



Appendix Four

Examples of quarry restoration by QPA members

Quality restoration of land borrowed for aggregate extraction is one of the trademarks of the modern quarrying industry in the UK.

Extraction of minerals is a temporary land use that may last no longer than a decade for sand and gravel and perhaps 40 years for a rock quarry. Restoration is usually progressive and, in many cases, involves a return to agriculture - often at a higher quality than existed previously.

But restoration also offers an opportunity for beneficial change to new uses such as leisure facilities, wildlife habitats and country parks that benefit the community. Over 700 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) have aggregates or other minerals extraction as their origin. The industry is also one of the major contributors to new tree planting in the UK.

1 Berwick Woods Project Essex
Restored by Tarmac Southern Limited in partnership with Thames Chase

12,000 trees and shrubs have been planted to transform this derelict quarry to a community forest which is now London's largest area of wet woodland. The local residents from Rainham and Hornchurch have been closely involved throughout the restoration and a significant programme of artistic events have involved over a hundred students from local schools.



The case studies shown here are some of the most recent projects to come forward for QPA restoration awards.



Appendix Four

2 Whisby Nature Park Lincolnshire

Restored by Lafarge Aggregates Limited in partnership with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire County Council and Kesteven District Council

At Whisby Nature Park Lafarge Aggregates, local and district councils and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have restored over 150 hectares to lakes, woodland, ponds, scrub and grassland - home to more than 60 species of breeding birds and 100,000 human visitors each year. The park also includes the Natural World Centre and the Lafarge Education Centre.

3 Forest Rock Wood Leicestershire

Restored by Hanson Aggregates

Some 15,000 trees and shrubs planted on an 11-hectare landform now form part of the National Forest providing valuable new wildlife habitats. Public access has been encouraged by the construction of over half a mile of footpaths linking into the wider local network.



4 Kirkby Gravel Pit Nature Reserve

Lincolnshire

Restored by Woodhall Spa Sand & Gravel Limited in partnership with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

This nature reserve consisting of three lakes, surrounding trees and grassland makes an important contribution to the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Subject to seasonal wetting and drying out the main lake provides a variety of habitat popular with many wildfowl and migratory birds.



5 Carmel Woods Carmarthenshire

Restored by Tarmac Western Limited in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales

This 63-hectare area has been regenerated and recolonised and now forms part of the Carmel National Nature Reserve, widely appreciated both for its beauty, its geological and archaeological wealth. A site of Special Scientific Interest for both its biology and geology Carmel awaits still higher designation as a Special Area of Conservation.



6 Brockholes Quarry Lancashire

Restored by Hanson Aggregates

By providing several priority habitats, this nature conservation area makes a significant contribution to biodiversity attracting over 130 species of birds to date. These include the threatened song thrush, the little ringed plover and the reed bunting.



7 Cheviot Quarry Northumberland

Restored by Tarmac Northern Limited

As quarrying of this former wartime training aerodrome proceeds, progressive restoration has seen the land returned to use by gliding enthusiasts from the Borders Gliding Club. Other restored areas include treeplanting and lakes which have also become a haven for birdlife.



8 Waterford Heath Hertfordshire
Restored by Lafarge Aggregates Limited in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, East Hertfordshire District Council, Groundwork Hertfordshire, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the local community

This old quarry has been transformed into a community nature park through a plan which called for the management

of existing habitats, creation of new habitats and access routes and community involvement. The site is in two parts, each having a unique soil structure providing a variety of habitats for rare plants and wildlife.





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