

Welcome...

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, we are pleased to be able to reinstate school and group visits to Whatley.

Visitors can learn about the extensive use of minerals and the vital role they play, not just in construction, but also in the production of medicines, fertiliser, glass, paper, railroad ballast, roofing materials, water filtration and even food production.

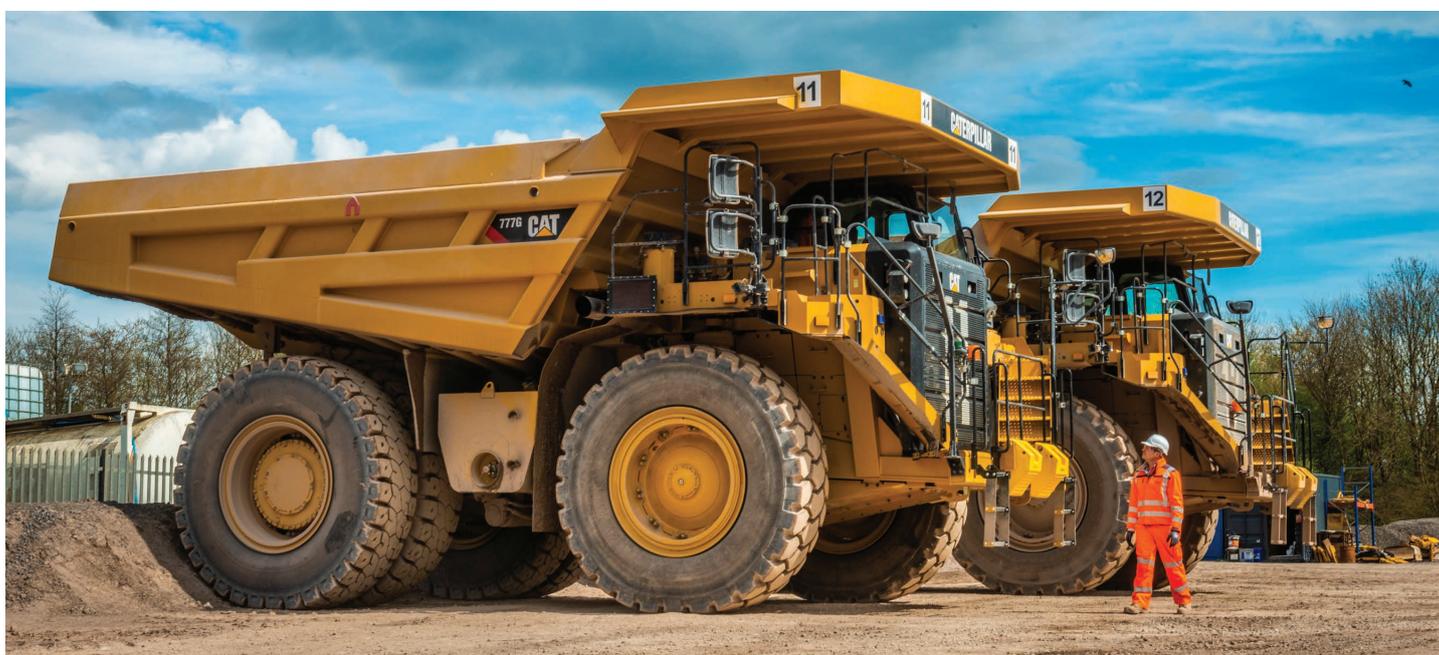
Every man, woman and child uses the equivalent of four tonnes of aggregates a year and while many think they are in plentiful supply, this is not the case. That's why last year we submitted an application to Somerset County Council to update the existing planning conditions and reopen Westdown quarry. On page 3, our land, planning and development manager Trystan Mabbitt, answers some questions local people may have about our proposals.

As part of our commitment to support the communities in which we operate, we are pleased to have been able to contribute to a

range of worthy initiatives with 14 separate projects benefiting over the last year (see page 4). Our Whatley and Westdown community liaison group, with its extended membership made up of local representatives and council officers, continues to meet regularly and the minutes are subsequently posted on our website.

At recent meetings the group has received updates on blasting, our approach to ash dieback disease and, most recently, Hanson's route to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This presentation, which is available to view on our website, sets out how Hanson has reduced its CO₂ emissions in the UK by almost 50 per cent between 1990 and 2020 and is now investing an additional £55 million pounds to reduce this by a further 15 per cent by 2025.

Ian Strachan
Strategic development manager



New trucks arrive

Two brand-new fuel-efficient CAT 777G dumper trucks have been commissioned at Whatley.

