

# Welcome



**Thank you for attending our public exhibition, which is designed to share our proposals for a northern and south-eastern extension to Mountsorrel Quarry.**

The aim of this exhibition is to provide you with more information on these proposals, introduce you to the team, answer any questions you may have and gather your feedback.

Your valuable feedback will be used to shape our proposals over the coming months.

## **About Tarmac**

Tarmac is the UK's leading supplier of construction materials. With over 150 years of experience and heritage to our name, we're a national network of local businesses, combining the knowledge and expertise of two of the construction industry's most iconic brands:

- **Tarmac:** pioneers and inventors of the modern road; and
- **Blue Circle:** the company that patented Portland Cement.

We provide vital building materials, such as stone, sand, gravel, concrete, asphalt and mortar, that enable the construction and maintenance of homes, roads and infrastructure which play a vital part in our everyday lives.

We employ around 7,000 people across a network of more than 400 sites in the UK. As a large landholder, we are committed to managing the balance between industry, the natural environment and the communities we serve. We ensure that the land we own and develop is managed responsibly and sustainably restored and maintained for the benefit of local people, biodiversity and the communities in which we operate.

Mountsorrel Quarry is nationally significant to construction and infrastructure projects UK-wide, due to the high quality of the stone produced. The geological map of the country shows that hard rock, like Mountsorrel granite, is virtually non-existent south of the Humber and Severn estuary.

Leicestershire's rock reserves are the closest source of key construction materials for the southeast, and are vital to construction and infrastructure projects in this area, as well as to projects locally. We're proud to provide a consistent, high-quality supply of products to some of the most critical infrastructure in the UK. Expanding the quarry in the coming years will enable us to continue supplying these vital resources.

# A history of Mountsorrel Quarry

Granite quarrying has been at the heart of communities in Charnwood for at least 250 years, and has been carried out in many ways since Roman times.

The formation of the Mountsorrel Granite Company in 1854 saw the beginning of organised quarrying activity locally, with the site playing a key role in Britain's industrial revolution.

Mountsorrel Quarry has provided construction materials for major infrastructure projects across the UK, including the M1, M6 and HS2, as well as providing rail ballast for regional rail programmes.

Tarmac employs around 300 people locally, including operational jobs in the quarry and office-based roles in the Hub and Quorn House. We are also supported by contractors, agency workers and independent contract hauliers who help deliver our products and materials.



# About the mineral

The Charnwood region is renowned for its vast supply of distinctive pink granite, prized for its strength and durability.

The quarry's granite formed around 450 million years ago, after movements in the earth's crust forced molten rock to the surface. The stone's distinctive pink colour is derived from large pink crystals which formed as the rock cooled. It is this pink granite close to the surface that we extract here at Mountsorrel.

The physical properties of the granite found at Mountsorrel Quarry make it a highly desirable building material, frequently used in concrete, for buildings and structures, and in asphalt, the surface used for roads. The quarry's granite is also in demand for rail ballast – the stones you can see between and underneath railway tracks – as it is strong enough to support the steel track while trains speed along.

Leicestershire is the most southerly area of the UK in which this granite can be found and excavated. Incredibly, the region produces over 60% of the crushed rock extracted in England!





# Extracting the mineral

In order to extract the granite from the ground, we must first expose the bare rock. To do this, we have to remove the overburden, a mixture of rock and soil that covers the granite. We then drill holes into the surface and insert explosives so that we can break the rock from the ground.

Advances in blasting mean that we can conduct a series of blasts within fractions of a second. This directs more energy from shockwaves to break up the rock and minimises ground vibration in the surrounding area.

Blasting activity must adhere to strict safety and environmental standards, set by the Health and Safety Executive and Leicestershire County Council. The blasts are designed to ensure that they meet these specific standards, and adherence to this is monitored by fixed and mobile vibrograph machines.

Once the granite has been removed from the quarry ‘face’, we use excavators to load it into dump trucks. The trucks then transport it into the primary crusher, a huge version of a pestle and mortar, to break the rock up into smaller pieces. This crushed stone is then passed through a series of sieves to separate out different-sized materials, and then sent for further crushing to obtain exact sizes of material to be used in products, ready to be transported by road or rail.

The stone distributed by rail is transported by a conveyor from the quarry to our railhead at Barrow upon Soar. Over 50% of the materials produced at the quarry are distributed by rail, with the rest being sent by road on lorries.



