

are set to build on this progress with new measures to tackle plastic, it is unclear whether we will benefit from similar initiatives here.

One policy that is being tentatively progressed in Northern Ireland is in the area of natural capital. The rationale underpinning a natural capital approach is that if landowners and businesses, central and local government all produced natural capital accounts alongside financial accounts; there would be greater accountability for the state of nature. In turn, this could lead to greater investment in, and protection of, nature and the services that it provides.

Natural capital is defined as "...elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value or benefits to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions" (UK Natural Capital Committee, 2014). These benefits (often referred to as ecosystem services) include food production, regulation of flooding and climate, pollination of crops, and cultural benefits such as aesthetic value and recreational opportunities. Using a natural capital assessment (figure 1), it is possible to understand the extent and condition of those assets, so the flow of ecosystem service benefits from those assets can be established and valued.

This approach has gained a new status in UK environmental policy and is considered integral to the delivery of Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan. Natural capital assessments have been championed as an efficient, practical and readily understandable approach to supporting more effective policy and investment decisions. With natural capital commitments featured in the Draft NI Programme for Government, the Department for Agriculture and Rural Affairs has supported NIEL to commission pilot natural capital assessments and assess how the natural capital approach can move from policy into practice. This policy agenda

specifically responds to the guidance offered by the UK Natural Capital Committee (2017) which recognises the need for 'pioneer projects to test different initiatives' which can help move the natural capital agenda 'from aspiration to practical delivery'.

The pilot projects have successfully applied the natural capital approach to two urban sites in Northern Ireland, namely Bog Meadows and Minnowburn. As well as advancing the understanding of the importance and practicalities of undertaking Natural Capital assessments, the pilots reveal the range and scale of benefits that these areas, and those who manage them, provide to the public.

The natural capital approach is straightforward and transparent and can have a powerful and positive influence on decision-making. First, natural capital assessments can inform the development of investment plans for strategic locations. Second, they can inform development and land use-planning decisions through their integration into Local Development Plans and policies, helping to determine the most appropriate locations for development. Third, they can form part of a natural capital and biodiversity net gain policy to ensure all new developments achieve net benefits for people and the environment. Finally, assessments could inform the calculation of agricultural support payments, which is timely in the context of Brexit.

The natural capital approach demonstrates the value of the natural environment to society and the importance of investing in and protecting our finite stock of natural assets. Yet not all the values associated with nature can be monetised, which presents an ongoing challenge for the way in which natural capital tools and methodologies are developed. However, the approach has great potential to advance the way in which the value of nature and our long-term prosperity is reflected in decision-making.



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# Standing up for the Trees

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity.

**The Woodland Trust is standing up for trees. With collective efforts, the charity is planting new woodland, and protecting and restoring precious ancient woodland.**

People up and down the country are encouraged to visit woods, plant trees, and enjoy the overwhelming benefits that woods and trees offer to our landscapes and lives.

The Trust cares for more than 1,000 wildlife-rich woods throughout the UK, 50 of which are in Northern Ireland. Freely open for everyone to enjoy, the woods are distributed fairly evenly, from Kilcooley Wood in Bangor to the east, to the Burn Walk in Strabane to the west.

With over four decades of expertise in woodland creation, the Trust cites compelling reasons for landowners to plant trees and is committed to helping others create woods on their land. Trees make a huge contribution to our quality of life and offer cost-effective and long-term solutions to many of the economic, environmental and social challenges we face. They provide shelter and shade for livestock, improve the air we breathe and, planted in the right place, can help to reduce localised flooding.

*Gregor Fulton, the Woodland Trust's estate and outreach manager, explains why woods and trees shouldn't be overlooked.*

## TESTING THE WATER WITH TREES

"We've worked with a wide variety of individuals and organisations over the years, from schools and community groups, to local authorities, landowners and farmers.

"One recent example is our project to plant trees along the banks of the Burntollet River in the beautiful Faughan Valley, not far from Derry/Londonderry. It's a partnership between us and the Loughs Agency, with support from Northern Ireland Water and local farmers. The planting will ultimately stretch over a 10-mile strip – and that's just the beginning. We hope that, working with partners and landowners, efforts will be replicated elsewhere in the Valley.

"Here, farmers are planting for a variety of reasons. The stabilisation of riverbanks, improved drainage, and shelter for livestock are high on the list, with wildlife and water quality also set to benefit. The trees reduce the amount of pollutants and sediment reaching the water. They also provide shade, keeping rivers cool. Many species – salmon and trout in particular – need cooler water temperatures.

## WOODLAND AND QUARRIES

"We're no stranger to the Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland and its member companies, who have a commitment to conserve and enhance wildlife habitats.

"The tree-planting benefits are endless. For quarries close to houses and neighbourhoods, trees can create an attractive natural 'screen'. They improve air quality and can help to muffle noise from busy quarries. And for disused quarries, there are opportunities to reinstate much-needed nature reserves or conservation areas.

"Northstone Materials (formerly Tarmac) was the first to benefit from tree planting at its Craigtantlet quarry – a working rock quarry near Newtownards in County Down.

"Thousands of native saplings, almost 19,000 in total, were planted. We offered advice and funding through our MOREwoods scheme, and support was also received from Forest Service's Woodland Grant Scheme. With planting beginning in 2009, the aim was to link and buffer the existing pockets of woodland around the quarry. Subsequent reports have been of thriving trees and an increase in wildlife, in particular the variety of birds.

"Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. Woodland represents only 8% of our total land area, compared with 13% for the UK as a whole, and 46% for Europe. It's only with collective efforts that we can begin to redress this situation.

"The quarry industry, with a substantial amount of operational and non-operational land, can play a part. And it's not just about tree planting to tick a box. It's planting the right trees in the right places – whether for screening, noise reduction, dust control or linking habitats for precious wild inhabitants."

*Planting by the banks of the Burntollet River.  
Photo by Dave Scott*

## GET IN TOUCH

For would-be tree planters, the Woodland Trust can provide expert help, advice and – in some cases – funding. To find out more telephone Gregor Fulton on 028 9127 5787 or email [gregorfulton@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:gregorfulton@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

# Nature before minerals, giant bird tables

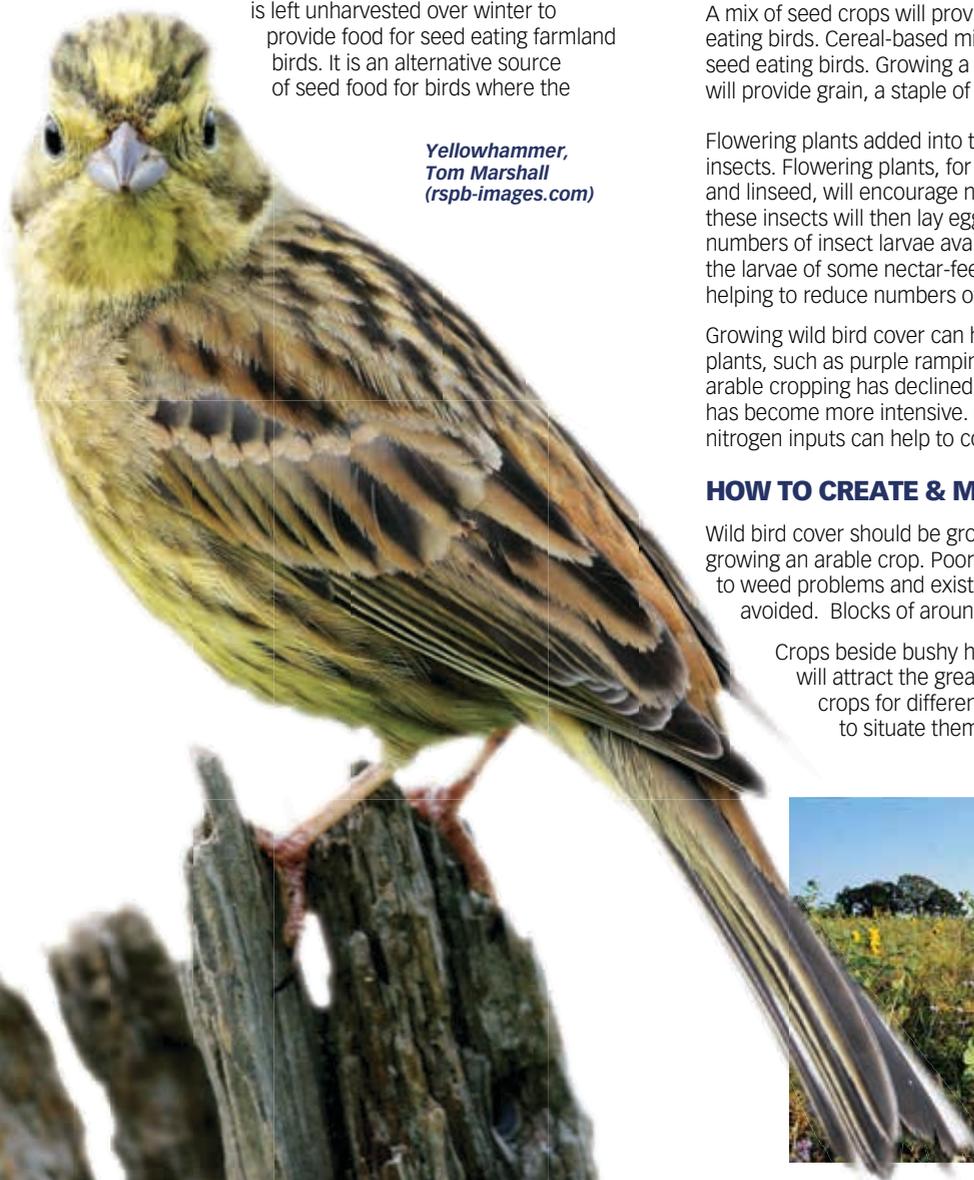
For some time now, the Northern Ireland minerals industry has worked with RSPB NI to develop high quality restoration plans for the best biodiversity end use.

**In many cases, this is a phased approach over several years. In addition to final end use, quarries have potential to provide high quality temporary habitats which can help nature thrive on non-operational land or land that isn't intended to get worked on for several years.**

One way operators can help nature on their land is through providing wild bird cover plots, sometimes referred to as giant bird tables.

This is a spring-sown crop mixture which is left unharvested over winter to provide food for seed eating farmland birds. It is an alternative source of seed food for birds where the

*Yellowhammer,  
Tom Marshall  
(rspb-images.com)*



traditional sources, such as weedy stubbles and spilt grain, have become less available due to changes in farming.

With the reduction of arable farming in Northern Ireland and the loss of potential winter food source in the form of seeds, we have seen significant declines of some of our most iconic farmland birds such as the yellowhammers, tree sparrows and skylarks.

## BENEFITS FOR WILDLIFE

Seed-bearing crops provide food for birds throughout the winter. A mix of seed crops will provide food for a wide range of seed eating birds. Cereal-based mixtures provide good habitat for seed eating birds. Growing a cereal-based mixture each year will provide grain, a staple of the many seed eating birds' diet.

Flowering plants added into the mix will attract nectar-feeding insects. Flowering plants, for example, mustard, phacelia and linseed, will encourage nectar feeding insects. Many of these insects will then lay eggs nearby and so increase the numbers of insect larvae available to birds as food. In turn, the larvae of some nectar-feeding insects prey on aphids, helping to reduce numbers of these pests in nearby farms.

Growing wild bird cover can help rare arable plants - Some arable plants, such as purple rampion fumitory, have become rare as arable cropping has declined and remaining arable production has become more intensive. Growing wild bird cover with low nitrogen inputs can help to conserve rare arable plants.

## HOW TO CREATE & MANAGE WILD BIRD COVER

Wild bird cover should be grown only on land capable of growing an arable crop. Poorly drained areas, land prone to weed problems and existing wildlife habitats should be avoided. Blocks of around 1 hectare in size are ideal.

Crops beside bushy hedges, areas of scrub or trees will attract the greatest range of birds. Good crops for different species and where best to situate them are given in Table 1.



*Wild Bird Cover, Andy Hays*

BIRD	SEED PREFERENCE	PREFERRED STRUCTURE & LOCATION
YELLOWHAMMER	CEREALS	NEXT TO HEDGE
TREE SPARROW	KALE, CEREALS, QUINOA, OILSEED RAPE AND WEEDS	NEXT TO THICK HEDGE, SMALL WOODLAND OR SCATTERED TREES
LINNET	KALE, LINSEED, MUSTARD AND OILSEED RAPE	NEXT TO HEDGE OR AREA OF SCRUB
REED BUNTING	KALE, QUINOA, OILSEED RAPE AND WEEDS	NEXT TO HEDGE, CLOSE TO WET AREAS
SKYLARK	LINSEED, KALE AND CEREALS	OPEN CANOPY AWAY FROM BOUNDARIES

Table 1 - Preferred crop types of declining seed-eating birds

Use a mix of at least two cereal crops (e.g. oats, wheat, barley etc) and an oil-rich seed (eg linseed, oilseed rape, mustard or quinoa) in the mixture, see Table 2. Sow the crop in spring, before the end of May. Most crops can be sown from mid-March, but if quinoa is included in the mixture, wait until the risk of frost has passed. Prepare a fine, firm seedbed. Weeds should be controlled during seedbed preparation, as herbicide cannot be used once the crop has been sown.

Cereals are best drilled but if broadcast, increase the amount down by around one third. Other seeds are smaller so may be broadcast immediately after drilling the cereal. Seeds can be broadcast using a fertiliser spreader, providing a bulking agent such as sand or fertiliser is included in the mix. Finish by rolling to ensure good seed/soil contact.

Leave the crop for one year

**FOLLOW UP MANAGEMENT**

The following spring, remove any remains of the previous year’s crop in early April in preparation for re-sowing.

The plot should be cultivated and seed sown similar to the year previous. If the soil becomes exhausted after several years, considering moving the plot or applying fertiliser, e.g. farmyard manure, during the soil preparation stage.

The seeds from the wild bird cover will provide a vital source of winter feeding for many locally threatened birds, which will flock to your land during the winter months. A network of these plots spread across Northern Ireland will make a significant contribution to the conservation of some of our most threatened farmland birds.

