

## Welcome...

**We are continuing to work on our submission to update the existing planning consents for Westdown quarry, ahead of its reopening.**

Our proposals seek to resume extraction using modern practices and to provide a progressive and final restoration plan for the site as well as extensive measures to protect Asham Wood.

To provide more information on these proposals, we have extended the FAQ section of our community website for Whatley and Westdown quarries. This includes additional details on the restoration plans for the Asham quarry void area as well as setting out the steps we will take to protect and enhance wildlife habitats. We are also hosting a drop-in event on January 12, 2023 (see

page 4) and look forward to answering any other questions then.

I am pleased to report that so far this year we have supported over 20 local community projects with financial contributions and/or the provision of materials. Some of the schemes we've supported, such as the planting of 500+ trees in a field near Upper Vobster, will take a few years to establish, but we have shared details of some of the others below and on page 3 of this newsletter.

Finally, we have introduced a 'meet the team' section, which I hope will give you an insight into the day-to-day workings at Whatley and highlight the career opportunities that exist with Hanson.

**Ian Strachan**  
Strategic development manager



Hanson project manager Justin Collis (left) with Whatley team member Beki Devine (right), project volunteers Kate Chadwick and Pete Thomas and Olga's Community Wood founder Paul Williams (centre)



A donation provides woodland access for all.  
**See story on page 3.**

## New date for open day

We were disappointed to postpone our open day in September due to the planned date coinciding with the period of National Mourning following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth.



We were looking forward to welcoming our near neighbours to Whatley quarry and are pleased to announce that we will now be opening our doors on Sunday 23rd April 2023 between 10.30am and 3pm instead.

Our plans for the day remain the same, with a host of family-friendly activities taking place as well as tours of the site, displays from our blasting specialists and the opportunity to explore fossil and mineral finds from Whatley and to hear from our environmental team.

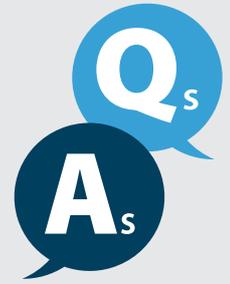
Our fleet of five new state-of-the-art CAT 777G dumper trucks plus our CAT 992 large wheel loader will also be on view, along with specialist locomotives and new rail trucks at the rail head.

Ahead of the event, more information will be posted to our community website (address on back page).



## Whatley quarry: meet the team

Somerset resident James Brown, 21, started as an apprentice at Whatley quarry in 2020 and is now production supervisor. He explains more about his operational role and career journey so far.



**Q:** Why did you choose a career in the minerals sector?

**A:** I knew someone in quarrying, and they mentioned Hanson's Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) programme for post-sixth form school-leavers. I had a look and saw that there was a vacancy at Whatley, which is about 15 minutes from my home in Peasedown St John.

I liked the look of the learning programme and was thrilled to receive an offer. I soon learned that Hanson is about so much more than quarrying as there are many different aspects to the business.



**Q:** What has your experience been like as an apprentice at Whatley?

**A:** My first year focused on the general site works at Whatley. I spent nine months on shift work as well as shadowing a supervisor to see first-hand how the site operates.

In year two I was given specific sections to work on, including at the railhead, as the wash plant 'manager' and assisting the excavation supervisor.

The wash plant was a highlight, as having my own area of responsibility and the freedom to trial new ways of working gave me an insight on managing a small site. I also had the opportunity to go to university and meet other Hanson LEAD apprentices.

A challenge has been learning all the regulations and procedures as there are so many specific to quarrying, but every day I learn something new, and the excellent training has enabled quick progression into my latest role.

**Q:** What do you do in an average week as production supervisor?

**A:** Every week is different. Sometimes there are certain focuses to work on such as creating new products or inspecting specific areas of the plant.

However, most days involve dealing with local contractors that come to site, ensuring that stocks are correct in terms of size and specification and overseeing train loading. Most importantly, it's about making sure that health and safety standards are being maintained every day.

**Q:** What is the best thing about working at Whatley?

**A:** I feel very fortunate to work at a site which is supporting the building of major pieces of infrastructure, such as Hinkley Point C.

A bonus is also using the newest technology to support our daily operations.

**Q:** What are your future ambitions?

**A:** Over the next five years I hope to find myself in a management role, either as an assistant site manager or potentially managing my own site.

In the short term, I would like to stay in an operational role to really solidify my knowledge. The industry is one that is constantly changing so new opportunities may come up that don't even exist yet.



## Apprenticeships at Whatley

Two LEAD apprentices and two engineering apprentices are currently based at Whatley quarry as part of our 60+ team.

For more information about the apprenticeships we offer, as well as our graduate programme and a wide range of other career opportunities, visit: [www.hanson-careers.co.uk/en](http://www.hanson-careers.co.uk/en)



## Visitors greeted by new village signs

Visitors to Chantry are now greeted by two new signs, paid for by Hanson.