They can each hold up to 100 tonnes and, as they are fully lined, will make a

significant contribution in reducing the noise associated with loading.

Operations manager Vincent Pitt said: "The trucks are a key part of our £10 million plant upgrade and should make a big difference in terms of efficiency, while saving fuel and energy and mitigating

noise. They will bring real benefits to the way we operate, and we look forward to the arrival of three more later this year."

Operators of the 10.78m long trucks require specialist training to operate, including 150 hours of driver assessment, which all our 12 operators will receive.

Whatley quarry's involvement in the British Heart Foundation defibrillator register, organised by Justin Collis (pictured), has led to a company-wide project helping to provide life-saving resources in the communities in which we operate



Whatley defibrillators join national network to help save lives

We have registered our publicly accessible defibrillators, including the five at Whatley, into a new database to help save lives.

The Circuit, run by The British Heart Foundation, aims to maximise the benefits of public defibrillators by collating them into a database to enable emergency operators to direct callers to retrieve and use the nearest one before an ambulance arrives.

Quick access to a defibrillator more than doubles the chances of a person's survival in the event of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Area operations manager Justin Collis was behind Hanson's involvement with the registration scheme. "As a former ambulance emergency medical technician, I was keen to connect Whatley to the Circuit, and am very pleased that Hanson's involvement has become a company-wide initiative," said Justin.

Blasting notification

Many local people have signed up to receive our blast notification text messages for Whatley, 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.

The free service is just one of a number of steps we have taken to reassure the local community about blasting at Whatley. Other measures include adapting the blasting design approach and minimising the impact of our blasts where possible.

The permitted levels for ground vibration caused by quarry blasting at Whatley – and reflective of the general industry standard – allow blasts up to the regulatory limit of 9mm/s Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) at 95% confidence.

In response to feedback, we decided to plan blasts to 4.5mm/s PPV, wherever possible, on the south face of the quarry. Between January and March 85% of all blasts have been within this voluntary self-imposed limit of 4.5 mm/s PPV and all have been within the legal limit of 9mm/s PPV.

To sign up to receive the blast notifications, email us at: whatley.quarry@hanson.com



Wych elm is being grown at Whatley tree nursery



Tree nursery at Whatley

Managing the impact of ash die back disease (ADB) across our land holding in the East Mendips continues. Sadly, as previously reported, many affected trees in Vallis Vale have already been identified as needing to be removed, especially in areas close to public rights of way.

Surveys are still being carried out in conjunction with Natural England and the Forestry Commission at Whatley and, at Asham Wood, the emphasis is on regeneration and will underpin our emerging ADB management plan.

We are also working with Somerset Earth Science Centre (SESC) in Stoke St Michael to nurture replacement trees and have started the development of a tree nursery at Whatley. The saplings, including wych elm, will be looked after by SESC volunteers until they are big enough to be replanted in their permanent locations.



Trystan Mabbitt, land, planning and development manager, addresses some of the misconceptions about our plans for Westdown quarry



Q: Why do you want to reopen Westdown when you already have Whatley quarry nearby?

A: Reopening Westdown will help secure the long-term supply of limestone, which is used as a construction material to build homes, hospitals and roads, but is also used in a range of manufacturing processes such as the production of steel, pharmaceuticals, fertiliser, glass, paper and even food production. In fact, every man, woman and child uses the equivalent of four tonnes of aggregates a year!

Our mineral bank at Whatley is depleting and it is also becoming more challenging to extract the remaining reserves: at the same time that demand for limestone is continuing to grow.

Even with both quarries in operation, their combined impact, including aggregate volumes and HGV movements, will not exceed the current permitted levels for Whatley quarry alone.

Q: What are you doing about the protestors camp at Asham quarry?

A: We recognise the right to peaceful protest but the recent demonstrations at Westdown quarry and the encampment, involve trespassing.

Even more concerningly, the protestors' presence and their actions – such as scaling a quarry face to hang a banner – could have resulted in serious injury.

As a responsible operator and landowner, we are now taking all appropriate steps. We also want to stress that these protestors' campaign is misinformed, as our proposals to update existing permissions for Westdown quarry do not threaten Asham Wood SSSI.

Q: Will reopening Westdown quarry mean more HGVs on our local roads?

A: At present we are permitted to transport four million tonnes of limestone per year by road from Whatley. Reopening Westdown will allow Whatley, which is one of the few rail-linked quarries in the UK, to focus on supplying national demand by train. This will help reduce carbon emissions and allow us to switch two million tonnes of this permitted HGV traffic to Westdown – which is located on the Bulls Green Link Road close to the A361 – diverting road-related quarry traffic away from neighbouring villages.