If you are interested in sowing some wild bird cover and need some advice, please do not hesitate to contact Seán Woods, RSPB Conservation Advisor on 028 9069 0859 or sean.woods@rspb.org.uk

SEED TYPE	SEED RATE (KG/HA)
CEREALS	125
LINSEED	60
QUINOA	10
OILSEED RAPE	7.5
MUSTARD	12
KALE	5

Table 2 - Suggested seed rates: Divide the figure by the number of crops in the mix. For example, if growing a mix of cereal and linseed, the cereal rate will be 62 kg/ha and the linseed rate will be 30 kg/ha



Seed eating birds, Credit Claire Barnett

# Unexpected Oasis

By Catherine Bertrand, Butterfly Conservation and Linda Thompson, Irish Salt Mining & Exploration Co. Ltd

Mention quarries to people and particular words and images spring to mind.



*Birds Foot Trefoil*

**Mostly these are to do with noise and machines as most people rarely get to see beyond the gates of quarried areas and do not really know what lies within. Each site is different, but each can support a wide array of different creatures, plants and habitats. Our quarry sits are often unexpected oasis of semi-natural habitat in an increasingly homogenous, intensively managed agricultural landscape.**

For the last few years I have been able to explore the grounds of one of our most unique mining sites in Northern Ireland, the Kilroot Salt Mine in County Antrim. This journey has been through the eyes and camera lens of Linda Thompson, a long term employee of the mine, and an exceptional photographer with a great interest in the wildlife that surrounds her. Linda has been particularly fascinated by the insect life on the property.

Linda writes, *"The site is located along the shore of Belfast Lough at Kilroot and covers an area of some 100 hectares. The landscape is mostly open with areas of grassland. Whilst some parts are regularly mown very short, a large area is left undisturbed. Red and White Clover, Buttercup, Plantains, Vetches, Knapweed, Trefoils and Meadow Vetchling are just some of the many varieties of wildflowers found on the site."*

These wildflowers not only provide nectar and pollen sources for our invertebrates, but many of the plants are also important for caterpillars, the larval stage of our butterfly and moth species. Variety in the length of the grass (the 'sward height') is also important as different species are sensitive to different temperatures.

Linda continues, *"To date, fifteen species of Butterfly have been recorded at Kilroot. These include some of our most important species including Cryptic Wood White, for which Northern Ireland holds the entire UK population. I discovered a colony of Cryptic Wood White at Kilroot on the 31st May, 2016 in an area which is left undisturbed, with longer grassy vegetation. It has been really interesting watching their unique courtship behaviour and also seeing them laying their eggs on Meadow Vetchling Lathyrus pratensis which is the principal larval food plant for this species."*

The Cryptic Wood White is found right across the country, but can only thrive in sheltered south-facing areas where there is plentiful Meadow Vetchling. The males and females share a peculiar courtship dance where the male faces the female and waggles his head from side to side, batting her with his proboscis as he does so. The butterfly is more delicate and rounded than our other more common and less fussy white butterfly species. Cryptic Wood White can be seen on the wing in May and June and Meadow Vetchling can be located all year round.

Other important butterfly and moth species recorded include Small Heath, Small Copper and Common Blue butterflies and the Latticed Heath, Yellow Shell and Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moths. All of these require species-rich grasslands with a wide variety of different wild plants, fine-leaved grasses and varied structure to the sward. They are indicators of good grassland habitat and also help to direct recording effort into the areas where the highest numbers of other interesting invertebrate and plant species might be found.



**THE BUTTERFLIES OF KILROOT TO DATE**

- COMMON BLUE
- SMALL COPPER
- CRYPTIC WOOD WHITE
- GREEN VEINED WHITE
- SMALL WHITE
- LARGE WHITE
- ORANGE TIP
- MEADOW BROWN
- RINGLET
- SPECKLED WOOD
- SMALL HEALTH
- RED ADMIRAL
- PEACOCK
- PAINTEED LADY
- SMALL TORTOISESHELL

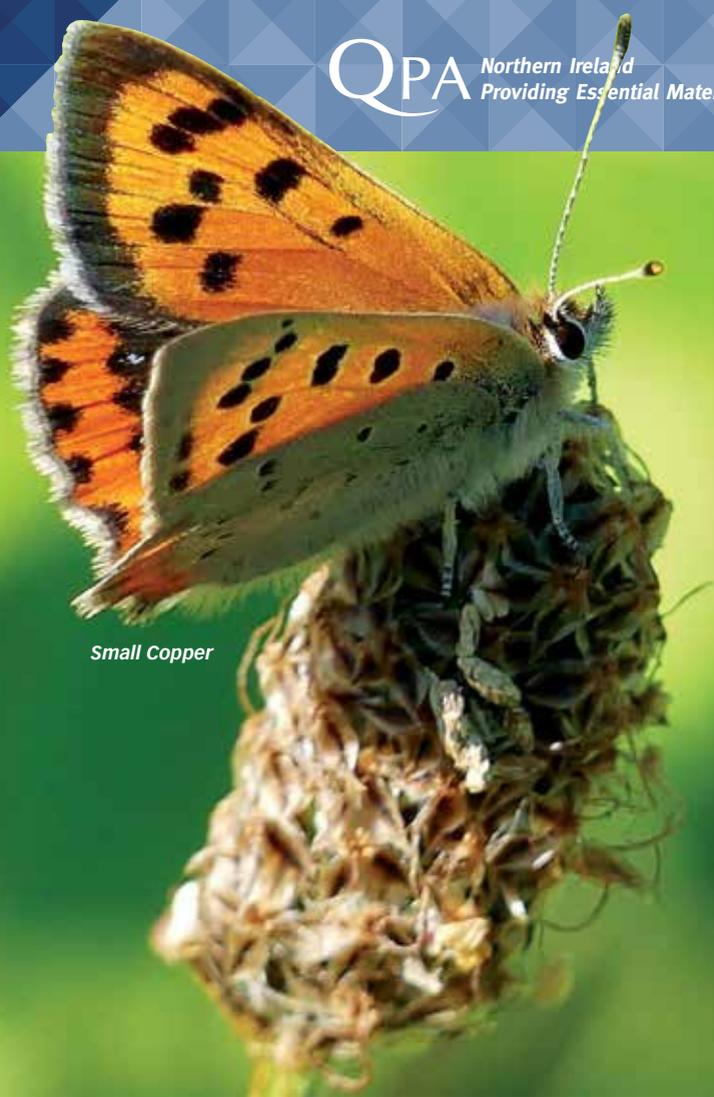
Twenty-one species of Moth have been found on the site including the caterpillars of Red Sword Grass and Fox Moth.

**THE MOTHS OF KILROOT TO DATE**

- ANCYLIS BADIANA
- BROWN CHINA MARK
- CELYPHA LACUNANA
- CINNABAR MOTH
- CLOUDED BORDER
- COMMON MARBLED CARPET MOTH
- DIAMONDBACK MOTH
- ELACHISTA ARGENTELLA
- LATTICED HEATH MOTH
- MOTTLED BEAUTY
- NARROW BORDERED FIVE SPOT
- NETTLE TAP MOTH
- SILVER GROUND CARPET MOTH
- SILVER Y MOTH
- SIX SPOT BURNETT MOTH
- TIMOTHY TORTRIX
- TRIANGLE PLUME MOTH
- WHITE ERMINE MOTH
- YELLOW SHELL MOTH

Kilroot doesn't just boast grassland habitats but also some wetland areas that attract other types of invertebrates. Linda writes,

*"A highlight from 2017 was when I spotted a Red Veined Darter Dragonfly on the 22nd June. The Red-veined Darter is a rare migrant species, and this was the first ever County Antrim record for it, as well as the first Northern Irish record for fifteen years."*



*Small Copper*

In all the excitement of birds and mammals, the smaller, crunchier bugs and beasts we share our world with are often overlooked. Quarries are really excellent environments for our invertebrates, which in turn are food for the many birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles that share these spaces. The people best placed to discover these treasures are the curious individuals whom, like Linda, work at these site and can bring their wildlife into focus. We encourage you all to get out and about to see what surprises your sites have in store.

Records and photographs can be added online to the Centre for Environmental Data and recording website <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records>

For help with identification, come and join us on the Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ButterflyConservationNI/>



*2 Common Blue Butterflies*



*Narrow Bordered Five Spot Burnet on Meadow Vetchling*



*Yellow Shell Moth*

# Transform the fortunes of vanishing wildflower meadows, grasslands and wildlife

Save our Magnificent Meadows project was a three-year project led by Plantlife and delivered in Northern Ireland by Ulster Wildlife from July 2014 to November 2016.

**The project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, worked to transform the fortunes of vanishing wildflower meadows, grasslands and wildlife.**

Meadows, once a feature of every parish in Northern Ireland are now an increasingly rare sight. Nearly 7.5 million acres of wildflower meadow have been lost across the UK so far and they are still being destroyed. Meadows and other grasslands are not only an intrinsic part of our natural they are also rich in landscape character, social customs, folklore and history. Despite the loss of the vast majority of these habitats in Northern Ireland, a significant proportion of what remains can be found in Fermanagh and west Tyrone. For the past three years Ulster Wildlife's Save our Magnificent Meadows has been working to protect and restore our precious purple-moor grass and rush pastures and lowland meadows as well as all the spectacular species that rely upon them.

The species that depend on them include the beautiful poplar hawk moth, the downright weird marsh fritillary butterfly which spins webs, the musical skylarks, the Irish hare which plays such an important role in our culture and folklore and the stoat which dances to confuse prey. These species and 10's of thousands of others depend on species rich grassland to survive, these habitats are Northern Ireland's very own kind of Amazonian Rainforest such are their importance to our wildlife.

Since 2014 we have restored 21 hectares, maintained 220 hectares and supported 233 landowners with a total of 4000 hectares of these incredible habitats with advice and equipment and provided events and training and run events for almost 3500 people. We have also run several campaigns to create mini meadows across primary and secondary schools and a road verge campaign to encourage sympathetic management of roadside species rich grassland.

Appropriate management is important for our species rich grassland but it can pay off handsomely. Changing from a regular mowing regime between May and August to a one cut regime in August allows wildflowers and pollinators to complete their life cycle and cope better with climate change. This creates and enhances wildlife corridors between our wildflower meadows while promoting the project to a much wider audience. It also adds a welcome splash of colour and life and reduces the amount of time spent cutting grass, reducing fees for contractors and allowing better use of staff time. And rest assured – there is hope! These habitats can recover quite well with the appropriate advice, support and equipment which we can help you with.

While the current project has ended we are now in the process of developing another and one of the areas we have identified





as having potential for development are calcareous grasslands in quarries. Quarries host an important component of the calcareous grassland habitat remaining in Northern Ireland. Quarrying of limestone and other calcareous bedrock is a local but significant factor that results in the loss of calcareous grassland, however the management of these quarries can allow for the restoration and indeed, expansion of these habitats if carried out correctly.

There are a number of large quarries and private quarries, active and disused, that provide enormous potential for partnership projects that can benefit biodiversity across Northern Ireland and particularly Fermanagh. We could work with you to enhance the wildlife value of your operations and increase staff satisfaction at work. Equipment, site specific projects, advice, staff engagement, management plans and a host of other activities can be organised to help you to meet your duties for encouraging biodiversity and to engage staff with the biodiversity in your areas. If this is something that



you are interested in please get in touch, now is the time to really make an impact on the direction of the new Save our Magnificent Meadows project and create success stories of your own!

If you are interested in discussing how we can work together please get in touch with Conor McKinney from Ulster Wildlife on [conor.mckinney@ulsterwildlife.org](mailto:conor.mckinney@ulsterwildlife.org).

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# Protecting the Ballinderry River, a River of Global Importance

The Ballinderry River, in the heart of mid-Ulster, is a river of global importance.



**It is one of the last rivers in Northern Ireland to still support a population of the globally endangered freshwater pearl mussel, as well as being home to the endangered white-clawed crayfish and the threatened Atlantic salmon, European eel, river lamprey and the majestic Eurasian Otter.**

Ballinderry Rivers Trust, a community-led charity established to protect and improve the river, has formed a partnership with local landowners and businesses, including the many sand and gravel producers and quarries in the river catchment, to ensure the river's wildlife will thrive for future generations to enjoy.

The freshwater pearl mussel is a bi-valve mollusc that inhabits rivers across North America, Europe and Russia. It is a very slow growing creature; in Ireland and Britain typically living for over 100 years. It has a complex life-cycle in that larvae (called glochidia), released by the adult mussel, must attach on to the gills of a passing trout or salmon (depending on the river). The fish carries the larvae around for nine months before they fall off the fish and burrow down into the gravel in the bed of the river where it grows on to become sexually mature and produce young of its own. It is this long and complex life that means that the mussel is particularly susceptible to environmental stresses and pressures such as water

pollution, siltation of the river bed and disturbance by humans.

Ballinderry Rivers Trust have been working with the aggregates industry in the river catchment to identify how the sector can help save the endangered mussel from extinction. Raising awareness of the plight of the mussel amongst quarry and sandpit staff has helped everyone become more aware of the sensitivity of the local river environment and extra vigilance around each operation means that the chances of accidental releases of silt to the river are reduced. Other operations have taken a more hands on approach to conservation by assisting with riverbank repairs to ensure that less erosion takes place along the river which contributes unwanted silt to the riverbed gravels.

In 2017, Ballinderry Rivers Trust set up a Conservation Partnership with the aim of developing an integrated Conservation Management Plan for the river and its rare and threatened species. The Quarry Products Association NI and quarry operation representatives, along with representatives from agriculture, fisheries, local authority, Government Agencies and environmental non-Government Organisations, have played a central role in developing over 100 actions that can be implemented to help protect the freshwater pearl mussel and ensure a healthier river environment into the future.

These partnerships, and the work that is being undertaken to protect and improve the river, is allowing Ballinderry Rivers Trust to undertake the largest reintroductions of freshwater pearl mussel to the wild in Europe. After decades of breeding this slow growing creature, the Trust, funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, has released over 2000 juvenile and young sexually mature mussels to a number of top secret locations along the river. This has more than doubled the remaining wild population which was recorded in 2017 as only 1500 mussel, and declining.

Continuing partnership work between Ballinderry Rivers Trust and the aggregates sector in the Ballinderry River catchment is helping to bring the freshwater pearl mussel back from the brink of extinction and ensuring that the river and its wildlife are protected for everyone to enjoy.



