

Company: Hanson UK
Location: Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, England

Objective The restoration of the clay quarry with different landscapes in order to support the conservation of the broad animal and flora diversity of the region.

Context Kings Dyke Nature Reserve was established in 1995 in a worked-out clay quarry alongside Hanson UK's Fletton brickworks at Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire. Initially covering 26ha the reserve has been extended several times and now covers 67.7ha with a further extension due for completion in April 2013 which will increase the size to 165ha.

Actions The site is monitored on a regular basis and the database now contains in excess of 80,000 records.

Large numbers of ponds have been created, with 70 in just the last 5 years. In addition, many areas are specifically kept bare for the important range of invertebrate species this habitat supports..

The site supports a wide range of BAP priority species including breeding populations of 10 birds species (Bittern and Turtle Dove being the most significant), and a number of mammals including Water Vole and Otter. In terms of herptiles, the site support large populations of Grass Snake, Common Lizard and Slow Worm

The site is also used by a number of local schools for onsite learning.

Result The site has contributed significantly to local BAP habitat creation targets.

The site presents one of the largest populations of the nationally rare Bearded Stonewort in the UK.

The site benefits from 2 bird hides, over 2km of footpaths/trails, an orienteering course, pond dipping area and fossil hunting area.

Partners Nature England, RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, Buglife and Froglife.