# Planning history

Since the start of quarrying in the Charnwood area in the mid-18th century, the scale of the quarry has evolved significantly. Below is a brief snapshot of the how the quarry has developed:



**In 1947**, planning permission for the extraction of stone was granted at Mountsorrel, covering an area of 650 acres – the site of today's Mountsorrel Quarry.

**In the early 1970s**, the Buddon Wood area of the site was developed, and included the installation of one of the world's largest rock crushers – which is still in use today!



**In 1991** a planning application was submitted to Leicestershire County Council for an extension to the quarry and creation of natural-looking landscaping features to help reduce the visual impact of the site. Permission was granted by the council in 1994.

**In March 2012**, Leicestershire County Council granted new planning conditions to update older conditions in line with modern planning standards.



**In October 2015**, planning permission was granted to move some of the existing plant and office facilities, along with an extension of the quarry extraction area. This meant the primary crusher and surge pile (an overflow pile that is used to store the granite) could be relocated to a lower level within the quarry void, thereby providing access to more minerals located between the existing infrastructure.



# Being a good neighbour



## Noise

The quarry has a noise monitoring and mitigation programme in place, which is agreed and reviewed with Leicestershire County Council. Four times a year we carry out monitoring for 24 hours at selected residential properties to check whether the noise meets permitted levels. We also conduct a routine 24-hour environmental noise measurement onsite and at the site boundary, which highlights any potential concerns during sensitive operating hours. We use several techniques to help control the noise, including noise barriers, acoustic panels and silencers. Our noise monitoring reports are then discussed with Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and the quarry liaison group. The measurement, assessment and control of quarry noise has been carried out by external consultants Vibrock since the early 1990s.

As part of the planning application, a Noise Impact Assessment would be prepared to demonstrate that the proposed development would continue to adhere to existing noise levels.

## Dust

At Mountsorrel Quarry, we can predict when high levels of dust may occur, so that we can act. To do this, we use a mixture of data from our live dust monitor, weather information, and historic patterns in site dust levels at different times and days. Our dust monitors detect dust beyond the site boundary. We also collect dust samples from the local area, including the quarry, so we can better understand whether dust is a result of our operations.

We use a variety of methods to reduce dust from the site, including using water to keep soils wet, washing the wheels of lorries when entering and leaving the quarry, and the use of dust suppression foam.

When preparing the extension area, we will continue to use these methods to ensure that dust is minimised.

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# Supporting the local community

## Donations

Being part of the local community is vitally important to us. We're proud to continue our support for local groups and activities, donating to projects and good causes. There are two ways in which people can apply to us for funding: either directly through the quarry or through the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund.

Last year, we donated around £20,000 to local community projects. Since 2012, we've also donated over £2 million through the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund.

## Quarry Liaison Group

For over 30 years, we have worked closely with our local parish councils and other local representatives through our Quarry Liaison Group (QLG).

We care about our surrounding local communities, and through our engagement with the QLG we have continued to protect the welfare of our neighbours while we carry out our work at the quarry.

The QLG meets twice a year to discuss our work and future plans for the quarry. We are in contact with members on a regular basis in between meetings, to update them on the latest news from the quarry and to listen to their views.

The Group is made up of local representatives from Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Mountsorrel Parish Council, Quorn Parish Council, Rothley Parish Council, Barrow Upon Soar Parish Council and Woodhouse Parish Council.





# Overview of the proposals

We intend to apply for planning permission to extend Mountsorrel Quarry in order to secure the long-term supply of its special pink granite, which remains of local and national importance. While the quarry has planning consent until the end of 2040, the demand for minerals from Mountsorrel means that reserves could run out in about 15 years. The new application would extend the working life of the quarry by 18 years, until 2058.

A greater granite supply can be found to the north and southeast of the existing quarried site, with our investigations identifying valuable resources of stone within these areas. In order to access these minerals, we are proposing a redesign of the existing quarry.

We intend to operate the quarry at the same rate of output – with no change to how we currently operate, including the number of lorry movements via Granite Way, nor to agreed environmental mitigation measures that include, but are not limited to, a dust management and monitoring plan, or to working hours.



The proposed development scheme is shown on the plans on the following boards.