# Are you Optimising R&D Tax Credits in the Quarry and Construction Sectors?



We often get insights into the many R&D Tax Credit myths that are rife in the business community, none more so than in the quarry and construction industries. We dispel the rumours to bring you the truth about the valuable opportunity of R&D Tax Credits.

*"R&D Tax Credits are only for people in white coats"*



**R&D Tax Credits are open to more sectors than you may think!** R&D Tax Credits enable organisations from all sectors to recoup substantial costs as cash or credit for every year of qualifying R&D activities. Momentum works with every sector from security, food & drink, manufacturing to creative industries, digital and technology to ensure they claim what they are legitimately entitled to.

*"Companies in the quarry & construction sectors don't qualify"*



**The Quarry and Construction sector is an area steeped in continuous innovation and development.** This sector may not sound as if it qualifies for R&D but the reality is that some of the most successful claims have been made from companies within this sector. Momentum has achieved millions of pounds for numerous clients in the quarry and construction sector.

*"Claiming R&D Tax Credits is easy and anyone can do it"*



**It is complicated, technical and time consuming, but we do all the work so you don't have to.** It is true that claiming R&D Tax Credits is a complex process. It requires knowledge of your technology combined with in-depth knowledge and understanding of the guidelines and HMRC legislation.

That's why we designed the Momentum 90-10 principle. It's simple - we do 90% of the work, your input is just 10%, related to initial discussions about your potential R&D activities and expenditure.

*"R&D Tax Credits are only for companies that invent new things"*



**Companies that have attempted to design a new product, process or system or improve an existing one may qualify.**

You do not have to invent a brand new product to qualify. More often than not, tax credits are claimed by companies that are working to improve existing products, services or processes. In fact, any company involved in technological or scientific problem solving could be eligible for R&D tax relief (including the quarry and construction sector).

*"You can only claim if an R&D project is successful"*



**Costs associated with all eligible R&D projects can be recovered, regardless of outcome.** Believe it or not, failure can often be a sign that you are carrying out eligible R&D. It's not always possible to resolve problems or uncertainties, and failure can be a sign that the work couldn't be easily worked out by a competent professional in your field. HMRC's definition of R&D, for the purpose of tax relief, emphasises that the project must seek to accomplish an advance in science or technology (including the quarry and construction sector).

*"We don't pay corporation tax so we can't claim"*



**Companies can claim whether they are profit-making or loss-making.** All limited companies can potentially claim R&D Tax Credits for showing levels of innovation. R&D Tax Credits work by allowing your business to include an additional deduction in calculating its taxable profits. Real tax savings can be achieved whether your company is tax-paying or loss-making. If loss-making, your company may even qualify for a cash payment from HMRC.

*"All R&D Tax Credit companies are the same!"*



**Every company is different. It's important that you work with a reputable company that understands your needs.** As this is a complicated area of tax legislation, it is paramount to choose a specialist advisory firm that focuses solely on R&D Tax Credits. This is where we excel. We are an award-winning company with a proven track-record in achieving over £100m in enhanced R&D. With 100% success in R&D Tax Credit claims, our team of R&D technical analysts, R&D finance experts and specialist business consultants have the knowledge to optimise your claim, and understand the context in which your projects are being carried out to identify all qualifying activities and expenditure.

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*"We leave no stone unturned; the deeper we dig the better the return!"*

# A ever-lasting relationships with their customers...

**Ashbourne Truck Centre is a family run business that has been servicing a large customer base since Joe Mooney first opened the doors of the premises over 30 years ago.**

Specialising in the sales, service and maintenance of semi trailers, Ashbourne Truck Centre is the sole sales and service partner for the renowned Faymonville Group. This includes the Faymonville Specialist Trailers, MAX Trailers and the newly added Cometto Trailers. They are also the sole sales agent for Schmitz Cargobull Tipping Trailers.

Wide range of second hand trailers in stock, all sold fully serviced and CVRT'd.

The service to customers also includes trailer hire, spare parts, servicing and after sales which the company places a great emphasis on as they build and work to maintain ever-lasting relationships with their customers.

We have worked hard on our after sales service over the years and we feel this is a hugely important part of the business as you are ensuring customer satisfaction.

In the maintenance side there is also a lot of repeat custom, we would have customers whom bring in all their trailer fleet when any work needs to be done, repairs, servicing, doe prep etc. The workshop is modern and has been invested in continually over the years.

Ashbourne Truck Centre also stocks a massive range of trailer parts to try and ensure their customers will not have any waiting time for the part they need. We keep a full range of parts in stock for all Faymonville, MAX and Schmitz trailers. We offer a nationwide delivery service on all parts. We are available at all times to take calls regarding parts, dispatch or any queries you may need advice on,

We are also the sole Irish agents for Gigant axles.

We have a full range of parts in stock for all types of Gigant axles, friction steered, hydraulic steering etc. We can look after all your warranty claims and repairs for Gigant axles on any make of trailer.



A big plus for the company is their location as the premise in Ashbourne Co. Meath is only ten minutes from the M50 and 15 minutes from Dublin.

The experience that the team has gathered over the years means that Ashbourne Truck Centre is the go to place when a customer needs advice, the technical know how they possess is just a phone call away and they are only too willing to help.

Ashbourne truck centre are currently in the process of moving into new offices on their premises. There is no doubt the future is very bright for the company and they concluded by stating the product they sell was also key to the success.

We supply very good brands that are well known throughout the world, let alone the country. Our customers know that they are getting a quality product, throw in the excellent after sales service and the two complement each other.

We cannot afford to rest that is why we are continuously looking at ways to improve the business and by investing we feel we are doing just that.

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**FAYMONVILLE MAX 2 AXLE STEP FRAME LOW LOADER, 5M EXTENSION, DOUBLE FLIP RAMPS, GREASER, REAR STEER AXLE, GRID IN RAMPS FOR BETTER GRIP LOADING AND FOR BETTER FUEL ECONOMY, IN STOCK AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.**



**SCHMITZ TIPPING TRAILERS, IN STOCK, 8.2M BEST TIPPER ON THE MARKET, HARDOX STEEL, FRONT LIFT AXLE, CHOICE OF AXLES, CHOICE OF TAIL BOARD, ROLL OVER COVER, CATWALK**



# Delivering Prosperity through our Local Councils

Better democracy and a sustainable future for Northern Ireland is achievable – unlocked and driven by councils.

Derek McCallan  
CEO NILGA



**Our relationships with key partners, including QPANI, defines all that's best in open, practical partnership. What's the issue? How do we make things better? Can business, communities and government invest in what citizens need – jobs, quality services and infrastructure and a great environment, rather than institutional issues fostering bureaucratic processes? NILGA, the representative, "Go To" body for local councils in Northern Ireland says "yes, we can". It's great that NILGA, winner of the "Entrepreneurial Region of the Year" Award for N. Ireland, with Invest NI, is teaming up with QPANI for a new Local Government Award (see Conference, October 11th, below): "Best Sustainable Construction Project".**

Northern Ireland's public purse exceeds £21 billion per annum, and almost £18 billion of that is held in the public services determined by the Legislative Assembly, which hasn't met for over a year and a half at the time of publication. Such a democratic deficit is of course untenable, but a big part of the solution – unlocking the enterprise and community wealth within Northern Ireland – could be done through local government, our councils, who now, just three years of age in their new form, are the "hub of the wheel" of government and the community we serve.

All politics are of course local, yet our councils have a public purse spend of less than a billion pounds per annum, that's under

4% of our taxes. This compares to a whopping average 27% in England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland. In 2018, local councils are much more than "bins, births and burials".

But unless devolution of powers, resources and responsibilities continue, Northern Ireland will be over governed, under competitive, and losing ground on our innovative, unfettered, neighbouring economies.

An ideological shift to local decision taking isn't a power grab. It is a natural evolution towards local place shaping, connecting communities to budgets, to politics and to new technologies. It's also more efficient!

We have said this coherently for years. It's about demonstrable, locally led partnerships, so that councils have more of a coordinating role and they're then encouraged to co-invest in things like infrastructure and transport.

Northern Ireland is in size and scale akin to Birmingham plus a few suburbs of Coventry – yet it is hugely (cost per capita) over administered, needs better governance and less government. Where are our City and Regional Growth Deals, why don't councils have the same regeneration powers as Departments, and do we really need a central body to empty drains and an Assembly sub-committee on gully emptying? The politics of fear is what's holding this back. Who wants to give away functions to other bodies? NILGA's report on Devolution Within Northern Ireland (to be published mid 2018) makes for compelling reading.

One council in Northern Ireland is now proposing to build a new road serving industrial estates, to reduce freight traffic on the M1, another has gained with local manufacturers sizeable contracts in India, another is fostering the development of a Graduate Medical Hospital, whilst another will develop an enterprise zone and affordable housing on a mixed, integrated development site. NILGA believes that this is simply the norm. There is scope for councils to do much more for their communities through initiatives such as Local Asset Backed Vehicles – developing ways of investing in much needed infrastructure without raising taxes or rates – and utilising similar Treasury schemes such as municipal bonds.

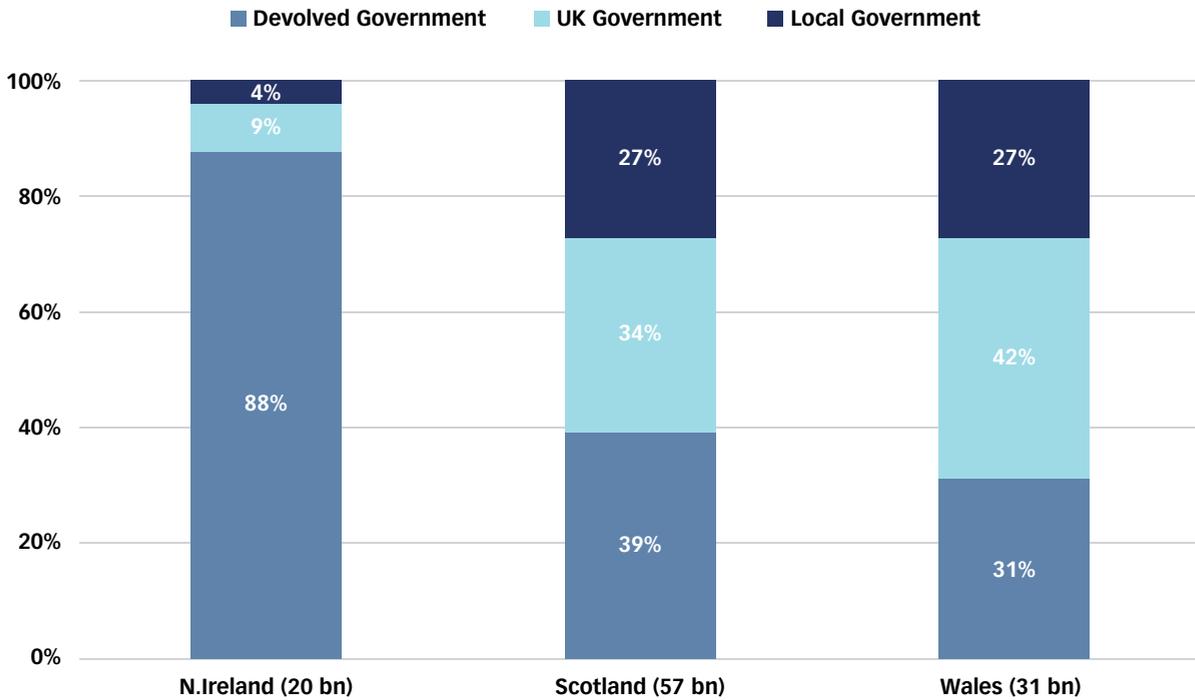
At times of instability, as well as stability, local councils here haven't been fully utilised in terms of investing not just a billion, but the twenty-one billion overall public purse – that's normalisation! It also strengthens efficiency and democracy.

The move to the 11 super councils has meant that one of the key responsibilities of our members has been delivering economic development and supporting entrepreneurship.

Economic and sustainable development can have a truly transformative effect on people and places. It is our councils who are best placed to understand current need and future requirements in their specific areas. Working collectively, they can significantly contribute to the prosperity of Northern Ireland.

All councils are driving with all major social, business and government partners their Community and Growth Plans





which focus on the specific needs – today and into the future. It’s integration in practice, not theory. On top of this, it is clear to see that within all 11 councils there is fervent and professional ambition to attract investment and business from beyond Northern Ireland. Councils don’t practice “one size fits all”. They practice “let’s do what’s best for our local community” and more and more – like with the Start a Business Programme (previously “Go for It”) – are working as a team.

**COMPELLING PROPOSITION**

As the political impasse continues the need for local councils to play a bigger role in investment and infrastructure is growing. Previously the plaudits for bringing jobs and investment into Northern Ireland was always the preserve of the likes of the Department for the Economy. With the collapse of the Executive we are starting to see more clearly a clinical role that local councils play.

There is now an energy and determination amongst the councils to showcase what they have to offer to indigenous and international investors. Their energy and positive attitude is assisting them in standing out from the crowd which includes other regions across these islands.

As we move forward the councils have a compelling proposition, but there is still more that can be done to support them. It is ludicrous that we still do not have the power of regeneration as it has a vital role in developing and building the spaces and places that attract entrepreneurs and enterprises with employees who want to work and live in areas that reflect their lifestyles.

We don’t want to take power away; we want to have the same powers so that we put Northern Ireland on a competitive footing.

Councils get things done. We need no further reactive steps backwards, councils with devolved powers and resources will create proactive leaps forward.

***Delivering a Better Northern Ireland for Everyone: NILGA Annual Conference***

***Building Sustainable Communities, 11th October 2018, Armagh City Hotel.***

The NILGA annual conference will identify the key roles councils play in shaping places and driving the economy, as well as looking at what’s to come in terms of challenges, powers and transformations needed, in the complex future we face. This is a key event in the business calendar with around 200 elected representatives, officials, delegates and business leaders attending to share knowledge, skills and ideas. We hope to see you there!

