



**ROCK  
STARS**

**Facts  
& figures**

# **What is Mountsorrel Quarry?**

**Mountsorrel Quarry is one of the largest granite quarries in Europe and is also one of the biggest and most important stone quarries in the UK.**

It's located in Leicestershire and has been part of the local community for over 150 years.

The pink stone at Mountsorrel is very special and only exists in a few places in the UK.

The Quarry covers an area of around 500 acres — that's roughly the size of 250 football pitches!



## Where is the granite used?

Every year, millions of tonnes of stone from Mountsorrel Quarry is sent across the UK to help build things like:

**New motorways and roads**

**F1 tracks**

**Train lines and tramways**

**Homes, schools, and shops**

**Even parts of stadiums and airports!**

## What is pink granite and why is it special?

**Granite, like the pink stone found at Mountsorrel Quarry, is a very hard igneous rock formed deep underground over millions of years.**

At Mountsorrel, it's dug out of the ground and crushed up, so that it can be used to build roads, railways, buildings and more.

So, what is igneous rock? Igneous rock forms when hot, melted rock cools down and becomes solid. Some igneous rocks form deep underground when magma cools slowly - this gives them big, sparkly crystals. Other igneous rocks form when lava erupts from a volcano and cools quickly - these rocks can be smooth or bubbly.

This means that the granite at Mountsorrel Quarry formed millions of years ago deep inside the Earth! Mountsorrel's granite is made up of a combination of minerals including feldspar, biotite and quartz. It also has a high proportion of large pink crystals which gives it that rare pink colour - making it extra special!

The granite at Mountsorrel is about 450 million years old, making it much older than the dinosaurs (they didn't arrive until about 245 million years ago!).

## Top of the Rocks!

**Did you know that Sir David Attenborough - the world-famous nature expert - thinks Mountsorrel's pink granite is something really special?**

Sir David once said that studying this rock helped him win a scholarship to Cambridge University! He even kept his own collection of Mountsorrel granite and later donated it to the University of Leicester's geology department. When Tarmac discovered that he no longer had a piece of Mountsorrel rock, they decided to send him a new one to keep!

Mountsorrel granite is also part of a giant rock timeline at Charnwood Forest Geopark. It was chosen by Sir David to help teach people about Earth's history.

So, next time you see Mountsorrel's pink granite, remember: it's not just a rock. It's a piece of our planet's past, and even a hero like Sir David Attenborough thinks it's worth celebrating!



## Who works at the Quarry?

**Lots of local people work at Mountsorrel Quarry, and there are a surprising number of diverse jobs.**

**There are:**

- Engineers
- Geologists - who study rocks
- Environmental teams - who look after nature and wildlife
- Strategic planners - who design what happens next
- Account managers - who look after our customers
- Production managers - who make sure mineral is produced and delivered on time
- Machine drivers - who operate dump trucks, excavators and diggers
- Explosives experts - who help extract the granite with controlled explosion

## How is Mountsorrel's granite transported?

- Around 60% of the granite from Mountsorrel is transported by train
- Up to seven trains per day leave the quarry's railhead
- Each train carries an average of 1,600 tonnes of granite
- Trains from Mountsorrel go to places like London, Birmingham, Leeds and beyond
- Using rail helps to remove around 577 trucks from the road every week, which is better for the environment.
- Within the quarry, the dump trucks that transport the granite around the site can carry up to 100 tonnes of rock in one go - that's like carrying around 50 cars!
- Using super-sized trucks like this helps reduce vehicle movements.
- Around 35-40% of Mountsorrel's stone is moved by lorries on the road. The lorries use pre-planned routes to avoid busy times and reduce traffic where possible.
- Many lorries are fitted with modern low-emission engines, which help reduce pollution.

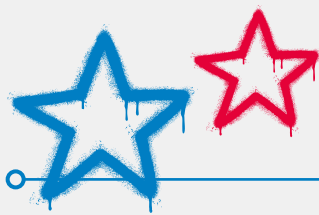
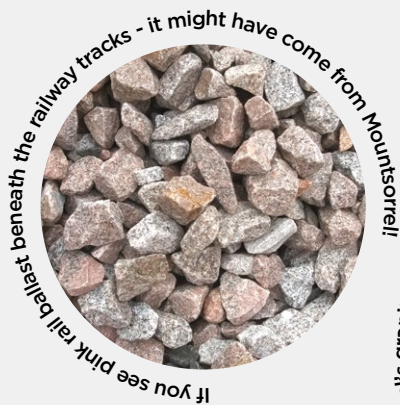
# Why is the Quarry important to our community?

Mountsorrel Quarry has provided jobs for local families for many generations.

It also helps to build things we all use every day, in the infrastructure and buildings around us. Tarmac and the Mountsorrel Quarry team also have a long history of supporting local events, schools, and sports clubs. We are proud to have been a long-standing member of such a vibrant community!



## Fun facts!



## Your challenge

Use our facts and figures as inspiration to tell the story of Mountsorrel's pink granite - past, present, or future - in a way that's fun, creative, and original.

You can draw it, write about it, or build it. Whatever inspires you.

**We can't wait to see what you come up with!**

Visit <https://mountsorrel.tarmac.com/rock-stars/> for more detail.

