

Community matters

A community newsletter from Heidelberg Materials
Ketton cement works – Winter 2026

Welcome...

We've had an extremely busy time at Ketton and I am grateful to the team for their ongoing hard work and dedication.

Our updated planning application to extend Grange Top quarry has been submitted to Rutland County Council, which will now carry out a second round of public consultation (see overleaf on **page 2**). The proposed extension into two areas of land already in our ownership is vital to secure the long-term future of the cement works and protect the livelihood of hundreds of people that directly and indirectly rely on the site.

The cement works continues to perform reliably, with impressive levels of alternative fuel use, placing it among the top performers in these areas within the Heidelberg Materials Group. We have also recently installed a new vehicle wash station, which will help to prevent littering from the alternative fuel trailers and supports our commitment to a clean and tidy environment.

Volunteers from the site have worked with Ketton Green Spaces to plant more redwood trees as well as hundreds of spring bulbs and we continue to support a range of community initiatives, which you can read more about on **pages 2-4**.

Sinan Urhan, Works Manager

Shooting stars net a big win

Budding football stars at St Mary and St John Primary School in North Luffenham have new goalposts and nets thanks to a donation from Ketton cement works. We provided the £1,175 needed to replace the worn-out equipment and our **Works Manager Sinan Urhan** paid a visit to the school to meet with **Headteacher Hannah Roddy** and some of the pupils.



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heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/ketton

Grange Top planning application update

Our updated planning application to extend Grange Top quarry and secure the long-term future of the cement works has been submitted to Rutland County Council (RCC).

RCC had asked for more information, known as a Regulation 25 request, which is a usual part of the planning process for this type of project, and will now carry out a further programme of public consultation.

Our updated plans include adjusting the extraction area to allow the retention of redwood trees in the Field 14 area of the proposed extension, and the planting of new ones (see right), as well as a commitment to upgrade some permissive paths to Public Rights of Way. We have also made minor changes to the extraction limit in the

north-west of the site and agreed a specific blasting vibration limit to meet the concerns of Anglian Water, which has now withdrawn its objection to our proposals.

“Our Regulation 25 submission is an addendum to the main planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment submitted to RCC in January 2024,” said Mark Page, Land and Mineral Resources Manager.

“RCC is now carrying out a second round of public consultation, which ends in late February, and we will work with the council to address any further issues raised.”

More details can be found at: heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/ketton



Giant redwood grove

Colleagues from our cement works joined volunteers from Ketton Green Spaces to plant a new redwood grove in the village.

The team planted 16 trees within an existing woodland on our landholding, which included 10 new giant redwoods funded by Ketton cement works, as well as 1,600 spring bulbs in the main roadside grass verges around the village. They also inspected 100 previously planted trees on the Scout field at Pit Lane to check on their condition.



New faces join the Ketton team

Three new faces have joined the Ketton team, bringing fresh energy and ambition to our site. Pictured from left to right: Graduate **Edward Hall**, 22, from Stamford, Mechanical Apprentice **Eesaa Iqbal**, 22, from Peterborough, and Higher Apprentice **Fred Finch**, 18, from Bourne.

Their arrival reflects our continued commitment to developing future talent and investing in the next generation of cement professionals.



growing for the future

Mark Page, Land and Mineral Resources Manager, said: “Our team was delighted to support Ketton Green Spaces and help plant the trees as their paid volunteering day, which Heidelberg Materials encourages its employees to take each year.

“In the coming years, the woodland will become accessible to the public with the creation of a permissive path alongside Empingham Road, which forms part of our proposals to extend Grange Top quarry, and will allow residents and visitors to enjoy the groves.”

Jobs fair inspire cement workers of the future

Works Manager’s Secretary Alison Mytton and Operations Assistant Tracie Mitchell from our Ketton works attended a jobs and careers fair at Stamford Arts Centre organised by local MP Alicia Kearns.

It was the first time the event had been organised to showcase the wide range of training and employment opportunities available in the area.

“It was an extremely busy day and great to talk to so many different people about Heidelberg Materials and the opportunities that exist at our Ketton cement works,” said Alison.



Tracie Mitchell, left, with Alison Mytton at Stamford jobs and career fair

Supporting the local community



Builder Ben Jarvis takes care of a baby hedgehog, while colleague Jason Chapman gets on with construction work

Cement donation for Prickleback rescue centre enlargement

Cement donated by Ketton works has helped a hedgehog rescue centre in Market Overton expand so it can help save more of these endangered animals.

The Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog Rescue is Rutland’s only hedgehog rescue and was founded in 2021 by husband-and-wife team Rachel and Jason Thomas, helped by a small group of volunteers.

Each year they take in approximately 150 sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs, but have had to turn down about a third of all enquiries due to a lack of space. As a result, the couple decided to invest in a new cabin to house more hedgehogs and we stepped in with a donation of 56 bags of our cement to allow them to build a large patio and hardstanding.

Rachel said: “We are really grateful. Heidelberg Materials was the only business to respond to our appeal for support and the donation of all the cement for the project has meant that other hard-earned donations will go that little bit further.”



Geoffrey Two – living the good life with two of the rescued hens

Cock-a-doodle Two!