A range of sponsorship, exhibition and advertising opportunities are available for the conference on 11 October 2018 in the Armagh City Hotel. For more information please contact Mark Maher at the NILGA office – m.maher@nilga.org

**Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, NILGA (Northern Ireland Local Government Association)**

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*Student taking part in Tiling workshop at the WOMEN'STEC CITB(NI) Girls into Construction event*

# Careers in the Industry #NotJustForBoys

Not long ago there were a whole list of careers that were seen as off limits to women, from carpenters to plumbers and so forth.

**Even though we are moving towards a more diverse society, there are still only 13.4% of women working in the construction industry - we still have a way to go! Some would argue there's no demand from women to work in trades or the wider industry.**

However, **WOMEN'STEC** attracts over 200 females each year who complete accredited courses in subjects such as joinery, painting and decorating, electrics and plumbing. From our experience, there is certainly a desire and demand from women to train and work in these areas. So why isn't the number of women working in the industry increasing, and how can we make it more accessible?

**WOMEN'STEC** has created an environment that makes learning more accessible and we have an excellent reputation for reaching females from all socio economic backgrounds and women of all ages. Our training in non-traditional areas is complemented

with confidence building and wider educational programmes, providing a holistic and rounded experience to students. We offer a free onsite crèche and we pride ourselves on having highly skilled trades' tutors who are fantastic female role models.

These supports have contributed to the high take-up of training and our students' positive learning experience. We offer other supports such as CV writing and interview skills workshops. We have found that women are often looking for a career change or to re-train, and there are often additional barriers for women over the age of 25. For example, apprenticeships are often only available for 16-24 year olds and training places can often be prioritised for this age group.

Diversifying the workforce and raising awareness of career options is something we're passionate about at **WOMEN'STEC**. Girls continue to choose gendered traditional career paths such as beauty, health and social care. We are working with the wider



*Nicole Quinn  
pictured with  
son Stiofan*



*Nicole Quinn  
with class project  
completed*

construction, information technology, telecom and other industries to open up opportunities for careers for women and girls. We are developing programmes for school-aged girls and younger women, and are working to make trades training more widely available and attractive to women of any age. Last year we launched our #notjustforboys campaign which aims to raise awareness of non-traditional training and career opportunities.

Women from a young age need to be made aware of the range of roles available across the wider industry. Recently we ran an event in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board NI for secondary schools to raise awareness of career options and choices within the construction industry. We received resounding support for the event, which was attended by over 70 girls from eight secondary schools with pupils taking part in hands-on activities such as roofing, carpentry, painting and decorating, and tiling. Students also met over twenty women who currently work within

the construction industry in Northern Ireland as engineers, health and safety officers, project managers, architects, and carpenters.

**WOMEN'STEC** is a regional charity and we are proudly leading the way in Northern Ireland with trade and employability skills training for women aged 16+. We have very talented women coming through our doors and we are looking to develop collaborative working arrangements with organisations that can contribute to creating opportunities for women and support them into careers within the industry.

To discuss opportunities to work together or for further information please visit [www.womenstec.org](http://www.womenstec.org) or contact us on 028 9074 9810.



*aGirls attending the WOMEN'STEC  
CITB(NI) Girls into Construction  
event, at the Wallpapering workshop*

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# Dalradian – Building Prosperity for Businesses in Tyrone and Northern Ireland

Late last year we submitted our planning application to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to build an underground gold mine in west Tyrone.

**The application was the culmination of almost a decade of work at our exploration site in Curraghinalt, Co. Tyrone and marks a new phase for a project which we believe will be economically transformative for west Tyrone and will have benefits which ripple out to businesses across Northern Ireland.**

The gold deposit at Curraghinalt is ranked in the top 10 percent of unmined deposits in the world by grade, evidence of the potential of the project, and the lifespan of the mine is estimated to be at least 20 years.

Already around 100 people are employed on the project, ranging from drillers to geologists and office workers to health and safety experts.

If we are successful in our planning application, Dalradian will require a range of services, skills and suppliers.

We will need people to service and supply equipment including

pipng, pumps, electrical equipment and scissor lifts to name just a few. On top of that Dalradian will also require concrete and shotcrete as we construct and maintain the underground mine.

Mining and underground development will require a whole range of machinery including drilling rigs, blasting equipment, scoops, bolters and haul trucks, which assist in bringing material to surface where it is crushed, sorted and processed. Diggers, bulldozers, graders and compacting machines will also work on the surface. People will move around the site using pickup trucks and all this equipment will require ongoing fuel supply and servicing.

Within our business plan we have prioritised building commercial relationships with local suppliers and businesses in order to spread the benefits of our proposed underground gold mine across Tyrone and indeed Northern Ireland.

Dalradian enjoys an excellent relationship with the QPANI and we have been delighted with the support the association



has shown for our project over the past number of years.

We envisage having close working and business relationships with QPANI members, who like us, are involved in the extractive industry.

It is precisely that expertise in the extractive industries and in manufacturing and entrepreneurship which exists in Northern Ireland that Dalradian will utilise throughout the lifetime of our project.

Already we have established productive relationships with business and suppliers, large and small, across Tyrone and in other parts of Northern Ireland and we will continue in that vein over the coming period.

Our underground mine has been designed to best industry practice and our 10,000 page planning application submission, submitted in November 2017, is proof of that.

The majority of the submission is focused on environmental aspects of our proposed project and on minimising any environmental impact on the local community.

For example we have chosen to use a dry stack facility to store material from our operations. Dry stack storage is regarded as best industry practice because it minimises the physical footprint above ground, reduces the use of water in mining and allows for progressive rehabilitation of the land.

Our design proposals have been made to either meet or exceed all regulatory and statutory obligations.

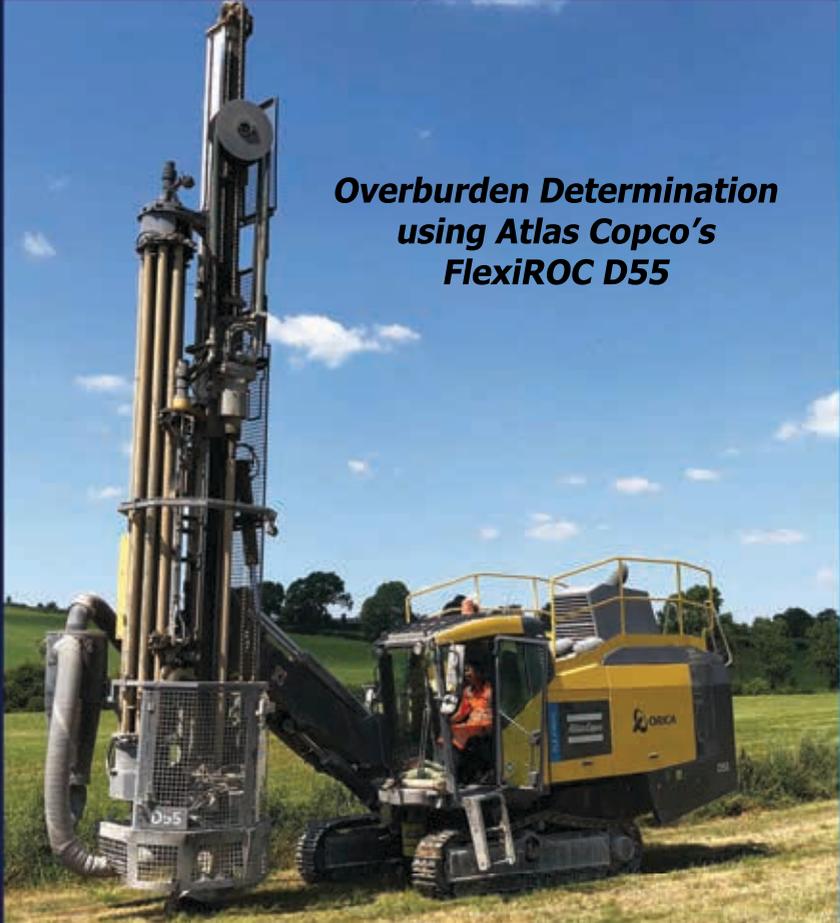
If you want to support our planning application, which was submitted last year you can do this via our "Build a Support Letter" tool at [www.dalradian.com/opportunity](http://www.dalradian.com/opportunity).



# DALRADIAN GOLD

Alternatively, you may write directly to DfI by email at [planing@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planing@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) referencing LA10/2017/1249/F.

*We look forward to working with the QPANI and all of its members in the future.*



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# Peter Fitzpatrick Ltd

## Marking almost a Century of Success

Since its lowly beginnings at the turn of the twentieth century, Peter Fitzpatrick Ltd has continued to rapidly grow and expand into the multifaceted modern dynamic business it is today.

**Operating from Leod Quarries near Hilltown in County Down, this successful family run group consists of three divisions: Quarries, Asphalt and Recycling. It has come a long way from the primitive methods of extraction and crushing of stone then in operation.**

Over the past century the quarry base has moved from its initial set up on Spelga mountain in the Mourne, advancing to a larger quarry in Goward before relocating to its present location purchased by Peter Fitzpatrick (son of the founder) in the Leode hills just outside the village of Hilltown.

Bought in 1950s this quarry is now owned by the third generation of Fitzpatrick's who proudly share their Father and Grandfather's vision. From delivery to a few local farmers, the customer base has now extended across the island of Ireland, the United Kingdom and into the European mainland.

"My father Peter passed away in 1963, but as we were all too young to take on the responsibility of the quarry, our mother Elizabeth kept it running until such times as we could cope with the many demands of the business," recalls Damian Fitzpatrick, whose brothers Seamus, Noel and Sean also play an integral part of today's modern operation.

The sons and daughter of the present owners have also added their professional expertise and skills to the ever expanding business. Together with a dedicated workforce of highly trained men and women they deliver a high quality comprehensive list of products and services. This includes quarrying, contracting, asphalt production and laying, together with other construction related activities. Delivery and spreading of ground limestone for agricultural purposes continues to be offered to local farmers.

Today's company directors can boast a combined experience in their fields of more than 125 years, while staff members provide



Part of the fleet in the early 1960's.

customers with a unique set of engineering, management and workmanship skills that has continued to be developed and improved throughout the years due to a low employee turnover.

It operates its own full-time laboratory for thorough quality control and provides technical advice on a whole range of matters – from quarrying, aggregate, asphalt, road construction to aggregate or asphalt testing and construction waste issues.

### Accreditations

As with all responsible quarry owners, Peter Fitzpatrick Ltd, a long standing member of the Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland, which is affiliated to the Mineral Products Association, fully recognises its responsibility in terms of not only quality of product, but also the protection of the Environment.

In April 2010 Peter Fitzpatrick Limited was accredited with the International Quality Standard ISO9001:2008 for the manufacture



Surfacing of 4km of R150 Julianstown to Duleek Road.



Stockpiling aggregates.

and laying of bituminous mixes and production of aggregates. Included in the accreditation is The National Highway Sector Scheme No. 14 - Quality assurance for the production of asphalt mixes and National Highway Sector Scheme No. 16 - Laying of asphalt mixes.

ISO 14001:2004 was accredited in 2008 by NQA, with Peter Fitzpatrick Limited firmly stamping its commitment to its environmental management system. The system is based on continuous improvement and shows that the company directors recognise the importance in assessing, monitoring and controlling the effects of their activities on the environment.

Peter Fitzpatrick Ltd's Asphalt Division achieved accreditation to Safe-T-Cert in 2005; this is a third party accredited health and safety scheme developed jointly by the Construction Employers Federation in Belfast and the Construction Industry Federation in Dublin. It is based on 'best practice' requirements for international and national bodies, including ILO guidelines. Safe-T-Cert is also recognised under the 'Buildsafe' initiative in Northern Ireland and the 'Construction Safety Partnership' in the Republic of Ireland.

In 2004, the company was awarded a Waste Management Exemption Certificate permitting the importing of inert construction waste for recycling, including Construction, Demolition and Excavation (C,D&E), Trench Arisings, Asphalt & Road Construction Waste, Road Planings and Spent Rail Ballast.

"We take great pride in the fact that our company remains to this day, a family business," says Damian. "The company has evolved to embrace not only international standards of quality, health and safety, and environmental management, but to compete on an international scale, while remaining firmly committed to our local customer needs."



Award-winning scenic photo of Leod Quarries by Peter Murray.



Part of the fleet in 2011.



Working at quarry face.



# PETER FITZPATRICK LTD

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Best Wishes to the Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland on their 20th Anniversary

# Identify the best energy solution

**Managing over 600 meter points across a client portfolio of over 200 organisations, Renewable Partnerships has become an important player in the Northern Irish Electricity Market. They have become a breath of fresh air to energy buyers in Northern Ireland, supporting them in aggressive value strategies.**

Their focus is total transparency so allowing clients to fully understand what can appear to be 'smoke and mirrors' normally associated with the electricity buying process.

As Energy Consultants, Renewable Partnerships work to identify the best energy solution for their clients. These solutions range across all levels of complexity.

## **Cheaper Buying**

With most clients Renewable Partnerships undertake a buying exercise, regularly obtaining fixed electricity prices lower than clients can obtain when they manage the buying process themselves. Renewable Partnerships manage the process of supplier-swap on behalf of the client and then ensure that the client stays on the best value option for

electricity on an on going basis, thereby avoiding expensive out-of-contract rates.

## **Billing overcharges**

Your electricity bill is absolutely correct – yes? Well possibly not. Your electricity invoice consists of energy and lines of 'pass-through' charges (Uos/ Duos/ SSC etc) These charges can be confusing and most buyers assume that they must be correct, not least because elements of the data that drives the billing is very hard to obtain, yet alone understand.

So Renewable Partnerships have developed a mock-billing process, calculating what your bill should have been then comparing this to the billing received. The results have been alarming.

A Craigavon bill - £6000 wrong over two years. A Mallusk bill - £6000 wrong in one month. A County Down bill £32,000 wrong over 2 years.

## **Hedged Buying**

There is a very strong correlation between the price of Gas and the Wholesale cost of electricity. For larger clients Renewable Partnerships are able to facilitate a hedging arrangement through the Bergen

based office of World Fuel Services. With their knowledge of production, storage and consumption variables World Fuel Services are able to identify the degree to which pricing is due to 'fundamentals' and how much due to 'sentiment'. Their track record is industry leading.

## **Private Wire Options**

A wind turbine beside you? Solar on the building? Biomass in the car park? Albeit that the Roc based Government Subsidy has been withdrawn for new wind and solar projects, these technologies remain viable in the case of 'private wire' arrangements.

