

Welcome...

Changes to operating hours at Whatley quarry, trialled since 2021, have become permanent following investment in new plant and machinery and more efficient ways of working.

This move means we have voluntarily cut our working hours by half an hour in the morning and two and a half hours at night.

Work is also underway to replace sections of the rail line between Whatley and the tunnel at Great Elm and we are pleased

that, with the backing of Somerset Council, we have been able to level the bank outside the quarry to create a safer pedestrian route past the Whatley entrance.

Significant progress has also been made on completing our planned circular walking route around the quarry.

This autumn will see Hanson UK rebrand to Heidelberg Materials as part of a global initiative, with all operating territories becoming aligned with our

parent company over the next few years. Our name and our livery colours may be changing, but everything else stays the same, including our commitment to running our operations to the highest standards and being a good neighbour.

Ian Strachan
Strategic development manager



Hanson strategic development manager Ian Strachan hands over a cheque for £10,000 for the redevelopment of Whatley parish field play and picnic area to Whatley and Chantry Parish Councillor Will Palmer



Playground donation

Hanson has donated funds to support the redevelopment of the parish field play and picnic area in Whatley.

The £10,000 contribution has funded the provision of new and refurbished play equipment as well as new picnic seating, barbeque facilities and an upgraded boule court.

“We are really happy to be able to support the upgrade of a community area that helps bring people of all ages together,” said Hanson strategic development manager Ian Strachan. “Will Palmer and the rest of the parish council should be applauded for their vision and the tremendous amount of hard work put in to make it a reality.”

The parish field also contains a bench and memorial stone to former Whatley employee Charlie Borrer, who lived in the village all his life and was involved in establishing the community field. He maintained it until he was unable to do so, passing responsibility to his younger brother Colin, who drives an HGV for Hanson.

“Thanks to the donation from the Whatley team we have been able to create a truly unique space that enables children to play safely, families to connect and somewhere the community can socialise together,” added Whatley and Chantry Parish Councillor Will Palmer.

“We have already had a well-attended reopening event and look forward to many more opportunities to use the new facility.”



Whatley quarry: meet the team

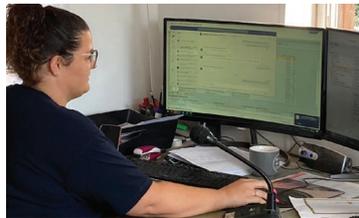
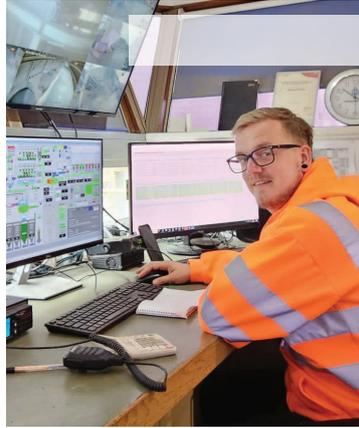
Partners **Amie Plummer** and **Dan Bilder**, who live in Trowbridge, both work at Whatley quarry: Amie as a weighbridge clerk and Dan as a nightshift asphalt plant operator. They work different shifts so that one of them is always available to care for their young daughter.



Q: Why did you want to work at Whatley quarry?

A: Amie: I had heard a lot about Hanson as it is a big employer locally and I knew people who worked for the company. I thought it would be a good opportunity for me and the role interested me – working in a quarry was something different to a standard office job. It has worked out well and I've been at the quarry for 14 years now.

Dan: Whatley is Hanson's flagship quarry and I used to work here before I moved to another site to build up my knowledge of the business. I always wanted to return and, when the opportunity arose to join the asphalt nightshift team, I jumped at it. It is a great opportunity for me to gain more experience and I have been here for almost five years.



Q: What's it like working for the same company/as part of the same team?

A: Amie: Dan and I are on different shifts to cover childcare for our daughter, so we don't work at the same time. Hanson has been really accommodating with our shifts and understands that we can't both be here at the same time.

Dan: Hanson is a great company to work for. Our pensions are good, and even though we work at the same site, we both get the same time off during the year such as at Christmas and for our annual holiday, which works well for us.

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

A: Amie: The management team is great – supportive and understanding – which makes working life enjoyable.

Dan: It has a great bunch of people working here with many years of different experience and different stories to tell. Also, due to the size of the quarry, working with the bigger machinery here is also cool and enjoyable.

Q: What does your job involve, what are your responsibilities and what do you do in an average week?

A: Amie: My main responsibilities are booking HGVs in for deliveries and collections as well as dealing with day-to-day queries and general weighbridge duties.

Dan: My role is varied: I could be running the asphalt plant supplying material to customers or on the loading shovel feeding material into the bins for the many different mixes we supply. I could also be driving a dumper to move recycled asphalt material from the top of the quarry down to our stock bays at the plant; driving the mini digger or Bobcat; or cleaning up/washing down inside the plant.