Local residents Trevor Williams (left) and Mark Norris wanted to enhance entry into the village and sought permission

from Somerset County Council to put up new signage. "We were overwhelmed by Hanson's donation," said Trevor Williams. "It is an excellent example of their commitment to the local community and the signs are a great addition to the village."

More information about our community support programme and how to request a donation can be found on the 'supporting the community' page on our website (see back page for address).

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## Woodland access for all

**A materials donation to a project spearheaded by Whatley resident Paul Williams is providing people with mobility needs the opportunity to reconnect with nature at a secluded woodland in North Brewham, Somerset.**

The Olga's Community Wood charity project, in memory of Olga Williams, was set up to provide a fully accessible woodland for all. Whatley's contribution of 560 tonnes of scalping material meant the group was able to construct a 1,500-metre circular pathway through the wood to facilitate access.

"Without Hanson's support, the project would not have come to fruition," said Paul Williams. "There are not enough words to express my gratitude to the team at Whatley for this exceptional contribution to the community which enables access to this local woodland for all to enjoy, from school children with additional needs to the elderly."

## Improved car parking for Vallis Vale

**Walkers are benefiting from an improved parking area for the Vallis Vale river walk thanks to Hanson.**

The land for the car park is owned by local resident Max Havatny, who granted permission for the work to be carried out to allow better access to the Hanson-owned land.

We donated five tonnes of aggregate to form the base of the car park, 56 tonnes

of asphalt to complete the new surface, and also covered the costs of it being laid by local contractors.

"The Friends of Vallis Vale really appreciate Hanson's generosity in improving access to this beautiful natural spot, which has become such a refuge for many since the Covid-19 lockdowns," said Anna Green, who is pictured with her daughter Sophia and Max at the site of the new car park.





## Drop-in session: come and find out about proposals and restoration plans for Westdown quarry

We are holding a public drop-in session on our proposals to update the existing conditions for Westdown quarry on **January 12, 2023 between 14.00 and 19.30** at our **Whatley quarry offices, BA11 3LF**.

The session will give local people a chance to review our plans, including the latest ecology information supplied to Somerset County Council, as well as hear about the

socio-economic benefits of our proposals and our restoration scheme. Members of the team, including our planning and environmental specialists, will be on hand to speak to residents and answer questions.

Land, planning and development manager, Trystan Mabbitt, said: "Our initial pre-application consultation took place online due to Covid restrictions at the time, so hosting a drop-in session now will

■ **Reopening Westdown quarry forms part of Hanson's combined strategy in the East Mendips, aimed at minimising the impact of our operations, benefiting neighbouring communities and enabling continuity of supply for vital construction materials. A video setting out this strategy, including our commitment that the operations of both quarries, including mineral volumes and vehicle movements, will not exceed the current permitted levels for Whatley, is available on our website.**



Whatley-based LEAD apprentice Tobi Hooker delivers sandbags to head teacher, Claire Chantler

### Whatley quarry to the rescue

We were happy to help Mells Church of England First School following an SOS call.

A period of intense rainfall meant that two of the school's classrooms had become unusable. And, with further rain forecast, sandbags were urgently needed to provide protection and soak up runoff.

Head teacher, Claire Chantler, said: "Our location at the bottom of a steep hill means we can be vulnerable during intense rain. Hopefully the sandbags will limit any further damage and we're grateful to the team at Whatley for responding so quickly."



allow us to share the latest information face-to-face. "This will include how our proposals for Westdown quarry will deliver a transformative legacy project through the progressive restoration of the adjacent Asham Wood void providing ecological and biodiversity enhancements, as well as highway improvements and safer access for pedestrians and horse-riders."

### Blasting notifications

Local residents can still sign up to receive our blast notification text messages, which include a weekly update setting out planned blast times for the week ahead, plus a follow-up notification approximately half an hour before each blast takes place.

To receive the free notifications email us at: [whatley.quarry@hanson.com](mailto:whatley.quarry@hanson.com)

We also provide updates on blasting at our regular community liaison meetings and the minutes are posted to our website. More information on blasting is also available in the FAQ section of the website (see address below).

### How to get in touch



You are welcome to contact us with any questions you may have about our operations. We will respond in a timely way to all who make direct contact with us.

You can also let us know if you would like to be added to our database to receive future updates by email.

#### Contact us:

☎ 0800 644 4234 or

✉ [whatley.quarry@hanson.com](mailto:whatley.quarry@hanson.com)

🌐 [www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page/](http://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page/)

Hanson UK provides newsletters voluntarily to help the local community keep up to date with our activities relating to our quarries in the East Mendip area. Any personal data you provide will be used only for this purpose. We may share your name and contact details with third parties, including in the distribution of this and future newsletters, but will not use or share your data in any other way. For further information regarding how we process your personal data please refer to our Privacy Policy at [www.hanson.co.uk](http://www.hanson.co.uk)

This newsletter is delivered by hand to around 2,000 homes within an approximate 3km radius of our Whatley and Westdown quarries. Copies are also distributed to local parish councils, Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council.

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