These run external to the Grid and are impervious to the capacity of the mains supply.

Renewable Partnerships have partners who are seeking to work with high-volume users, able to accommodate green energy production on their sites. Cheaper on site green energy with easy legals avoiding awkward lease arrangements.

Highly economic alternatives exist to traditional energy buying. Renewable Partnerships know their apples from their oranges – don't buy a lemon.

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# Tracey Concrete is one of the largest precast concrete manufacturers in the UK and Ireland.

Tracey Concrete is one of the largest precast concrete manufacturers in the UK and Ireland.

**A rapidly growing company it has established itself as one of the market leaders in the precast drainage products industry. The Enniskillen based company has recently acquired a Quarry in Belcoo and hopes to significantly increase employment in the west of Northern Ireland.**

Currently Tracey Concrete supplies some of the precast concrete products on the A6 Dualling Scheme. The £160m project will strengthen the links between Belfast and Derry/ Londonderry and will bring the long term benefits to road users and the local community.

Earlier this year Tracey Concrete supplied ready mix concrete to a major wind farm



project namely Castlecraig Wind Farm in Drumquin, Co. Tyrone. The project included 10 wind turbines with some of the larger turbine bases requiring in excess of 500m of readymix concrete. The completed wind farm is expected to

produce enough clean energy to meet the needs of over 18,500 homes. (Image Tracey Concrete readymix lorries onsite)

Outside of Northern Ireland Tracey Concrete supplied precast pipes an extensive tunnelling project in Bristol Frome Valley relief sewer.

£15 million was spent by Wessex Water to upgrade the existing sewer to ensure the systems could cope with ongoing development in North Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

The Frome Valley relief sewer will provide additional capacity for the planned construction of new homes in surrounding areas.



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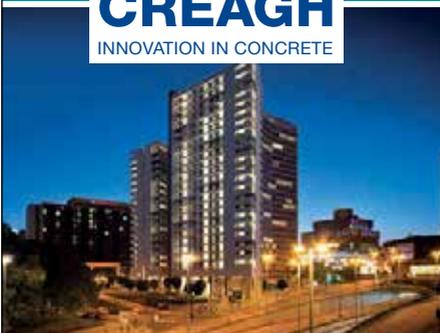
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# MCL Consulting Focused on Delivering for Its Clients

MCL Consulting is a long-established development-friendly multi-disciplinary environmental consultancy, based in Belfast and serving the waste management and quarrying sectors across the UK.

**The company was founded in 2007 by well-known Hydrogeologist, David McLorinan who has been a consultant in the quarrying and waste management industries for over 25 years.**

Under his direction, the company has grown over the last decade to become the largest independent environmental consultants in Northern Ireland with a staff team of 15 scientists, engineers and support staff.

David says: 'The key to our success is a focus on delivery of the development scheme for our clients. We only offer services which are delivered fully in-house. We can draw from many years of experience to develop workable solutions for environmental concerns which commonly constrain quarry development.

"This puts us one step ahead of our competition when it comes to ensuring the success of a proposed quarry scheme. We have many happy long-standing clients who trust our judgement and rely on us to deliver their quarrying and waste management schemes.'

MCL Consulting has an excellent track record in the delivery of planning and environmental services, for both basic and more complex situations, with a focus on project delivery for its clients.

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Established in 2007, MCL Consulting is a trading name of McLorinan Consulting Ltd. We are industry leaders in environmental consultancy and are based in Belfast City centre. Drawing from 25 years of local scientific experience, MCL Consulting offer high quality, client focused consultancy to a broad range of clients in Ireland and throughout the UK.

# Quinn Cement Invest over €3m in Plastic Bagging Technology

The demand for weatherproof plastic packaging in the GB market prompted Quinn Cement's investment in a new, state of the art bagging line to facilitate the delivery of cement in polyethylene (PE) bags.

**The new line was installed in November 2017, with the first filled bags rolling off the line as early as 15th December 2017.**

This new line includes a ROTO-PACKER® ADAMS® 10 spout bag filling system for powdery products into PE bags with Automatic Film Reel Changer designed to run at 1,200 bags per hour, supplied by HAVER & BOECKER, Germany. The new equipment gives clean, compact packing with protection from weather elements.

Clean filling coupled with the packaging's tear-resistance assures a clean working atmosphere, and thus high protection for operating personnel. Quinn Cement's Production Manager, Pat Lunney, commented, "As the bag is cleanly filled, none of the material is going to waste. This means ideal weight accuracy, and the product cannot be contaminated or retrieved from the bag during the logistical process."

The filled bags are palletised by a new HAVER & BOECKER Batipal 2,500 made by NEWTEC, a robust and reliable palletiser, and wrapped by a Lachenmeier T1 Stretch Hood machine, which gives flexibility of wrapping pallets of various heights.

The total investment in the new line surpassed €3m, with the industry leading technology ensuring speed of production with reliable and consistent output.

First deliveries of the new weatherproof bags arrived with Merchants across the GB in early 2018, and the clean, tear-resistant and easy handling packaging has been well received across the market. The new packaging offers greater flexibility, allowing outdoors storage without concern about weather conditions, and the potential to carry more stock as a result.

At building sites, during transportation or storage, on the sales floor, inside or outside, the PE bags ensure dust-free surroundings, as well as a clean and attractive presentation along the entire delivery and storage chain.

Sebastian Südhoff, ADAMS® Product Manager at HAVER & BOECKER, believes the PE packaging will become more widespread in the industry as Cement manufacturers realise the benefits. Speaking of Quinn's adoption, he stated, "The package is simply clean, waterproof and very profitable. Quinn Cement has optimally positioned itself for the coming years."

# Quinn Quarries launch new Digital Safety Hub

Quinn Quarries have launched a new Environmental Health and Safety Hub as part of a larger organisational change to centralised, cloud-based environmental, health and safety management across Quinn Building Products.

**The new system uses Effective software to reduce risks, manage training needs and manage contractors, whilst providing real time data collection and visibility throughout the company.**

The Hub helps promote a culture of accountability, with the ability to assign and track actions in real time. With digital recording of all incidents, accidents, near misses, and audit results, actions can be assigned immediately and monitored to ensure they are completed fully and on time.

Audits are scheduled via the Hub and completed using tablets in real-time. With the ability to upload supporting documents or photos, and to assign actions instantly, there is a significant reduction in paperwork, and a much more efficient auditing process in place.

All personnel training records are maintained on the system, which uses a traffic light system to highlight training needs

and scheduling requirements, ensuring the relevant personnel and management are notified in advance of any required training renewals, thus reducing the risk of non-compliance.

Contractor Management is a key benefit of the new system, with every Contractor's employee details, insurance and training records stored and managed via the Hub. This feature ensures the competency and qualifications of every person working on site, even if they are not an employee. Contracts cannot be awarded without all of the Contractor's insurance documentation and individual training records.

The new system promotes a culture of Safer by Competency. By ensuring every worker or visitor on site is inducted, qualified and covered to complete their work, Quinn Building Products are changing the way every individual views workplace safety, whilst increasing efficiency, visibility and accountability, and ultimately, improving safety.

# THE POWER OF GREAT CEMENT



PREMIUM STRENGTH



# RTU: A Company With A Clear Vision

From a small company set up at the home farm in Parkgate in 1990 producing ready mix concrete, RTU is now a hugely successful company working out of a purpose-built manufacturing plant in Newtownabbey.



*Exposa® Decorative Concrete at The Great Light & Titanic Walkway*

**In 1992 RTU introduced its first new product to the market – factory produced mortar – which was the first product of its kind in Northern Ireland and is referred to as “tubbed mortar”. It is still part of the product portfolio today, and RTU is still the largest supplier of tubbed mortar in Northern Ireland.**

In 1998 RTU moved to a new state of the art production plant in Newtownabbey.

In 2008, RTU introduced Ultraflo®, a revolutionary calcium sulphate liquid floor screed, the first liquid floor screed to be introduced to the Northern Ireland market. Ultraflo® is a unique product and gives enormous benefits, including improved energy efficiency, when used with underfloor heating.

In 2013 the company introduced a second new product, Exposa® Decorative Concrete, which again was the first product of its kind in Northern Ireland. Exposa® provided RTU with another product extension and in turn new market opportunities.

A further product extension, the RTU Concrete Conveyor Lorry introduced in 2016, assists in placing concrete into difficult to reach areas on site. The concrete is dispatched from the lorry along a conveyor arm which has an 11 metre line of sight reach from the back of the lorry, meaning concrete can easily be placed directly into foundations, subfloors, slurry pits, silos, shuttered walls or formwork.

RTU is prospering within its industry and is a market leader and the first-choice provider for most of Northern Ireland’s leading architects, construction companies and builders.

The full product range now on offer, including concrete, decorative concrete, mortars, plasters and floor screeds, also makes RTU a popular choice for the self-builder, being able to offer a complete building package.



RTU Plant & Fleet



RTU Concrete  
Conveyor Lorry



Ultraflo® Hemihydrate  
Liquid Floor Screed

The company prides itself on the first-class service it provides with a dedicated sales and technical team, supported by a logistics team. RTU has also invested heavily in its modern, computerised batching plant, where factory production control systems ensures conformity to the relevant British and European standards. RTU concrete carries the prestigious British Standard Kitemark, and the plants are third party accredited by BSI. The company is also a member of the Mortar Industry Association.

RTU is a visionary company with a firm plan to further develop the business throughout the UK and Ireland. It is still a family run business, and a local success story for Northern Ireland.

# Building the future together



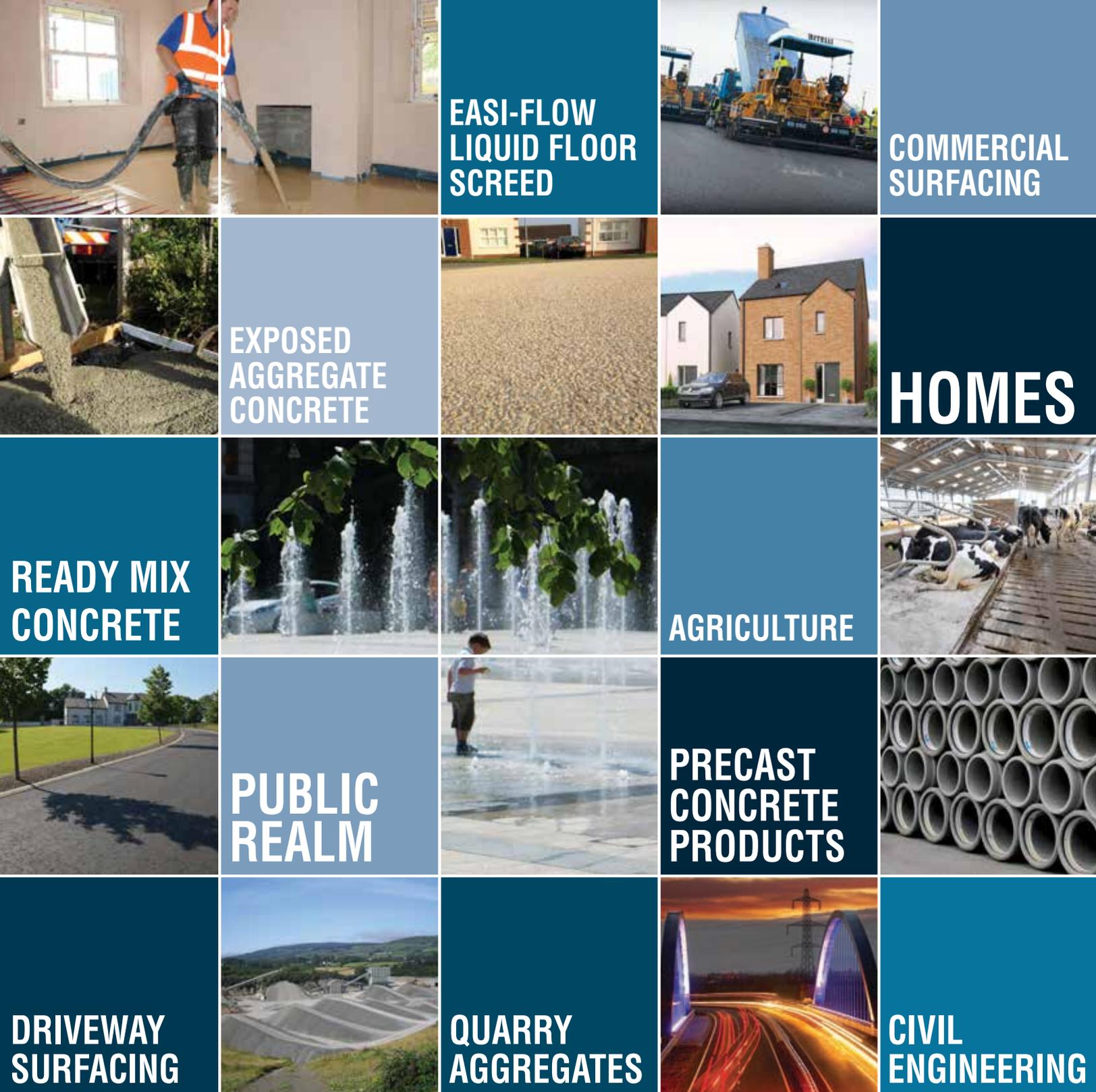
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# Terex's Generation 10 TA400

## The Toughest of Workhorses

Quarry operators and civil engineering contractors FP McCann are clearly big fans of the Terex articulated dump truck; they have around 10 of them working at various sites across Northern Ireland – and they've recently acquired another, as Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out.

**Any plant and machinery going into FP McCann's Quarries certainly has to earn its keep from day one. The award winning company operates a number of Quarries, Surfacing, Readymix and Precast plants, supplying a wide range of heavy building materials to the construction industry.**

The latest Terex Generation 10 TA400, supplied by dealers Sleator Plant, is currently working at the company's Bradley Quarry outside Kilrea in County Derry/Londonderry, which FP McCann acquired late last year. The quarry accommodates an asphalt plant, a readymix facility and a block production plant, making it a busy and machine-intensive environment.