For more information on apprenticeships and career opportunities go to www.hanson-careers.co.uk/en



Scouts summer visit

Scouts from 1st Mells Scout Group took advantage of a long summer evening to tour Whatley quarry.

The Scouts, aged 10-14 years, were able to learn more about quarrying and how the mineral extracted is used, as well as about the types of roles carried out by those who work on site.

Scout leader Davin Kenwood said: "Many thanks to production manager Martin Symonds whose extensive knowledge about the quarry and the history of Whatley made our tour so engaging. The Scouts were certainly impressed by the scale of the operation and the different types of machinery used."

Over 5,000 people attended the free open day held at Whatley quarry earlier this year.



Whatley quarry open day

Visitors were able to take tours to the quarry floor to see where extraction takes place and visit the primary crusher as well as seeing trucks and trains at the railhead.

There was also the chance to see the giant quarry machinery, try out radio-controlled machines in a model quarry and take in a vintage vehicle exhibition, plus the chance to speak to Hanson personnel about geology, landscape and ecology, apprentice opportunities and much more.

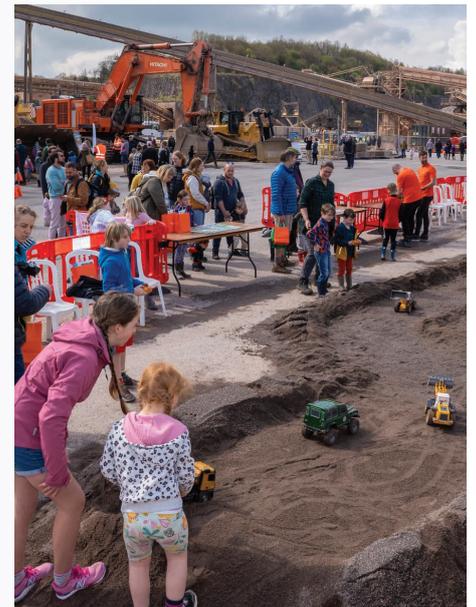
Operations manager Vincent Pitt said: "We had lots of messages of thanks from those who enjoyed their visit but, although we only promoted the event locally, attendance was around five times the number at similar

events at other Hanson sites, with many arriving in the first hour.

"This meant that considerable traffic queues built up, impacting on our neighbours. Given the level of positive feedback we have received, we will ensure any future events are ticketed with priority for those living nearby."

The family-orientated event included a raffle which raised over £2,300 for Frome-based charity, *We Hear You Cancer Counselling*.

A photomontage from the day can be viewed on our community website at: www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page/open-day





A walk in the woods

Residents from Great Elm joined Hanson UK's senior landscape architect, Alexandra Hemming and LEAD apprentice John Anderson for a walk through the woods at Vallis Vale.

It was an opportunity to provide an update on Hanson's approach to sustainable woodland management and to set out future plans.

"Our goal is to maintain and restore the trees, protect and enhance biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of the woodland as well as ensure safe access to the public rights of way," said Alexandra. "It was useful to hear the residents' views and I hope our walk gave some more perspective on why we take the steps we do to ensure that our management approach is ecologically sound."

Richard King, who organised the walk and represents Great Elm residents on the Whatley and Westdown community liaison group, said: "Alexandra helpfully explained the next phase for dealing

with ash die-back and the complexities involved in managing this woodland."

Work currently taking place at Vallis Vale includes the on-going clearance of fallen trees due to bad weather, as well as the removal of some of the dead wood and debris in the river. Some decaying wood will remain as it is an important habitat for a host of small animals, invertebrates, lichens, fungi and fish.

The next phase of hazardous tree felling of diseased ash trees, approved by Natural England and the Forestry Commission, is due to begin this month (September), with an ecologist on hand as required.

Hanson is also working with the Environment Agency and the Wild Trout Trust to instigate riverbank repairs, with a view to further improving the river habitat for fish and invertebrates. Plus, future plans include some permitted felling upstream from Great Elm to help prevent flooding and bank erosion.

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 and Somerset Council.

Printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.
FSC® Recycled certified.



Our new look branding

On 02 October 2023 we're rebranding to Heidelberg Materials.



As well as aligning with our parent company, our new name better reflects the company we are today.

We're focused on driving down carbon emissions, pioneering opportunities for the circular economy through the increased use of recycled materials and leading the way with innovative projects such as carbon capture and storage and using hydrogen as a fuel, to lead our industry towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

New Heidelberg Materials signage at Whatley will be in place from October, but changing the livery on our HGVs and other vehicles will be phased in over the next two years.

Our email and website details will also be changing but redirections will be in place so you can still reach us during this changeover period.

How to get in touch



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

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

Contact us:

☎ 0800 644 4234 or

✉ whatley.quarry@hanson.com

🌐 www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page/supporting-the-community