



The railhead, located in Barrow-upon Soar.

On the Tracks at Mountsorrel Quarry

We're proud of the investment we've made in our rail operations and want to tell you a bit more about how they support Mountsorrel Quarry by **Joshua Mason**...

At Mountsorrel Quarry, our rail operations enable us to efficiently transport granite across the country. Over half the granite we extract is exported by rail. This allows us to transport large volumes to depots across the Midlands, East Anglia, and the Southeast. Importantly, it enables us to remove several thousand lorries from roads each week, minimising our impact on the road network and cutting our carbon emissions.

ABOUT THE RAILHEAD

The railhead, located in Barrow-upon Soar, has been a cornerstone of Mountsorrel Quarry's operations for decades. With up to 15 people working on site at any one time, the railhead is the sidings area next to the mainline, where empty trains stop to be loaded and weighed. Purpose-built for the quarry, the railhead was developed to allow for the efficient transport of materials across the country.

Up to seven trains depart every day from Monday to Friday, each carrying an average of 1,600 tonnes of granite. As each freight train can carry the equivalent of up to 82 lorries, up to 577 lorries are taken off local roads per week. There are sidings and loading bays that allow us to fuel and maintain freight locomotives and wagons on-site. Our ability to load two trains simultaneously ensures that our rail

operations are efficient and capable of meeting high demand.

DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY

Our railhead helps Mountsorrel Quarry achieve its sustainability goals. Rail transport is far less carbon intensive than road transport, whilst still allowing us to move large quantities of material. Recent innovations have allowed us to increase the capacity of each train by 400 tonnes (an extra 19 lorries!). Not only can we move more mineral per journey, but it also reduces emissions per tonne helping us to achieve our goal of a 45% reduction in CO2 per tonne of product by 2030.

The railhead is more than just a transportation hub; it's a vital cog in the quarry's operational machine. As quarrying can only take place where minerals are found, our ability to move large quantities of granite efficiently and sustainably enables us to deliver the construction materials needed for housebuilding and infrastructure programmes across the country. The railhead will remain central to our efforts to meet future demand while driving toward a more sustainable future.

INTRODUCING ABBEY!

We sat down for a quick Q&A session with our Rail Manager, Abbey Withers, to introduce her and her role at the Barrow-upon Soar railhead.

Q: What's your role at the railhead?

A: I am the Rail Manager. I manage a team of eight people that work together to run a 24-hour operation from Monday to Friday. I'm responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the railhead, from loading the train wagons to making sure everything runs on schedule.

Q: What's the biggest challenge you face?

A: The sheer size of Mountsorrel Quarry means we have to work collectively and communicate well across the entire team. It's a complex process - from extracting of the granite at the quarry faces to loading trains at the railhead. This requires co-ordination between a lot of people, including those in asphalt production, road sales and everyone at the railhead.

Q: What drew you to this role?

A: When I started at Tarmac, I had roles at various quarries including at Mountsorrel and Shawell. When the opportunity to work at the railhead came up, it felt like a unique chance to broaden my experience. There aren't many opportunities in railhead operations, so it was a great way to gain new knowledge and skills. After so many years in the quarrying sector, it's nice to switch things up a bit and take on a new challenge.



Abbey Withers.

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

Joshua Mason, Senior Operations Manager.