"We are well pleased with the performance of the Terex brand and had little hesitation in opting for the new TA400 Generation 10," comments Quarry Manager Chris McCloy. "It does exactly what it says on the tin, making it ideal for heavy duty tasks."

The new 40 tonne truck joins a number of other TA400s and TA300s which FP McCann have acquired over the years.

The biggest in Terex Trucks' ADT range, and also the first product to be launched since their acquisition in 2014 by

Volvo Construction Equipment, it is being utilised to transport material from the quarry face to a crusher. The TA300s take over from there, carrying the processed rock to the stockpile.

### STAND OUT

There are a number of things that make this new Generation 10 TA400 stand out, not least its high performance, fuel efficient Tier 4 Scania engine offering gross power of 331kW and a maximum torque of 2,255Nm, which ensures excellent productivity, while its modulating transmission retarder, which is coupled with an efficient exhaust brake and fully enclosed oil-cooled multidisc brakes, provides optimum control and increased safety in adverse conditions such as steep inclines.

Working in a tough quarry environment, dump trucks, of course, have to contend with a variety of challenges, but the Terex TA400 takes it all in its stride, as they have come to appreciate at FP McCann.

With all three axles in a permanent (6 x 6) all-wheel drive, incredible traction is achieved while reducing driveline abuse and wheel spin, resulting in reduced tyre wear, while the planetary gear transmission provides smooth, efficient gear shifting, leading to lower fuel consumption and reduced running costs.

### COMFORTABLE CAB

"Our drivers have also been impressed with the cab which is spacious, with all the controls logically positioned, to provide a comfortable and safe working environment.", continues Chris.





The reduction in interior cab noise levels and improvements made to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, all of which combines to help reduce driver fatigue.

Other refinements include improved sealing, which limits risk of environmental ingress such as heat, moisture and dirt; and wider, pivoting steps and service platforms for easier and safer access. On-board diagnostics and real-time data, including fuel consumption, improves fleet operations and performance by alerting the operator to make faster on-the-job decisions and reducing the possibility of down time.

### TELEMATICS

Telematics, incidentally, come as standard on the Generation 10 TA400, providing complete visibility of the truck's routine behaviour, with the captured data viewable on a variety of mobile and desktop devices, or downloadable as hard copy reports.

Telematics will let you know where your truck is located, where it has been and when it's on the move – and that can only be reassuring in the wake of recent news reports of an increase in plant and machinery thefts around the country.

Downtime, of course, can be costly, even for service or maintenance, but this is kept to a minimum thanks to the provision of ground level service access points, and a fully tilting cab and electronic-assisted hood raise for ease of access to engine.

The TA400 transmission is also installed with the latest lubrication oil specification that extends oil service periods to 6000 hours, further reducing operational costs.

### AFTERSALES SUPPORT

"FP McCann is one of our largest customers; we have provided them with a substantial number of trucks over the years and we value their continued confidence not only in the Terex brand but also in the high level of aftersales support that we provide," says Sleator Plant General Manager Jonathan Campbell. "We are delighted they opted for the TA400 Generation 10 which really is an impressive, highly productive workhorse."

### IN SUMMARY...

A high performance, fuel efficient engine ensures excellent

productivityFor optimum control and increased safety in adverse conditions such as steep inclines, a modulating transmission retarder is coupled with an efficient exhaust brake and fully enclosed oil-cooled multidisc brakes. The fully adaptable drivetrain is designed to maintain traction and speed on the toughest jobsites for outstanding productivity at all times.

The planetary gear transmission provides smooth, efficient gear shifting for optimised fuel consumption and reduced cost of operation.

Ground level test points and a fully tilting cab, combined with an electronically raised hood, ensure ease of service and reduced downtime.



### AT A GLANCE

Max Payload:	38 tonnes
Heaped capacity:	30 cubic yards
Engine:	Scania DC13, 444 gross hp
Transmission:	Allison HD4560 automatic, 6 forward, 2 reverse speeds
Steering angle:	45 degrees

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L-R: The ConveyorTek Directors Philip Trimble, Martin Buchanan & John McCall

# A Game Changer for ConveyorTek

ConveyorTek have recently invested in high tech magnet manufacturing equipment and production facilities to support its rapid growth in the manufacture of conveyor magnets and metal separation equipment.



ConveyorTek's Phil Trimble receives MHEA Excellence in Innovation award at BulkEx17.

**This new investment will greatly improve the company's output capacity, improve efficiency and ensure the consistent manufacture of high quality performance magnets.**

Joe McCaughey, ConveyorTek Metal Separation Business Development Manager stated, "This investment is a real game changer for the company and the introduction of new modern equipment in conjunction with our R&D facility and expanding engineering team, makes ConveyorTek a main player in the conveyor magnet market."

ConveyorTek design and manufacture a wide range of metal separation technologies including permanent, drum and electro-magnets; eddy current separators; and metal detectors at its two manufacturing facilities in Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

Over the last few years the Company has experienced rapid growth in its metal separation division and currently exports 80% of all products manufactured to 15 different countries, most recently signing new dealership agreements for the USA and Australian markets.

In addition to the metal separation division, ConveyorTek manufacture a wide range of conveyors for the bulk handling industry and are a well-established supplier of conveyor components and site service.

Philip Trimble, Managing Director of ConveyorTek had this to say: "2018 has been another great year so far and the company continues to expand at a rapid pace. Our focused investment in R&D is helping the company develop new products and reach new markets. This was reflected when recently we were very proud to receive the prestigious Materials Handling Engineers Association (MHEA) 'Innovation Excellence Award' for our newly launched industry metal detector."

The newly launched high-performance conveyor metal detector, which uses a 'pulse induction technology', can self-calibrate and, uniquely, can ignore steel cable belts and rip detection systems, while still detecting rogue metal pieces.

The Company believe that the competitive price, fast assembly procedure, extremely robust frame and high detection capabilities will, in time, make this metal detector the new industry benchmark.

Additionally, ConveyorTek has recently sold its largest electro-magnet, a 2.2m wide system to service a steel cord belt, weighing 18 tonnes and offering extremely high magnetic forces.

ConveyorTek has recently undertaken a rebranding exercise to include the tagline "technical excellence", the main attribute that the Company believes sets it apart from its competitors.

Looking forward, ConveyorTek will continue to expand its export presence and has some innovative new products in the pipeline. The Company also plans to exhibit at various trade events, most notably the Hillhead Show.

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# NEW 1000TC Cone Crusher

Tesab have recently launched their NEW 1000TC Cone Crusher which was officially unveiled at Hillhead 2018! Adding to their existing Cone range, the 1000TC is ideal working in direct feed applications, designed to produce High Tonnages and High Quality Cubical Aggregates.

**With a 1000mm wide cone crusher unit, the superior Tesab design consists of thicker manganese for longer life and a specifically curved profile allowing for unscreened feed – producing a superior shaped product and high tonnages well in excess of 230 TPH!**

Boasting a large 4.5m<sup>3</sup> Hardox Lined Hopper as standard with a Low Feed In Height of 2.64m, Hydraulic Raise/Lower Conveyor for easy access with a 3.3m discharge height for increased stockpile capacity and the choice of concave chamber options (coarse, medium coarse or fine) – the 1000TC is a highly versatile machine!

The 1000TC is the first in an ongoing number of new product releases for the Tesab Cone range with the 1150 Cone is also currently in production and further plans for an even bigger 1300 Cone to complete the range before the end of 2018!

For more information on Tesab products visit [www.tesab.com](http://www.tesab.com) or contact us directly via +44(0)2882 252781



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# Bell B50E ADT Makes an Impact at Lagan Cement's Kinnegad Quarry

An increasingly familiar sight in quarries and on major construction sites in this part of the world, it is said Bell Articulated Dump Trucks 'haul more, for longer at the lowest cost-per-ton to deliver more on profit margins.' But what is the reality? Plant & Civil Engineer's David Stokes has been finding out from an operator who's recently introduced a new Bell 50E to an already impressive mixed fleet.

**As the first Bell dump truck to be earning its keep at Lagan Cement's Kinnegad Quarry in Westmeath, we were keen to discover if the machine was living up to expectations and if it compared favourably to other makes in the fleet.**

With a yearly capacity to produce up to three quarters of a million tonnes of cement, the quarry is clearly a hive of activity day and daily, with its machinery fleet often working at full stretch in a demanding and tough environment, so equipment

reliability is vital to avoid any unnecessary downtime.

So how is the Bell 50 tonne ADT performing? Over to quarry/plant manager Cathal Shine. "We've been operating the dump truck for just over five months and so far we are very happy with its performance and reliability."

The Bell 50E, delivered by dealers ECI, has replaced a rigid hauler, mainly for operational and changing conditions in the quarry.



### CLEAR CHOICE

“We looked a several options before deciding on the Bell which readily met our criteria,” explains Cathal. “The fact that it is an articulated truck was one of the initial attractions, as is its fuel efficiency, as well, of course, as its large capacity which makes it a very productive addition to our fleet.”

He adds: “Our operators are very impressed with the Bell, especially its comfortable and spacious cab and its numerous safety features, all of which provides a secure and pleasant working environment for the drivers.”

Bell ADTs, of course, are built to operate in the toughest of conditions. The central oscillation joint, high suspension travel on all axles, and balanced weight distribution provide the agility and ability to navigate challenging terrain such as that found at Kinnegad.

The cab is very well laid out, with easy-to-understand instruments and intuitive controls wrapping around the operator so they're easier to view and operate - from the state-of-the-art 10" full colour screen, automotive mouse interface and sealed switch module with centrally located sealed display unit to air suspension seat, tilt/telescoping steering wheel (and optional CD player with high-output speakers), the E-series sound-suppressed cab absolutely provides everything operators need to perform at their best.

### SAFETY FEATURES

Safety is paramount when operating in a quarry environment and as Cathal pointed out, the Bell ADT doesn't disappoint on that front, either.

Independent features such as Hill Assist, Bin Tip Prevention, Auto Park Application, and Turbo Spin Protection are all standard on the E-series Bell, as are Keyless Start and On-Board Weighing.

The park brake, for example, automatically applies when neutral is selected; it is not possible to engage neutral at speed. Meanwhile, Hill Assist ensures no roll back on slopes, while best-in-class retarder and engine braking automatically applies when the operator lifts his foot off the accelerator. Retarder aggressiveness can be simply adjusted on the sealed switch module ensuring maximum descent control for all conditions.

For improved safety and productivity, the Bell 50E also has Automatic Traction Control which is achieved with speed sensors providing feedback to the truck on-board computer. The computer then controls differential lock activation as needed.

In addition, the dump truck can be set up to automatically sound the horn when starting or switching between forward and reverse – and when maximum payload is reached.

The fully automatic seven-speed planetary Allison transmission with torque converter lock-up maximises fuel efficiency, while automatic retardation slows the truck when the operator backs off the accelerator pedal for more confidence on steep grades.

Meanwhile, fully enclosed, flooded, dual circuit wet disc brakes offer superior braking performance and extended service life essential for wet and muddy conditions. Oil-immersed wet-disc brakes are virtually maintenance-free and feature a high flow circulation system with filtration and cooling.

### MERCEDES POWERED

Powered by a Mercedes 6-cylinder inline, turbocharged diesel engine (producing 577hp@1700rpm) and with a top speed of just over 50km/h, the 50E dump truck, like all in the E-Series, runs SCR-technology in combination with EGR to give an industry leading standard in fuel-efficient emission control.

Routine maintenance is also made simple. The cab, for example, can be tilted in minutes without special tools, for convenient service access to drivetrain components.

Automated daily service checks can also be done with ease and comfort from inside the cab using the LCD monitor and sealed display controller.



*Creagh Concrete, Toomebridge, CDE customer for the past 20 years which incorporates many modular components engineered and manufactured by CDE*



# Home-Grown Global Firm CDE on Stellar Trajectory

When it comes to excellence in engineering and manufacturing, CDE has over 25 years of experience in the field of materials wet processing.

**The company has recently risen to the cream of the crop as one of only 25 companies in Northern Ireland to make it on to “The UK’s**

1000 Companies to Inspire Britain” report, compiled by The London Stock Exchange Group. Add to this the recent accolades of Deloitte Best Managed Company for the 10th consecutive year and the highly coveted Manufacturer of the Year

£25m+ Award at the Insider’s Made in Northern Ireland Awards on 11 May 2018, and it is clear that CDE has continued on a growth trajectory that is second to none.

## A CLASS OF ITS OWN

As a manufacturer, CDE takes each of its customer’s vision to turn it into reality. Every plant is tailor-made to their exact specifications for optimal efficiency and return on investment, which are determined through detailed consultation and product testing.

Sean Kerr, Engineering Director at CDE said: “Our strength lies in the level of excellence of our teams, that keeps us ahead of the innovation curve, but also in the absolute care we put in everything we do.

“From the first contact with a customer, we ensure that we provide a world-class service through all milestones of their plant’s journey.

CDE’s project management expertise is extensive and the company takes charge of all aspects of each project from initial

discussions through to the installation phase and beyond.”

## NEW YEAR, NEW IMAGE

Celebrating 25 years in business, CDE has gone from strength to strength and sold, installed and commissioned over 1,000 turnkey systems globally, including the largest wet processing plant in the world in the Middle East. The company’s recent brand overhaul sees a new look for the company and a new strapline “A New World of Resource”, representing the futuristic and innovative outlook the company is taking in the industry, continually seeking to provide high tech, user- friendly and bespoke wet processing solutions to construction companies as well as mine and quarry operators.

The company has also brought to life the five sectors in which it operates with new branding and sectoral names including: CDE Primo (Sand

& Aggregates), CDE Meta (Mining), CDE Reco (Construction, Demolition & Excavation Waste Recycling), CDE Solv (Industrial Sands) and CDEnviro (Environmental). The dedication and commitment to developing these sectors on a global basis is further supported with the recruitment of over 150 people in the business in 2017.

## A STELLAR GROWTH

Commenting on CDE’s extraordinary growth, Brendan McGurgan, MD comments: “Our recent performance is testimony to the



**The new CDE headquarters in Cookstown will be completed in the fourth quarter of 2018**



**Sean Kerr,  
Engineering Director**

strength, determination, culture and resilience of our team, who has skillfully navigated a path through the recession since 2008.