This plan shows how the site looks now with key quarry landmarks, including the stone extraction area, processing and distribution facilities, and road and rail connections created over the past 30 years.



# Northern extension



This diagram shows the proposed plan for the northern extension, by Quorn House Park.

Prior to any extraction taking place, we would create natural-looking landscaping to reduce the visual impact of the new extension, screening the view of the quarry for those who live nearby.

As part of the new development, we plan to create a new common land area in Quorn House Park, which will be available for use by the community before extraction begins. This will include a woodland area where residents can walk their dogs and relax, as well as a bridleway linking to Cufflins Pit Lane, which will improve connectivity for horse-riding.

The new common land will replace Rothley Common and provide residents with a larger, more accessible space. The new common will be 1.4 hectares bigger than Rothley Common, with the new site offering a fully accessible 5.7 hectares of public space.

Unfortunately, the removal of Rothley Common is unavoidable as part of the proposed south-easterly extension; however, we are committed to providing an alternative common land for the local community to explore and enjoy.

# South-easterly extension



This plan shows the south-easterly extension area.

In order to create the south-easterly extension, we would need to divert a section of Wood Lane, with a new route going around the margins of the quarry extension area and the new common at Quorn House Park.

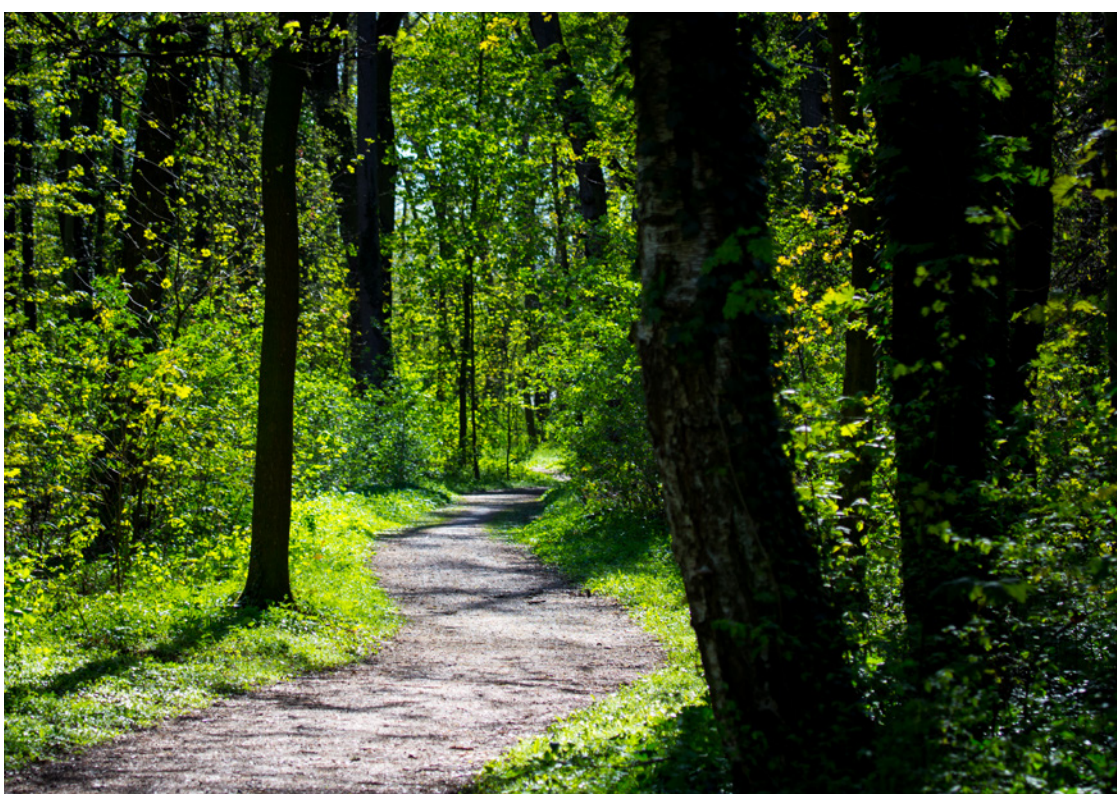
At the southern end, it would connect to a new junction with Bond Lane. New footpaths would be created, leading to the new common and Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre.

The northernmost section of Switland Lane would also be repositioned to make the road safer and less hazardous.