Geoffrey the cockerel is back ruling the roost in the garden kept by employees at Ketton's Grange Top quarry.

Quarry Supervisor Peter Bell and his team were keen to source replacements for the first Geoffrey, a large ginger-coloured cockerel, and his three female friends who fell victim to a badger attack.

Geoffrey Two, a large and noisy Leghorn, has been joined by four hens rescued from a battery farm, who are safely penned and their eggs shared among the quarry team.

Pete said: "Geoffrey Two came to Grange Top because the neighbours around his original home found his crowing excessively noisy. Here he can make as much noise as he likes without bothering anyone."

Donated trucks help train future technicians

We have donated two of our out-of-service HGV tractor units for use at Peterborough College's technician training centres.

Workshop Manager Chris Sharman, who organised the donation, said: "Our apprentices study at the college, it's great to be able to strengthen our links with the college and for the vehicles to be put to good use."



Colin Hales (left), Light and Heavy Vehicle Assessor at Peterborough College, accepts the vehicles from Ketton Workshop Manager Chris Sharman



Customer Services Team Leader Rebecca Loughton and National Account Manager John Doolan cleaning toys for Bumps and Beyond

Volunteers help charity tidy up

We are continuing our support for Stamford-based charity Bumps and Beyond, which helps parents and caregivers during and after pregnancy.

Members of the Ketton works team used their annual paid volunteering day to help clean and sort through donated clothes and toys to ensure they were in sellable condition before taking them to the charity's shop. They also arranged a collection of Christmas gifts for the charity.

Ketton shows support for local causes

We are committed to supporting local charities and organisations. Recent donations include:

- Bourne Rugby Club: 120 bags of cement for a fencing project.
- Ketton Bowls Club: 12 bags of cement for a shed base.
- Stamford AFC: £152 for new football equipment.
- Ketton Primary School: £125 to fund an ice cream van at an end of term event.
- The Ark Nursery: £100 for a raffle prize at a charity event.

Trust's wildlife restoration a shining record

Last summer our Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve saw a record number of glow worms, including in areas where they haven't been previously recorded. It highlights the biodiversity that exists at the site, including a number of nationally scarce species of invertebrate, as well as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and wildflowers.

The nature reserve, which is a restored part of our Grange Top quarry, has been managed for wildlife by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT) for nearly 25 years.

In total, 228 female glow worms were recorded, compared with the 142 recorded the previous year, and hopes are high this will be maintained this summer.



PHOTO © JIM SEXTON



Cranfield University students carrying out soil analysis at the restored area of the quarry

Mixed seed study digs into biodiversity recovery

A study into soil quality and grassland systems by scientists from Cranfield University is playing a key role in the restoration of Ketton works' Grange Top quarry.

Led by MSc student Theresa Boateng, the study is exploring how seed mix application can be used to restore biodiverse and resilient grasslands, helping to support pollinators, improve soil health and connect wildlife habitats.

The project, called "Sowing the seeds of Biodiversity", was also runner-up in the latest Quarry Life Award, a nature-based competition run by Heidelberg Materials which takes place every three years to raise understanding of the biodiversity value of quarry sites during and after extraction and share best practices.



Zoe Hallam, who swapped her mountain bike for a road bike to complete the Caen to Beaune Challenge in France

Dynamic dozen ride to huge charity finish

Production Supervisor Zoe Hallam was part of a 12-strong team from Heidelberg Materials UK to complete the Caen to Beaune Challenge; a gruelling 534-mile charity cycling event in France.

The event raised a total of £75,000 with 50 per cent going to the Pancreatic Society and the remaining 50 per cent

split between Cancer Research UK and the British Heart Foundation. The Heidelberg Materials team contributed £7,400 to this total, boosted by a contribution from the company's charity match fund.

"I'm beyond proud to have completed this challenge alongside such an

inspiring group of people, united by purpose and passion," said Zoe, who is more familiar with riding a mountain bike on gravel tracks than a road bike.

"I'm so grateful to everyone who donated, cheered us on, and kept us going. Your encouragement meant the world."

Retired trio go end-to-end for Alzheimer's

Three retired Heidelberg Materials employees have also cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, raising £4,031, including a £200 donation from Ketton works.

John Parkinson, Neil Pridmore and Michael Smalley were part of a team who tackled the gruelling 1,028 mile challenge in 14 days.

John, 61, was formerly head of the maintenance control centre; Neil, 68, worked for the company for 31 years as a driver and in the packing plant; and Michael, 80, is a former HGV driver.



They made it! From left: John Parkinson, Simon Lummis, Michael Smalley, Neil Pridmore and Steve Ramplin

Dave and Alan pass the baton

After an incredible 49 years of service, Process Operative Dave Wray has retired. He's succeeded by Kristofer Levidian Herrera. Process Operative Alan Hare has also retired after 36 years, with Jake Villette from the Profuel plant stepping into his role.

Mourning the loss of a highly valued team member, Jason Papagiannakis

Ketton works is mourning the loss of Production Co-ordinator Jason Papagiannakis, who has died aged 55. Jason, who lived in Stamford, looked after raw materials and fuels on site and had been a valuable member of the team for 10 years.