“A commitment to our strategic goals underpinned by a strong focus on Innovation has delivered value to our customers across five industry sectors on a global basis and we

are delighted that the outlook remains positive as we concentrate our collective efforts towards the delivery of our 2020 Vision.”

CDE’s experience includes classification and beneficiation of minerals and value addition across these five sectors globally. The continuous focus on innovation and product development in the business saw a major development in 2017 with the launch of the company’s most sophisticated M-Series wet processing model to date, alongside five new patents, with eight more in the pipeline, CDE has consolidated its position as an international market leader in its field.

Sean Kerr adds: “CDE is also securing its long-term sustainability and competitiveness through improvements in efficiency. During 2017, we increased the volume of machines dispatched by 27% without the need to increase the footprint of the production space”.

**AN EXPANDING REACH**

To support its ambitious long-term growth projections CDE has recently invested in a 300,000 square foot world-class fabrication facility in Monkstown, which will complement its current supply base and ensure that its fabrication resource meets future requirements.

With demand anticipated to double by the end of 2020, this additional facility complements the existing Northern Ireland supply base and enhances employment in the Monkstown area where a tradition of engineering has existed for many years.

With new CDE headquarters being completed in the fourth quarter of 2018, this is going to be an exciting time for the company as it will produce high quality job opportunities across the company’s various divisions. At CDE, the future is bright and the company looks forward to turning new challenges into new opportunities and to continuing to improve and provide the best expertise and customer service in the field.

*CDE will be attending the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Jobs Fair at the Valley Leisure Centre on 6th June. Come along to see what job roles are on offer, or contact our recruitment personnel on [recruitment@cdeglobal.com](mailto:recruitment@cdeglobal.com)*



A NEW WORLD OF RESOURCE

# McHale Plant Sales Gives Metso Crushers 'A Strong Presence' in fixed and Mobile Markets

Within the worldwide community of rock crushing and screening equipment manufacturers, Finnish-based Metso is one of the stand-out names with a strong product presence in mining, quarrying and aggregates production.

**In Ireland, their products are distributed by Birdhill and Rathcoole-based distributor, McHale Plant Sales, whose long 20 plus years association with Japanese construction and civil works plant and machinery manufacturer, Komatsu, provided Metso with a natural entrée to many of the markets and operators that their products reach.**

And so it has proven to be in the roughly three years since their appointment as Metso distributor during which period the company has been making solid sales progress with a number of high-profile, first-time Metso users now committed to the Finnish brand.

First model taken on board by McHale was the proven Lokotrack



Metso LT106 mobile jaw crusher

range of which the LT106 mobile jaw crusher is the most popular and, to many, the most versatile choice, not least amongst contractors attracted by its 'transportability'. Seen as the workhorse of the Metso range, the attractively designed LT106 - in its distinctive Metso beige and rust red colour scheme - is built around the tough, high-output C106 jaw crusher whose many features include ease-of-maintenance and the easy replacement of worn components.

Another model gaining ground with a number of high-profile installations recorded is the multi-purpose Lokotrack LT1213 mobile impact crusher and the compact and sturdy LT200HP mobile cone crusher – a machine of proven versatility with an intelligent IC 600 control system at its heart. Matching more capacity to lower fuel consumption, the multi-purpose LT1213 includes ease of operation and ease of maintenance amongst its various features.

Another easily transportable Lokotrack unit is the 30,000kg LT200HP. Powered by a 317kw CAT C-12 engine, the LT200HP is fed by a 6m long belt through a 5 cubic metres capacity hopper with a 210mm feed opening. Dimensions are 16,750mm (long), 3,000mm (wide) and 3,400mm (high) with key features that also include a hydraulic generator and lube-cooling fan.

Initially appointed to handle mobile units only, so successful has McHale been their remit has since been extended to include fixed units also, with an all-Ireland market remit.

Metso Lokotrack-LT1213S



# Lokotrack® LT106™ - A proven track record in the toughest of applications

## The Metso Way - Making the big difference to our customers

With new features, such as a radial side conveyor, high inertia flywheels and the Metso IC™ process control system that utilizes an ultrasonic material level sensor, the Lokotrack® LT106™ offers the best capacity and cost efficiency in the 40-tonne size class.

The Lokotrack® LT106™ mobile jaw crushing plant combines over 30 years of experience in mobile equipment with 21st century materials and design. It simultaneously cuts operating costs and generates the highest customer value possible.

#TheMetsoWay



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# MATTEST

## Quality Testing for the Construction Industry for 25 Years

Mattest provides UKAS and INAB accredited independent commercial & technical testing for the construction industry.



Luas Cross City Scheme (Image credit: Construction Industry Federation)



Nuclear Density Gauge testing on the A6 road project (Image credit: Mattest)

**For 25 years, Mattest has offered its customers a professional, efficient and reliable construction materials testing service, for all kinds of projects and material producers, big and small.**

The company's experienced engineers and technicians can execute a range of services, providing prompt and accurate reporting of test results to all relevant British, Irish and European Standards, with specific tests designed to suit particular materials and site environments.

The company provides quality control and technical consultancy services to construction materials production companies, including quarries, concrete and cement manufacturers and producers of recycled aggregates, including services related to maintenance of QSRMC and BSI accreditation. Mattest also provides environmental consultation and testing to meet the requirements of ISO 14001.

Since its inception in 1993, Mattest has covered all of the stringent testing requirements on many vital civil engineering projects both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, including:

- 1999 N11 Arklow bypass dual carriageway (now M11 motorway)
- 2000 Odyssey Arena (now SSE Arena)
- 2005 M1 Dundalk bypass motorway
- 2005 Cork Airport terminal
- 2007 Mahon Point Shopping Centre, Cork
- 2008 A12 Westlink widening (including Broadway underpass, Grosvenor Road bridge)
- 2010 A1 Newry bypass dual carriageway
- 2010 A4 Dungannon–Ballygawley dual carriageway
- 2010 M3 Clonee–Kells Road motorway
- 2013 D1 Offshore Wind Terminal, Belfast Harbour
- 2013 N22 Tralee bypass dual carriageway
- 2015 A2 Greenisland widening and dual carriageway



M1 Dundalk bypass, County Louth (Image credit: Lagan Asphalt Group)



Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork (Image credit: Irish Droneworks)



D1 Offshore Wind Terminal, Belfast Harbour (Image credit: Belfast Harbour)



SSE Arena, Belfast (Image credit: SSE Arena)



Testing for cover of reinforcement bars (Image credit: Mattest)

- 2016 A31 Magherafelt bypass dual carriageway
- 2016 Connswater Greenway and C.S. Lewis Square public realm, Belfast
- 2016 Ulster Hospital Inpatient Ward Dock
- 2017 A26 Glarryford–Drones Road dual carriageway
- 2017 LUAS Cross City Scheme, Dublin
- 2018 Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork

Mattest has also provided on-site laboratory testing services to construction projects in Great Britain, including the 96-turbine Kilgallioch Wind Farm, one of the largest in Europe.

Current work includes the new A6 Randalstown–Castledawson dual

carriageway, construction projects at the Royal Victoria, Altnagelvin and Ulster Hospitals, University Hospital Waterford and the new headquarters for Facebook and Microsoft in Dublin. Meanwhile the company also caters to the needs of small construction and road projects across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Mattest has modern, fully equipped, accredited laboratories in Belfast (UKAS No. 0203), Dublin (INAB No. 286T) and Cork (INAB No. 289T) and can provide fully accredited on-site materials testing facilities for major projects throughout Ireland. This accreditation means that the laboratories are independently examined at least annually, and that they meet the requirements of ISO 17025 and ISO 9001.

Mattest congratulates QPA Northern Ireland on completing its 20th year, and wishes it and its members many years of success to come.

# MATTEST

## QUALITY TESTING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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# Specialist Cost Auditors Help You Spend Smarter & Perform Better

In today's operating environment, companies more than ever need to be smart about their spending, but making savings and cutting costs can be challenging at the best of times, which is why many are calling on the services of Specialist Cost Auditors, who have been providing cost reduction strategies to businesses across Ireland and the UK since 2004.

**The company was set up by Northern Ireland man John McGowan who has an extensive business background in the manufacturing sector. Having watched for years how companies overspend John decided to utilise his knowledge gained by working for a global cost reduction company.**

He explains: "We can help companies reduce costs, save money and perform better. We assist them to think strategically, spend smarter, increase profitability and boost efficiency. We offer a value for money service which empowers companies to build on a more sustainable future."

Take McCaffrey Aggregates, for example. This third generation, family owned business was established in 1968 by the late Bernard McCaffrey, but its history extends back into the 1940's when they were first involved in the sand and gravel business in the Fermanagh/Cavan region.

From its first sand washing plant in Drumderg, Teemore, the business took a significant step in 1978, opening a limestone quarry at Knockninny, Derrylin. Here they expanded into supplying agricultural lime and ready-mix concrete, opening a new factory premises in 2004 to manufacture pre-cast wall panels and cattle slats.

In 2010 the company made its biggest development to date, acquiring two new quarries in Ederney, County Fermanagh and Drumquin, County Tyrone. This new acquisition has enabled the company to extend its geographic market and to broaden their product range. They have now diversified into the production of concrete blocks, tarmac and bedding lime, and have established a new surfacing division.

With now over 70 years of experience, the company has established a reputation throughout Ireland and the UK for quality products and excellent customer service.

As Specialist Cost Auditors' Business Development Director, John McGowan first met with Cormac McCaffrey, the Managing Director of the company, back in May 2017. The initial meeting was for John to understand the structure of the company and ask a number of penetrating questions in order for him to diagnose where potential profit leaks may exist within his company.

John knew exactly the best place to start with McCaffrey Aggregates and he introduced them to London based Morton House Corporate Services, which helps businesses increase their productivity, profitability and competitiveness in a number of ways, including, for example, by assisting with realigning staff working habits, organisational restructuring, product and service evolution, and technological take-up.

Cormac says he is extremely happy with the extra monthly financial return he receives and adds: "The professionalism of John and his team from the start of the process to implementation was very pleasing and I can highly recommend the services of his business to any company."

## PORTVIEW CONSTRUCTION

Another satisfied client is Portview Construction which has saved in excess of £100,000 following a period



John McGowan

of engagement with Specialist Cost Auditors.

This Belfast based company specialises in retail fit-outs and office refurbishments in the public and private sectors all over the UK and Ireland.

The company's Finance Director, Simon Campbell, believed there was an opportunity to save the company money so he met with Specialist Cost Auditors to discuss different categories where expenditure was high.

As part of the company's drive for quality and efficiency this proved to be a very worthwhile step.

Says Simon: "Sourcing alternative suppliers within the building industry has become increasingly difficult due to stringent quality and service requirements. I am also keenly aware of the need to control and reduce costs and for these reasons it made sense to engage Specialist Cost Auditors.

"They took great care in understanding our needs, and, for each area of expenditure we asked them to review, they undertook a thorough analysis. Unquestionably, the team, with its wealth of supplier and pricing knowledge, has been an invaluable resource to our organisation."



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# Gleeson Steel & Engineering Ltd Marks Half a Century of Expertise & Innovation

Putting the customer first has always held Gleeson Steel & Engineering Ltd (GSE) in good stead since it was first established in 1968. Now, 50 years on, the company has become one of the country's leading truck body manufacturers and steel fabricators.

**Success hasn't happened by accident. It has taken not only hard work and dedication, but also a focused strategy that has encompassed diversification and continual investment in the business and its people.**

Founded by the Gleeson family, more specifically, the late Murt Gleeson and his wife Alice, the County Tipperary headquartered company has evolved over the last half century by producing products that meet the demands of an ever increasing competitive steel market.

GSE can trace its success right back to the days when it initially supplied steel fabrication buildings and other products to the farming community, and it still does, but its cutting edge truck body building expertise now plays a major part of today's operation.

Participating in major shows and exhibitions across Ireland and the UK, including the Hillhead and Tip-Ex events, has seen the company's

name and products come to the fore in recent years.

Today, it is headed up by sons PJ and Tomas Gleeson, with their mother still playing an active role in the day to day running of the business which, through its truck bodies division, supplies an innovative and extensive range of certified type approved bodies and trailers for a customer base that is both broad and diverse – from construction and quarry operations to utilities and agricultural.

#### Commitment

"We are 100% committed to offering the high spec, high quality and durable products that our customers have come to expect. Our commitment to manufacturing technologies, as well as our investment in highly skilled engineers, certified welders and production personnel, ensures that each product manufactured fully meets customers' expectations," says PJ.

It is a business that doesn't stand still, with significant investment going into research and development to come up with designs and products that the customer needs and wants. Indeed, with 50





years in manufacturing, the company's reputation for delivering timely, competitive and valued products is nationally recognised.

**Another First**

One of the company's more recent sales was to Mercedes Benz Truck & Van NI involving the delivery of four custom designed 'Rock Armour' tipper bodies, the first of their kind in the country.

The heavy duty bodies, which were fitted to Mercedes Benz eight-wheeler Aroc trucks for Quinn Building Products in Fermanagh who've been recently updating their fleet, can easily withstand the rugged and tough quarry environment in which they are working.

The Hardox bodies each feature an hydraulic tail door, as well as a cab protector hood to prevent potential damage to the vehicle or injury to the driver.

**Innovation**

This latest order is indicative of just how impressive the company's product portfolio is. Several years ago it partnered Italian tipper specialists Drago as its exclusive distributors to introduce what was then a new style tipper body into the UK and Irish markets, suitable for all bulk materials with a contoured body designed to optimise material discharge and allow for bulk material centering.

The design, using a bolt together technique, makes for quick and easy assembly. This also makes maintenance and repair much simpler, as these can be done in far less time and at far lower cost than repairs to the traditional welded bodies. It minimises the time that a truck needs to be taken out of service.

The E100 has a full Hardox body, complete with a 5mm floor, 4mm sides, headboard and tailboard and an automatic tailboard. The top rail is 5mm and is profiled to ensure its strength. The body comes with a sub-frame as standard. The top lifting ram used increases stability when tipping. The bolt together technology used also eliminates the risk of weld fracture and fatigue.

The company now has a full range of bolted bodies suitable for 26 and 32 tonne and five axle trucks, with a number of options including a full range of traditional welded bodies, grab bodies and smaller tipper bodies in the 3.5 tonne and 7.5 tonne truck range.