As with the northern extension, natural-looking landscaping will be created to screen the extension area. This landscaping will be created using soils and overburden materials that have been removed to get to the granite below. Any remaining soils and overburden will be stored in the space created by the northern extension and in the bottom of the quarry.



# Minimising our visual impact on the landscape



We're committed to ensuring our site blends into the local landscape so that there is as little visual impact as possible.

The proposed screening of the northern extension will retain the character of the surrounding wooded granite hills which form a backdrop to Quorn House Park. Natural-looking landscaping will also be created along the south-eastern boundary of the site to hide the view from residential properties and businesses.

While creating this screening there may be a short-term visual impact while the trees and plants grow and blend into the landscape.

# Minimising our impact on ecology and wildlife

## Ecology and wildlife

We are committed to ensuring our mineral extraction activities provide a positive contribution to biodiversity wherever possible.

Over the years, numerous surveys have been carried out to better understand the wildlife that lives at the quarry and its habitat, including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. These surveys help us to shape our extension proposals and to prioritise a biodiversity net gain, which occurs when developments leave a natural environment in a better measurable state than it was beforehand.

As part of our ambition for biodiversity net gain, we will ensure that we mitigate the loss of key habitats, including woodland, and the effect on wildlife. We do this by, for example, carefully transferring woodland soils and materials to new sites to preserve this valuable resource. We are also committed to a new tree planting programme.

We plan to encourage new woodland growth to support resident species and to benefit the local ecology and wildlife.



## Groundwater and flooding

As the proposed extension will not see the quarry floor go any deeper, it is not expected to cause any adverse impacts on groundwater. Water quality will also be maintained using silt ponds, designed to de-silt surface water runoff from the newly created landforms before the water is discharged.

Silt is a sediment, like dust, and silt ponds collect valuable nutrients and pesticides, reducing the amount of pollutants that enter streams and rivers. We also propose to restore the former fishpond in Quorn House Park through de-silting and vegetation removal, which would also increase the area's flood storage capacity.

Both proposed extension areas are located within flood zone 1, meaning that flooding is highly unlikely.



# Delivering high-quality restoration



This plan shows our concept restoration scheme. It is envisaged that an appropriate after-use would be to partly fill the quarry with water in a similar manner to the current arrangement with the council. This would be capable of providing a strategic water resource.

Under this scheme, the upper part of the quarry would stay above the water level and be available for leisure, educational and nature conservation-related uses. The water level shown corresponds with current sea level and lies approximately 58 metres below the water level of Swithland Reservoir.

We are committed to restoring the land in and around the quarry after extraction so that it can be enjoyed by the local wildlife and the community. We work closely with Leicestershire County Council, Natural England and the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust to review our progress each year. Proposals for the future restoration of the quarry include turning it into a public reservoir, with tree planting around the perimeter, and installing a network of cycle paths and walkways to allow people to enjoy the landscape.

While putting together the proposals for the extension, we have made it a priority to look at new ways to enhance biodiversity and provide additional benefits for people to enjoy.

We believe these proposals will also unlock other significant public benefits. A major example of this is re-routing Wood Lane, which will straighten the route so that it is safer for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

Additionally, we are looking to replace Rothley Common with an area of common land to the south of where the Common is currently situated, and provide public access to the grounds of Quorn House, with footpaths leading to new vantage points into the quarry and the surrounding area. We're also exploring the potential of developing a new visitors' centre, to showcase the history of quarrying in the local area. We look forward to sharing more information on this in due course.

# What's next?



## Thanks for taking the time to attend our public exhibition.

### Share your views

Please take a moment to fill out one of our feedback forms on our draft proposals. We will consider all suggestions or queries you may have. The deadline for receipt of feedback is Sunday 16th October, following which we will share our final proposals.

You will also have an opportunity to submit your comments directly to Leicestershire County Council as part of the statutory consultation process once the application has been submitted. We anticipate that this will happen in the new year.

### Keep in touch

Do get in touch with us if you have any questions about current operations or this application.

Enquiries about quarry operations:  
[mountsorrelfeedback@tarmac.com](mailto:mountsorrelfeedback@tarmac.com)

Enquiries about the public consultation:  
[jasmine@eqcommunications.co.uk](mailto:jasmine@eqcommunications.co.uk)

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