

# Minutes

Subject: **Newington Quarry Habitat Management Committee Meeting**  
 Date: **21<sup>st</sup> September 2018**  
 Location: **Newington Quarry**

Present: John Ingham (Hanson – Principal Landscape Architect)  
 Julie Williams (DRaW - Consultant to Hanson)  
 Janice Bradley (Notts Wildlife Trust)  
 John Cranham (NCC)  
 Nick Crouch (NCC)  
 Julie Watkins (Misson Parish Council)

Apologies: Brian Dunning (Natural England)  
 Carl Cornish (RSPB)  
 Alison Beaumont (Environment Agency)

Distribution: As above plus:  
 Peter Davis (Hanson – Quarry Manager)  
 Jack Tregoning (Hanson – Land and Estates Manager)

Minutes taken by: Julie Williams

No.	Item	Actions
1	<p><b>Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>            Apologies as above.</p> <p>The meeting took the format of an update on progress in the site cabin followed where JI showed plans illustrating works taking place across the sites. This was followed by a site walkover during which a number of issues were discussed.</p>	
2	<p><b>Update on Quarry Progress</b></p> <p>JI gave an update on quarry progress with reference to site plans.</p>	
3	<p><b>Newington South</b></p> <p>Newington south was walked-over to view progress to date.</p> <p>Extraction ceased in Newington South in January 2017 and restoration earthworks commenced in Autumn 2017 and carried on</p>	

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4	<p>(after eco surveys were undertaken) to April 2018 when they ceased due to wet weather. JI explained that the earthworks contractors have just returned to Newington South this week and are continuing with 'bulk earthworks' and lowering areas that are too high. Material released is being used to infill some of the deep water areas and channels being careful to leave water bodies with plenty of 'edge' and ensuring a variety of cross-section profiles on perimeter ditches ( from shallow graded to steep sided). Steep sided ditches will be used alongside publically accessible areas (such as Slaynes Lane) to deter access. The steep sided banks are also ideal habitat for water voles.</p> <p>It was explained with reference to plans that further 'star shaped ponds' with shallow margins and some deep areas will be excavated from the reedbed cells. Also, that Hanson would create ridge and furrow on the wet grassland similar to that on the reedbeds but with wider spacing and more sinuous/natural looking in plan. This will allow variety in topography/wet areas/ drier areas/ but will also allow for standard agricultural machinery to cut the sward for management. Nick requested that more ditches be cut into the wet grassland, in particular from the two wide ditches. This will be included on the day works drawing. The 'bunds dividing the reedbed cells will be made narrower and higher with a create at 1.7m AOD to give a freeboard in winter of 60cm above highest water level (presumed to be 1.1m) on the southern reedbed cells as per approved plans.</p> <p><b>Newington North</b></p> <p>It was explained that Hanson has organised flailing followed by grazing with a local farmer (Joe Sutherton). When the farmer visited the site to flail he suggested it would be better to bring cattle on straight away and flail anything they had not eaten in late winter. The perimeter fence has been breached in 4 places and once this is fixed the farmer will bring his cattle on with a view to flailing after. The area will be grazed by 12 Hereford cattle.</p> <p>JI explained that due to pumping from Newington West to the Newington North the water level is now at its highest. It was agreed Hanson will start pumping out of Newington North again to lower water levels slightly and therefore give more capacity should the winter be very wet. This will also create more muddy/marsh areas favoured by snipe</p> <p>Nick asked if Hanson are still planning to lower Newington North. JI explained water levels were looking more like those originally planned so we may not need to lower as much as thought.</p> <p>It was agreed that when any additional earthworks are done on</p>	

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5	<p>Newington North (during the final restoration of Newington West) the fence at eastern boundary of Newington North would be removed from Misson down to the cattle corral and be reinstated alongside the existing hedgerow. This will increase the amount of wet grassland and also have the effect of removing the existing track that is no longer required for access. (Access will be from Slaynes Lane up to the cattle corral only). Topsoil skimmed from Newington North to lower the levels can then be spread in this area.</p>	Hanson
6	<p><b>Newington West</b></p> <p>Jl explained restoration works in Newington West had not been completed in Phase 2 as expected due to sandmartins being present in the restoration face. Overburden had to be surcharged in Phase 2 ready for pushing up against the face in final restoration. Works are expected to recommence in Phase 2 in Autumn 2018.</p>	
7	<p>Also part of the recent restoration works had ‘failed’ due to water ingress from Slaynes Lane ditch during wet weather. This had caused parts of the restored bank to collapse. This has since been repaired and reseeded. Hanson intends to insert a pipe to control the flow of water – preventing it seeping into the bank – and sending it into an existing ditch.</p> <p><b>Misson</b></p> <p>We also visited Misson to look at the recent restoration works there and in particular at the sand martin face that has been created and the nature conservation/wetland area that is under construction.</p> <p>.</p> <p><b>AOB &amp; Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the committee should meet again in 6 months’ time and that the meeting should be on site to see progress.</p> <p>Provisional date for next meeting (to be confirmed nearer the time):  <b>10.00am on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b> at Newington Quarry.</p> <p>Jl to circulate an agenda in advance.</p>	