



Regulation

Planning and Biodiversity

On the 16th October 2000, planning permission was granted for the extraction of sand & gravel at Wood Farm, Bubbenhall, Warwickshire, subject to the site being restored to provide low-level lakes, woodland conservation and grassland.

The site is situated between three blocks of woodland – Ryton Woods (a SSSI) to the north, Wappenbury Woods to the east (owned by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust) and Bubbenhall Wood (owned by Smiths Concrete) to the west.

There are 3 phases to the workings at Wood Farm: phases 1 and 2 have been extracted and restored. Restoration commenced approximately 18 months ago and has recently been completed. Phase 3 is currently being worked and then will also be restored over the coming 12 - 18 months. Therefore the quarry is still active, as restoration occurs at the earliest possible opportunity and usually follows each phase of extraction.

The overall objective of the restoration scheme for Wood Farm is to enhance the nature conservation value of the site. The restoration scheme is designed to retain features of interest, to mitigate for adverse impacts to existing features and species and introduce new habitats. Landform is to be gently undulating as well as varied slopes to create a variety of microhabitats. The site is to be partly planted and partly left to natural tree/shrub regeneration to encourage the development of woodland links between the adjacent woodlands. A geological exposure has been included within the restoration scheme. This is intended to retain an exposure typical of those uncovered during quarrying activities. Such an exposed face may also be suitable for sand martin nesting.