


<b>Date</b>	9 July, 2009		<b>British Land Reclamation Society</b>
<b>Event</b>	Summer visit		
<b>Theme</b>	Land and Ecological Restoration after Gravel and Sand Extraction		

### **Commentary**

Having had two recent visits to large regeneration schemes (Longbridge and Waverley); the summer BLRS visit will focus on land and ecological restoration after mineral working in Hertfordshire, hosted by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), Viridor Waste Management and Lafarge Aggregates. HCC's Restoration Manager, Andy McIntosh, will guide us with the respective site owners around two quite different sites. It was very much an outdoor networking (walk and talk) visit.

### **Waterford Quarry**


We meet on site at the old Waterford Quarry, which is a closed landfill. A working quarry and landfill for many years, the site was restored progressively through the 1980's and 1990's and finally closed around 10 years ago. The site has a complex patchwork of different planning permissions and associated restoration standards. The owners, Viridor Waste Management, outlined their plans for the future management of the site, which comprises a mixture of agriculture and forestry restoration over non-inert landfill, including an area of re-restored land that was completed in 1998 to address an earlier problem of 'differential settlement'. A representative from the Forestry Commission also explained their involvement through trials of the pioneering 'ridge and furrow' restoration technique for forestry on landfill. There is also an ongoing heathland restoration project on a nearby quarry site at Waterford Heath.

### **Panshanger Park**

After lunch we drove the short distance to Panshanger Park, the South-East area office of Lafarge Aggregates, which also contains a working quarry within the park. After an introductory talk from Lafarge at their offices in old stable block, we were given a guided tour of the park in 4 x 4's.

Panshanger Park is a 400ha Grade II\* listed parkland designed by Humphrey Repton but also containing remnants of an earlier 'Capability' Brown parkland. The mansion was dismantled in 1950's although some historic structures remain, including The Orangery. The site is now owned by Lafarge Aggregates and is another with a complex history of various planning permissions. The site has more recently been subject to a successful re-negotiation of 'old' 1980's planning permission through the 'RoMPP' (Review of Mineral Planning Permissions) mechanism. Still an operating quarry, the site has the benefit of a detailed package of phased extraction and restoration within carefully constrained working areas and all subject to a legal agreement and environmental management plan, all of which has been designed to be sympathetic to Repton's original vision for the park.

On our tour we learned about the process and negotiations involved in harmonising

<p>physical restoration with amenity, agriculture, conservation and historic heritage, including the sites substantial number of ‘veteran’ trees. We visited restored agricultural land, a recreated chalk stream, lakes and wetland scrapes, woodland and veteran tree management as well as the cleared ‘footprint’ of the demolished house and finally, the famous veteran tree known as the ‘Panshanger Oak’.</p>	
<p><b>Photos</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	<p>These were done informally and comprised:  Introductory talk by Viridor Waste Management followed by tour on foot looking at restoration to agriculture and forestry, including Forest Research site where ‘ridge and furrow’ technique was employed.  Site Visit: Tour in 4x4’s looking at restoration of mineral workings in historic ‘Repton’ parkland with mix of agriculture, conservation, wetland creation, woodland and veteran tree management schemes.</p>
<p><b>Venue</b></p>	<p>Panshanger Park And Waterford Quarry, Hertfordshire</p>
<p><b>Location</b></p>	
<p>Thanks to hosts Lafarge Aggregates &amp; Viridor Waste Management, see: <a href="http://www.lafarge.co.uk">www.lafarge.co.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.viridor.co.uk">www.viridor.co.uk</a></p>	