



A restored area of Mountsorrel Quarry.

Nature's Niche

How Mountsorrel Quarry digs deep to become a sanctuary for wildlife by **Joshua Mason**...

At Tarmac, we are committed to ensuring that our operations are carefully managed to coexist with the wildlife that calls this site home. As nesting season has recently come to an end, we want to tell you more about some of the species that live on site and how we ensure that we actively contribute to their preservation and enhancement.

PROTECTING BADGERS

We are fortunate that Mountsorrel Quarry is home to a variety of wildlife. One of these species is badgers and there are various badger setts within Buddon Wood and Swithland Reservoir which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). To protect them, we have mapped out all the different badger setts and regularly adjust or stop our operations, when working closer to them, particularly within critical periods such as breeding season and hibernation. This ensures that badgers can continue to thrive on site.

This approach is informed by our team of expert ecologists which ensures that we maintain the delicate balance between our quarrying activities and the wellbeing of the local wildlife.

A HAVEN FOR PEREGRINES

Peregrine falcons, one of the fastest birds in the world and protected in the UK

under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, have also found a home at Mountsorrel Quarry. It might come as a surprise, but hard rock quarries play an important role in the recovery of this endangered species, as their steep quarry walls provide an ideal nesting ground for these falcons.

We take great care to avoid disturbing these nesting sites, especially during the breeding season when these birds are most vulnerable. We are proud to contribute to the recovery of this endangered species, and as nesting season has recently come to an end, we will be keeping an eye on how many peregrines we can see at the quarry!

AN UNEXPECTED HOME FOR SAND MARTINS

Sand martins, which are the smallest member of the swallow and martin family in Europe, are small birds known for their agile flight. Sand martins can usually be found in sandy river banks, cliffs and gravel pits but they have decided to continue to nest in our stockpiles of granite dust at Mountsorrel Quarry.

Whilst they are visiting, we adapt our operations so as not to disturb them. This adaptability highlights that alternative nesting sites can be just as effective as their natural habitats. We love having them to stay and will continue to provide them with a safe home.

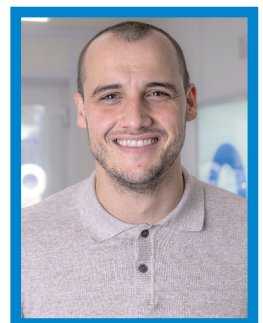
HABITAT RESTORATION

Our commitment to preserving wildlife extends beyond adapting our operations to avoid disturbances. We are also actively involved in creating new habitats for the local populations to thrive and expand. Through the progressive restoration of the quarry, we have successfully restored 60 hectares of land, turning them into diverse ecosystems that support a range of species from endangered birds to butterflies and allowing them to flourish.

Each year, we work hard to manage and enhance these restored areas across all the sites under our stewardship, ensuring that they provide the necessary conditions for wildlife to thrive, and we are proud that more than 85 of our sites have been designated as having high biodiversity value. This ongoing effort not only helps mitigate the impact of our operations but also contributes towards our goal of achieving net positive environmental outcomes.

If you see me around, please say hello as I am always keen to meet residents and answer any questions you may have. You can find out more about what goes on at Mountsorrel Quarry by visiting our website <https://Mountsorrel.tarmac.com>

If you would like to contact the team, please email mountsorrelquarryfeedback@tarmac.com



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