



Restored Scorton Quarry , now Scorton Lakes

Restoring Quarries in North Yorkshire

September 2023

**Over the last 5 years we have
planted 278,000 trees UK wide**

**We have already committed to
creating 4,100 hectares of UK
Priority Habitats as part of our
approved planning permissions**





Who we are

Tarmac, a CRH company, is the UK's leading sustainable building products and construction solutions business. With over 150 years of experience and heritage to our name, we're a national network of local businesses. We provide building materials, such as stone, sand, gravel, concrete, asphalt and mortar which enable the construction and maintenance of key infrastructure, such as our homes and roads, which play a vital part in our everyday lives.

Tarmac manage over 110,000 acres of land and significant mineral reserves across the UK. This includes land that's being quarried or in active use for manufacturing, land that's yet to be quarried, and land that has been restored. When we restore quarries, we create a range of habitats and aim to create a lasting legacy, enhancing biodiversity and benefitting local communities. Several of our sites have won awards for restoration such as Langford Lowfields in Nottinghamshire.

North Yorkshire is an important part of our business, with four active quarries covering 4,000 acres of land. We've created especially valuable restoration habitat and public access at Marfield near Masham, Scorton and Nosterfield near Well village.

Restored wildflower meadow



RAF Bomber War Memorial



Restored lake with reedbeds and grassland beyond



Restored lake with reedbed margins, a big attraction for many red list species

Scorton Lakes

Over the last 40 years the site has been progressively worked and restored. In 2022 extraction and processing finally ended and the site was fully restored. Site manager Alan Coe, the Tarmac restoration team and local ecologist Mark Hewitt worked painstakingly to create a very deliberate and sustainable mosaic of habitats.

In 2022, the site stopped operating and was fully restored. Like many of our Yorkshire sites, we have committed to a 30-year aftercare programme which is 25 years over the statutory requirement.

The local community already greatly value the lakes, reedbeds, broad-leaved woodland, parkland, and extensive footpath network.

Careful planning of footpaths has allowed natural habitats to thrive whilst still creating public access to green space, enhancing people's wellbeing and connection with nature.

Red list species have already been recorded such as curlew, lapwing, egret, avocet and white letter hairstreak butterfly.

Scorton Lakes Plan showing the extensive footpaths, public car parks and habitats



As well as all the amazing wildlife and flora you will see, look out for the points of

Bridleway/footpath

.....

Permissive/seasonal Route

.....

Circular route 4km (2.5m)

1. Willow Carr
2. Restored quarry plant site
3. Water control/slucice
4. Historic railway embankment
5. Parkland with Dexter cattle
6. Reed beds
7. RAF memorial & wind sock
8. Wetland link
9. Oak tree Monoliths for Bats/insects
10. Ancient round barrow foundations
11. Underpass - low headroom
12. Part of Coast to Coast route
13. River Swale
14. Silt flush natural regeneration



Alan Coe and Mark Hewitt hosting the annual nature walk around the restored lakes which is open to the public



One of the many footpaths created as part of the approved restoration scheme



Early woodland planting

The approved restoration plan for Marfield quarry showing the proposed wetland habitats and agricultural land





The restored Marfield wetlands which adjoins the Marfield Fen SSSI

Marfield Quarry and Wetland Local Reserve

Marfield Quarry is still in operation, with previously quarried areas being progressively restored. Some of the site has been restored to agricultural land, however a large area has been re-established as wetland habitat and is now known as Marfield wetland reserve.

Like many such sites the end result was achieved by personal interest and hands on effort over the years. Overseeing this transformation is Chris Pennock, Tarmac Section Manager.

In 2015, Chris received an industry award from the MPA for his outstanding commitment to biodiversity management and habitat enhancement for his work at nearby Nosterfield Quarry. It is hoped he will now use his expertise when restoring Marfield.



Tarmac previously transferred the original restored Nostefield Quarry to the LUCT. This is a bird hide which was constructed on the restored land



Within the last 7 years, we have contributed over £80,000 to special projects which go beyond our planning commitment, including these Sand Martin Banks

Nosterfield Quarry and Thornborough Moor

Sand and gravel quarrying at Nosterfield has taken place for several decades. Much of the extraction has taken place below the water table using an electric dredger. This has created several water bodies which we have looked to optimise for nature conservation. Much of this work has been led by Alan Coe (once Tarmac Area Manager but now a consultant) and Chris Pennock (Tarmac Section Manager) who both have a long history with Nosterfield.

Surplus materials are used to create wetland areas and to sculpt the shores of ponds. Information boards, footpaths, birdwatching hides and a visitor centre have been created.

