost of the work was paid by.....CAMAS.....

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 3

DTA reference5.....

Was any grant aid or other funding used? Yes / No

The site is now managed by.....CAMAS and EN jointly.....

The cost of management is paid by.....CAMAS.....

Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / ~~No~~

Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / ~~No~~

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] photograph to English

Nature free of charge Yes / ~~No~~

List of material attached.....

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Commentary on nominated project

This may be a useful example because of NNR status and the Limestone Pavement Order. However, although the operator appears to have foregone the possibility of working the area we cannot tell from our researches whether a planning permission existed. If it did not then the chances of getting a permission in the NNR / LPO were slim and the operator has not actually foregone very much benefit. On the other hand, if more operators were prepared to sign away their future prospects in 25 year and 10 year agreements it would create a much greater certainty of safeguarding and managing important sites which may potentially be threatened. For this reason it may be useful to use the example which would also raise the profile of Limestone Pavements generally, a much overlooked subject by planners and possibly by mineral operators too.

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NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA reference...6.....

Mineral Operator: Name of Company...RMC, Butterley Aggregates.....

Address.....17 - 21 West Parade.....

.....Lincoln.....

.....LN1 1NP.....

Contact name...Karl Arthurs..... **Tel. no..**01522 523391.....

The work is *a physical scheme on a site *innovative research
*an interpretive/information project *a trial or experiment for future application

Site Name.....Attenborough Nature Reserve.....

Location.....Long Eaton, Nottingham.....

The relevant part of the site is open to the public Yes/No

Access is available by arrangement Yes/No

If yes, contact name...Karl Arthurs..... **Tel. no..**01522 523391.....

Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work

.....Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.....

Contact name.....Norman Lewis..... **Tel. no..**0602 588242.....

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

A series of flooded gravel pits situated 7 km south of Nottingham City Centre. The site is managed as a nature reserve and has been notified as a SSSI due to its outstanding wildlife interest. The site is noted primarily for its ornithological interest, supporting many notable species of wintering, passage and breeding birds including bittern, cormorant, great crested grebe, common tern, kingfisher, great spotted woodpecker, garganey, pochard, and shoveler. The site also supports several interesting insect species including *Dytiscus circumcinctus* (a relative of the great diving beetle), and a species rich aquatic and terrestrial vegetation. The site is extremely popular as an informal countryside recreational venue, in close proximity to the Nottingham conurbation.

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 2

DTA reference....6.....

Brief summary of work carried out

Excavations began in 1929. Since that date the workings have extended to cover an area of over 600 acres. In 1966 the company, in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, declared much of the restored workings as a nature reserve which would be added to as restoration continued. The restoration process is progressive following the extraction works. Overburden is deposited back into the flooded workings to create islands providing shelter, nesting sites, and protection from predation and human disturbance. Since 1982, the company has employed a full time warden to help the local Wildlife Trust manage the wildlife interest of the reserve.

Date work commenced 1966 Date completed On going

The work is Temporary / Permanent

The work was part of ~~site preparation~~ / ~~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 work was first proposed by.....The company.....

The brief was prepared by.....The company.....

The design was prepared by.....The company.....

Who was consulted about the work?.....Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.....

The work was carried out by.....The company and NWT jointly.....

The work was carried out on behalf of.....The company.....

The work was supervised by.....The company and NWT jointly.....

The cost of the work was paid by.....The company.....

Was any grant aid or other funding used? No

The site is now managed by.....The company and the Wildlife Trust through a Reserve Committee.....

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 3

DTA reference6.....

The cost of management is paid by.....The company.....

Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes/No

Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes/No

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] photograph to English Nature free of charge Yes/No

List of material attached.....Information booklet.....

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Commentary on nominated project

This is an outstanding site of mature gravel workings with high nature conservation interest and considerable levels of public use and access. There is no doubt that the company has foregone some benefit by not taking the opportunity to infill some of the pits as required by old restoration conditions. Equally, the planning authority has allowed the nature reserve to benefit by not enforcing some of the old restoration conditions. The area is still an active quarry. The company's submission, however, understates the considerable time, effort and resources put into the site by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust over a 30 year period and publication would need to acknowledge this if relationships are to be maintained because we suspect that relationships have been tense at times, although this may be expected over such a long timescale. Nevertheless, this does not detract from the contribution and long term commitment of the Company. It must be one of the longest standing examples of voluntary promotion by a mineral operator of nature conservation in the country.

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NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA reference.....7.....

Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....ARC Northern.....

Address.....Clifford House, Wetherby Business Park.....

.....York Road.....

.....Wetherby.....

.....LS22 4NS.....

Contact name.....E P Jordan..... Tel. no.....0937 581977.....

The work is *a physical scheme on a site *~~innovative research~~
*~~an interpretive/information project~~ *~~a trial or experiment for future application~~

Site Name.....Former plant site / sand and gravel workings at Misson.....

Location.....Top Road, Misson, Nottinghamshire.....

The relevant part of the site is open to the public Yes-/ No but a public footpath
has been created.

Access is available by arrangement Yes /-No

If yes, contact name..... WH Strawson..... Tel. no.....0652 53107.....

Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work

.....Not applicable.....

Contact name..... Tel. no.....

Brief summary of nature conservation interest

Freshwater lagoon and silt lagoons have been retained which have been effectively colonised by wetland plants. The site has become a locally important site for wildlife including wintering, passage and breeding birds.

**GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE
MINERALS INDUSTRY**

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 2

DTA reference....7.....

Brief summary of work carried out

Additional tree and hedgerow planting carried out to supplement existing stock. Fencing and styles installed to facilitate public access. Part of the site also restored for agricultural use.

Date work commenced May 1990 **Date completed** Jan 1992

The work is ~~Temporary~~ / Permanent

The work was part of ~~site preparation / 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
by the planning authority** Yes / No Yes / No

The work was first proposed by.....ARC Northern.....

The brief was prepared by.....ARC Northern.....

The design was prepared by.....ARC Northern.....

Who was consulted about the work?....The land owner and the County and Parish Councils..

The work was carried out by.....Earthworks and landscape contractors.....

The work was carried out on behalf of....ARC Northern.....

The work was supervised by.....ARC Northern.....

The cost of the work was paid by.....ARC Northern.....

Was any grant aid or other funding used? ~~Yes~~ / No

The site is now managed by.....Landowner.....

GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature

NOMINATED EXAMPLE

Page 3

DTA reference7.....

The cost of management is paid by.....Landowner.....

Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No

Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No

If yes, at Doncaster sites, Otley and Wykeham.

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] photograph to English

Nature free of charge Yes / No

List of material attached.....None.....

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Commentary on nominated project

Whilst not of outstanding nature conservation importance or involving the operator in extensive works related to habitat creation or management (the site is mainly naturally recolonised) there may be advantage in promoting this site owing to the involvement of the local community. It is difficult to establish how extensive that was, or is, but as a matter of principle it may be a useful case study on this ground alone. ARC Northern have made genuine attempts to safeguard the nature conservation interest of their sites in North Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire and their sites include mature sand and gravel pits which collectively are of significant interest in a local context.

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