With both quarries in operation, the number of HGV movements will be the same as the current permitted levels for Whatley quarry. Over the last few years, we have not been transporting the full, permitted, four million tonnes per year allowance by road, so it is possible that there could be a marginal increase in the number of HGVs, albeit still within permitted levels.

However, with Westdown located with easy access to the county's freight routes, we believe that the impact will be negligible and neighbouring villages will actually see a reduction in HGV traffic.

We have made the highway authority, Somerset County Council (SCC), aware that we are open to Westdown quarry HGV traffic having prescribed routes – in line with the county's local and county freight routes.

Q: When will Westdown quarry reopen?

A: Somerset County Council has yet to set out when our application, which was submitted in January 2021, will be determined, but we expect it to be reviewed by the planning committee in summer 2022.

Q: Will reopening Westdown quarry damage Asham Wood SSSI?

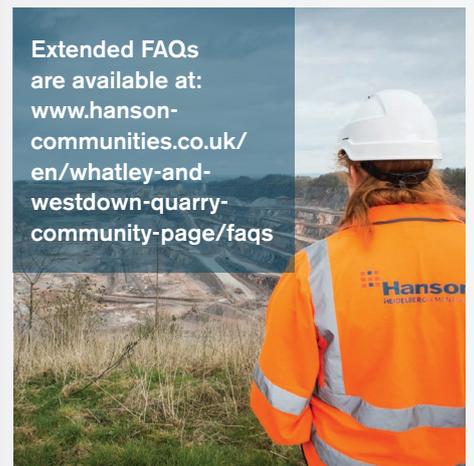
A: No and, in fact, quite the opposite is true. Asham Wood will actually be extended as our proposals include significant enhancements through the progressive restoration of the former Asham quarry (also known as Asham Wood void), adjacent to Westdown quarry, creating a seamless extension to Asham Wood.

This transformative legacy project will provide extensive biodiversity enhancements and our proposals have been shaped by the need to protect and enhance wildlife habitats as well as delivering safer access for pedestrians and horse-riders.

Q: What benefit will reopening Westdown bring to the area?

A: An independent survey found that continuing operations at Whatley and reopening Westdown is expected to contribute over £2.2 billion to the national economy between 2022 and 2042 and a further £750.5 million in tax revenue during the same period. The two sites will also support over 200 jobs on site and a further 730 in the regional supply chain for at least the next 20 years.

Extended FAQs are available at:
www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page/faqs





Supporting local community charities and initiatives

Our support for local community charities and initiatives is ongoing and, over the past few months, we have contributed to the success of a number of different schemes.

Our approach is to prioritise initiatives that support education, skills and wellbeing; protecting/enhancing the environment; and promoting the community and heritage of the East Mendips.

Recent contributions include:

■ **Coleford U-7 football team** – towards cost of new kit.

■ **Cranmore Cricket Club** – contribution for clubhouse improvements and enhanced youth team provision.

■ **Chantry village** – funding to support new signage at the entrances to the village.

■ **St Aldhem's VA Church Primary School** – providing Chromebook computers to support pupils' learning.

■ **Nunney Village Hall** – contribution to cost of roof refurbishment.

■ **Leigh on Mendip Recreation Field Management Committee** – new picnic tables.

■ **Mells Village Playground Committee** – new benches.

More information about our community support programme and how to request a donation can be found at: www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page/supporting-the-community

Coleford U-7 football team sporting their smart new match kit



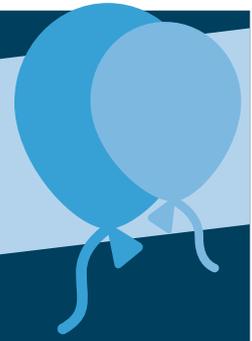
Hanson UK provides newsletters voluntarily to help the local community keep up to date with activities relating to our quarries in the East Mendip area. Any personal data you provide will be used only for this purpose. We may share your name and contact details with third parties, including in the distribution 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

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

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FSC® Recycled certified.



Save
the
date



Whatley quarry to open its doors

We are looking forward to opening Whatley quarry to the local community on **Sunday September 18, 2022** between 11am – 4pm.

The free event will offer a host of family friendly activities and include tours of the site, displays from our blasting specialists and load and haul contractors as well as the opportunity to explore fossil and mineral finds from Whatley.

The open day will also give local people a chance to explore our new vehicles (see front page) plus the other plant upgrades which form part of our on-going £10 million investment programme at the site.

Keep an eye on our community website for more information: www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page



How to get in touch

You are welcome to contact us with any questions you may have about our operations. We will endeavour to 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