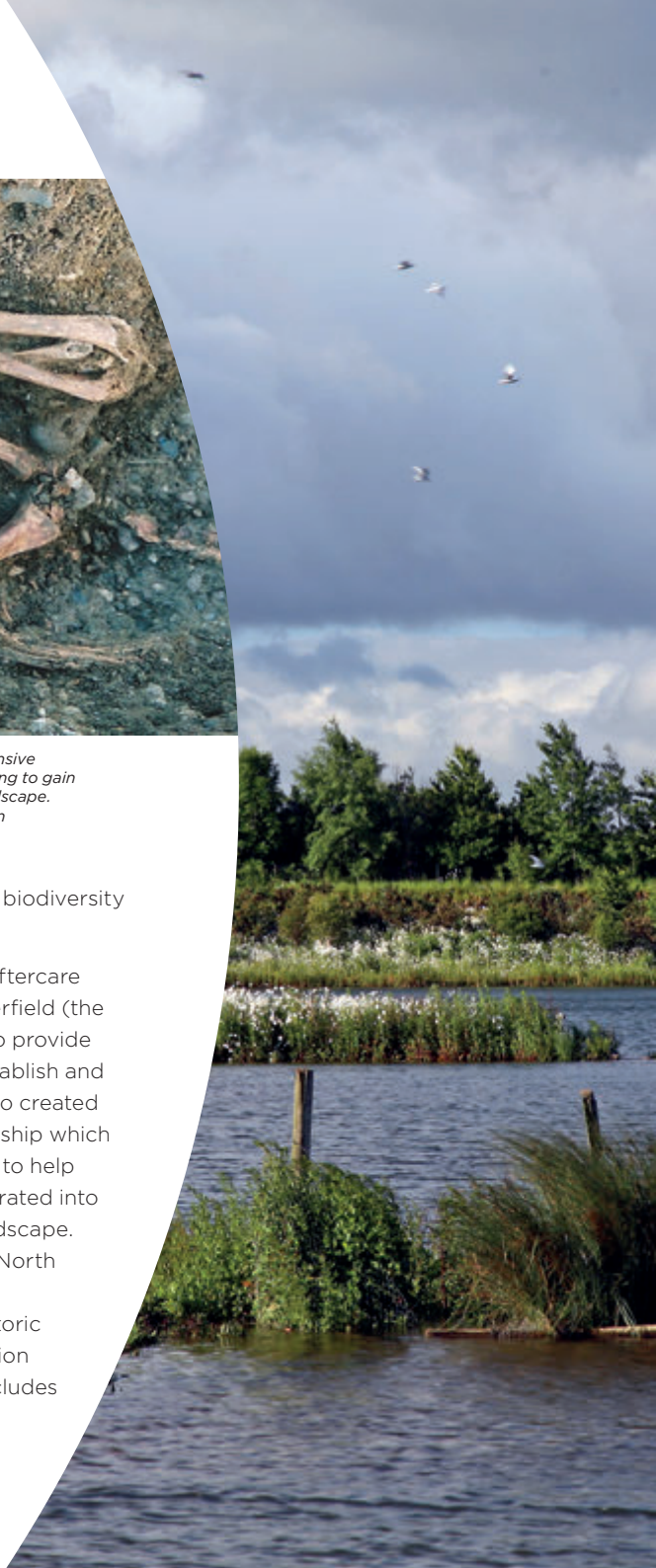
We have a long history of working with the Lower Ure Conservation Trust (LUCT) who hold a long-term lease of a large area at no cost. The LUCT carries out substantial work at Nosterfield. This includes growing and planting important reeds and other wetland plant



Over the years, Tarmac have fully funded extensive archaeological research, fieldwork and reporting to gain a better understanding of the pre-historic landscape. This has directly fed into our restoration design

species which greatly advance the biodiversity contribution of the site.

We have committed to a 30 year aftercare management programme at Nosterfield (the statutory requirement is 5 years) to provide time for the restored habitat to establish and be properly managed. We have also created the Strategic Management Partnership which utilises local interest and expertise to help ensure the restored quarry is integrated into the wider Thornborough Moor landscape. This Partnership includes Tarmac, North Yorkshire Council, Parish Councils, Landowners, English Heritage, Historic England and Lower Ure Conservation Trust (LUCT). The area covered includes the Thornborough Henges which Tarmac gifted to Historic England.





Nature hides will be created to allow walkers to view the site without disrupting wildlife



A circular footpath route will be created along the north of the site



Marginal planting, fen grassland and extensive reed beds will be created

Well



Sand Martin Bank



The restoration design reflects the historic wetland areas including open water bodies

Boundary to the planning application for the proposed Oaklands extension to the quarry



Visitor access has been created along a network of walking routes

Footpaths



Tarmac built the visitor centre for use of the public

To reflect the pre-historic landscape a "landbridge" will be constructed using quarry restoration material. This will provide perfect habitat for priority nesting birds such as Curlew



The LUCT has created a plant nursery to support the ongoing conservation and habitat creation. This includes reintroducing many lost plant species

Nosterfield Nature Reserve

Thornborough



Curlew have been sighted within the Quarry and the restored Nosterfield Nature Reserve. The Reserve is the only lowland breeding site on a nature reserve in Northern England



Tarmac have donated the nationally important Thornborough Henges to Historic England. The site is open to members of the public to enjoy

West Tanfield

Nosterfield: wildlife habitat restoration

500m



The well established restored wetlands which attracts many priority birds



The visitor centre which was built by Tarmac and is open to the public



In 2023, Tarmac donated its interest of Thornborough Henges to Historic England.

We have been extracting minerals and restoring quarries in Yorkshire for decades and take great pride in what we create.

Many of our restoration schemes look to create more interesting and diverse landscapes and we always strive to leave the land in a better position than before we started quarrying. To achieve this we rely on the expertise of various people and organisations. This not only includes the passion of our own employees but also landscape architects, ecologists and local enthusiasts.

We hope to continue to supply Yorkshire industry and infrastructure projects and remain committed to producing high quality restoration for our landowners, local communities and wildlife to enjoy.







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