All Gleeson bodies are finished to the highest standard, each body being shot blasted, primed and finished to either single pack or two pack Crown paint finish; indeed, the company is renowned for its paint quality.

The company's state-of-the-art 30,000 sq ft facilities outside Thurles is fully equipped with a Saw and CNC Drill Line, a CNC Angle Line, an Industrial Spray Paint Booth, complete with Extractor Units and an Air Flow Heating System, and a Powder Coating Plant.

Apart from its truck body activities, parent company Gleeson Steel has successfully completed a wide range of high quality projects throughout Munster and Ireland over the last number of years - from industrial buildings to fire stations, hospital refurbishments and medical facilities.

**Health & Safety**

With Safe-T certification and a rigorous health and safety





management system in place, members of staff are trained and certified in every aspect of steel fabrication, facilitating the delivery of steel products, measured and cut to precision.

In 2014, it achieved compliance with the requirements of I.S. EN1090-1:2009 + A1:2011 for CE marking of Structural Steel, up to Execution Class 2 (EXC 2) which covers the fabrication of most of the structural steel used in Ireland and the UK.

This achievement follows a significant programme of

investment by the company in a factory production control system, which covers stock management, skilled personnel, fabrication equipment and consumables, together with the implementation of a regime of continuous inspection and testing of our welding and painting procedures.

All its steel erectors are fully trained in on-site safety measures and procedures. Ongoing training is a high priority for the company and is frequently reviewed. On site Health and Safety inspections are regularly carried out by Gleeson trained personnel and also by a consultant H&S company, employed by Gleeson Steel.

**Team Focus**

The company is quick to point out that apart from the quality of the product its continuing success is due in no small measure to the dedication and focus of the workforce – from designers and draftsmen to fabricators and paint sprayers - who are fully committed to customer satisfaction.

It's an approach that has seen this family owned and run business blossom in the good times and bad, and with 50 years of expertise and success already under its belt there is every reason to believe that the next 50 years will be every bit as exciting and productive.





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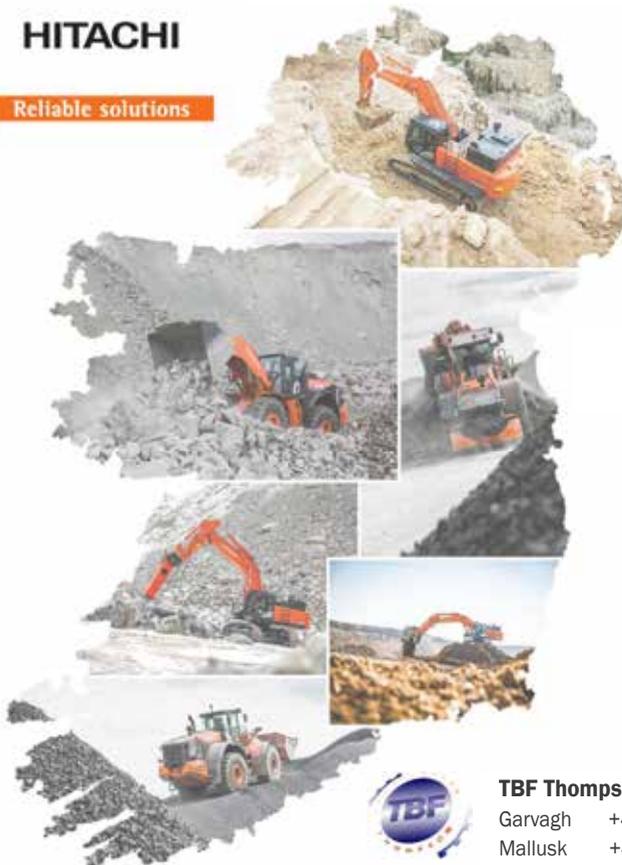
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# Liebherr L 586 XPowerØ impresses Hanson Aggregates with its extremely low fuel consumption

Topping the range of Liebherr wheel loaders, the L 586 XPowerØ has recently been finding friends in a number of quarrying operations in North Wales.

**This includes Hanson's St George Quarry near Abergele, which has recently taken delivery of one of the loaders and is using it to manage stockpiles around the site.**

Both Quarry Manager Lee Williams and regular operator Edwin Roberts have been amazed at the new wheel loader's fuel consumption, or rather the lack of it. They suspected that the LIDAT monitoring system was faulty when it showed that the machine was only using 11.7 litres of fuel per hour. 'This is far better than we thought it would be and is far less than any of the previous machines we have used on site,' Lee commented. 'We have been very impressed with the reliability of the machine too,' he added.

The L 586 XPowerØ boasts the pinnacle of engine and transmission technology in the form of a six-cylinder D936 engine and an XPowerØ CVT transmission. This combination allowed Liebherr designers to keep the engine low and to the rear of the machine, replacing the large counterweight. This reduction in physical mass, and therefore weight, equates to a significant fuel saving. The Liebherr diesel engine delivers 358 HP at a maximum of 1800 RPM. This low revving ability matched to the XPowerØ driveline, which has impressed Edwin with its power and ease of control, gives the range its characteristic driving style: 'It took me a couple of weeks to settle into the Liebherr's driving style,' Edwin explained, 'but now I've got used to it, I wouldn't want to go back to anything else.'





Quarry Manager Lee Williams (left) and operator Edwin Roberts (right) are highly satisfied with Hanson's new Liebherr L 586 XPower® wheel loader.

The 33 tonne L 586 XPower<sup>®</sup> has been supplied with Z-bar linkage on a high lift arm arrangement that gives an effective load over height of 4.5 m, which is ideal for loading both the road-going trucks that leave the site. The high lift arm arrangement also enables the loader to service the 50 tonne rigid dump trucks used at the quarry should the need arise. It has been equipped with a 6 m<sup>3</sup> straight-edged bucket with bolt-on replaceable cutting edge.

The large loader is seen as the ideal tool to load tippers. The general-purpose bucket can load an eight-wheeler tipper in just two passes and this job is now far easier thanks to the on-board weighing system. 'We never had anything of the sort when I first started,' Edwin laughs. 'It was a very time-consuming job getting each truck close to the maximum weight.'

And the weighing system isn't the only thing that has changed. From the large cab with its excellent all-round vision, well laid out controls and comfortable seat to the huge electrically-operated bonnet that provides easy access to the whole engine compartment, the Liebherr L 586 XPower<sup>®</sup> has been designed to make

the operator's working day easier.

Edwin has operated wheeled loaders for over 40 years and is therefore well qualified to give his experienced view on the L 586 XPower<sup>®</sup>: 'This is simply the best wheeled loader I have driven!' he said. 'I've driven almost everything and this beats them all.'

For further information on the Liebherr XPower<sup>®</sup> range and its fuel saving capabilities, come and visit us at Hillhead on stand Z6.



# Super Mass Excavation and Fuel Efficient Loading



Liebherr excavators are designed and built from the ground up specifically for tough quarrying operations. The Super Mass Excavation range features the undercarriage from the next size up machine as well as a host of other heavy-duty robust components to ensure reliability, efficiency and productivity.

The XPower wheel loaders provide maximum efficiency in all applications due to automatic adjustment between mechanical and hydrostatic driveline. Significant fuel savings are achieved thanks to Liebherr XPower driveline with Liebherr-Power-Efficiency (LPE). Optimal cab and engine hood design provides exceptional all-round visibility for safe and comfortable operation.

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# LIEBHERR

# Aggregates from all over Europe to satisfy specialist markets

**Irwins have been supplying quality aggregates to the construction market for over eighty years.**

From sources in East Tyrone, Irwins washed sands and gravels have been extensively used in the building industry, sports market and water filtration industry.

Recognising the demand for unique materials, the company has added a vast range of aggregates from all over Europe to satisfy specialist markets. Whether it be for colour, contrast, durability or specialist finished. Irwins have the products and knowledge to provide aggregate solutions to the most varied individual demands. Recent additions include the supply of 'AgraBlock', a hard-wearing grid system for locking in gravel surfaces or providing parking/access on grassed areas.

From dry dash finished, sports infill and dressing sands to architectural panels and filtration media, Irwins can offer a truly unmatched range of aggregates for exceptional results. If your needs are for an aggregates that makes your products stand out against the opposition, contact Irwins for the solution.



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# Fifth-generation business operating for over 130 years

McQuillan Companies are a Northern Ireland based family run business which incorporates a diverse range of activities including road maintenance, civil engineering, demolition, quarrying, hazardous and dry waste management, analytical services, outdoor cleaning and winter services. We are a fifth-generation business operating for over 130 years through the parent company John McQuillan Contracts Ltd.

**McQuillan companies evolved from the original company producing lime stone to the following six companies, John McQuillan Contracts, Edentrillick Quarries, McQuillan Skip Hire and McQuillan Envirocare and Patterson's Outdoor Cleaning Services providing numerous specialist services throughout Ireland.**

As McQuillan Companies arrive at the present day we are very aware the environment in which we work continues to evolve and we must adjust with it. As part of a recent management review of our operations we have come up with a fresh rebranding of our companies.

The new brand echoes the tradition of our companies whilst also representing the modern-day approach our companies have to all projects, ensuring whether you are a repeat Government client or a new customer you will receive the same professional service backed by experts in their respective industries.

Going forward, we will be marketing four divisions under the master brand of McQuillan Companies, they are John McQuillan Contracts, McQuillan Quarries, McQuillan Environmental & McQuillan Outdoor.

2018 has seen John McQuillan Contracts complete a two contracts for DFI's new Belfast Rapid Transit Scheme. Further notable projects are Victoria Terminals 1 and 2 and the completion of our first resurfacing contract in Scotland, whilst continuing to service four Transport NI Asphalt Resurfacing Term Contracts and two Surface Dressing Term Contracts.

McQuillan Quarries has seen growth in manufacturing tonnages. We have a technical team of Senior Managers, Production Staff and John McQuillan Contracts management representatives involved through Technical Committees to ensure we are compliant with changes in specification, and are constantly seeking to develop



new products. In compliance with Health and Safety regulations, this year we completed a Silica Dust strategy through various meetings with Production and Compliance staff. All of this was completed with constant correspondence with the HSE who have in turn commended us on our response to the new regulations.

McQuillan Environmental have invested in a new reactor for our Chemical Treatment Facility in Antrim, to cope with the increasing throughput of the plant. The hazardous waste and chemical treatment processes is supported by a UKAS accredited lab based on site in Antrim. The Material Recovery Facility based in Dundrod, should see the completion of a new state of the art waste sorting plant in September 2018 needed to assist in the growing geographical spread of our dry waste resource management.

McQuillan Outdoor continues to develop its range of activities including the provision of Winter Services. McQuillan Outdoor also expanded its street cleaning and graffiti removal services through the successful bid on Belfast One and CBD tenders.

McQuillan Companies has not only addressed the challenges of business over the last 130 years, but has grown the core services it provides and customer base along with it. This has been done by a particular focus on customer needs with continued self-assessment of what we can shape, improve and maintain in all our business sectors.

McQuillan Companies continues to support QPANI at all levels through the Committee Structure from involvement as one of the founding members in the Executive committee, with representation in all committees which are relevant to our company portfolio. In that capacity we would wish QPANI continued success.

Please visit our newly updated website [www.mcquillancompanies.com](http://www.mcquillancompanies.com)

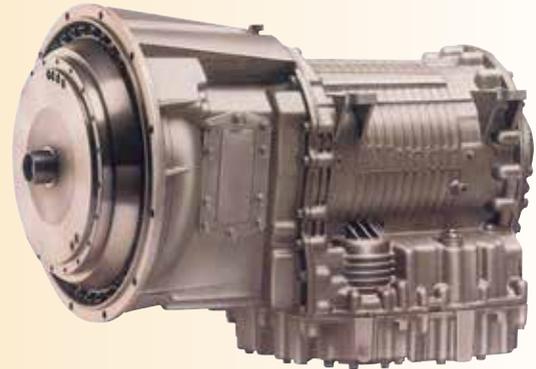


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# Application for Full Membership

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE:

1. Where a company is applying for membership this form must be completed in full by the secretary or a director of the company.
2. When completed this form should be sent to **Quarry Products Association Limited, Northern Ireland Region, Nutts Corner Business Park, Dundrod Road, Crumlin BT29 4SR**

**USE BLOCK CAPITALS** PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN FULL

Company Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Telephone Number: .....

Fax Number: .....

Contact Name: .....

E-mail Address: .....

## PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING UNITS

(including details of Associated Companies)

(Details of Concrete Blocks, Cement, Quarries, Pits, Ready Mix, Black Top Processing Units)

**NUMBER OF PLANTS/OUTLETS**

**READY MIX CONCRETE** .....

**BLACK TOP** .....

**SAND AND GRAVEL PITS** .....

**QUARRIES** .....

**CEMENT PLANTS** .....

**PRECAST** (Inc blocks, rooftiles, pavia, pipes, floors etc) .....

**CEMENT** .....

We hereby apply to become a member of Quarry Products Association Limited and agree to be bound by the Articles of Association and any rules made thereunder by the council of the Association.

Date: .....

Signed: .....

(Director, Secretary or Partner)

# QPANI Committees



## Executive Committee

**Chairman:** Eamon Finnegan  
Lagan Cement Products *(Pictured)*

**Vice Chairman:** Simon McDowell  
Kilwaughter Chemical Co.

Gordon Best (QPANI)  
Paul Brogan (McQuillan Companies)  
Paddy Clarke (F P McCann Ltd)  
Brian Curtis (Curtis Enterprises)  
William Doherty (Creagh Concrete Ltd)  
Colin Emerson (Norman Emerson Group)  
Clive Grudgings (Lafarge Ireland)  
Damien Keenan (P Keenan Roads)  
Darren McMillan (Lagan Cement Products)  
John McReynolds (Northstone NI)  
Paddy Mohan (Quinn Building Products)  
Aidan Mullan (Whitemountain)  
Stephen Robinson (Robinson Quarry Masters)  
Eamonn Sweeney (Northstone NI)



## Health & Safety Committee

**Chairman:** Craig Chisholm  
Northstone NI *(Pictured)*

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Alistair Cousins (Gibson Bros)  
Edward Deighan (F P McCann)  
Paddy Dillon (Macrete)  
Roy Dornan (Collen Bros)  
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Mike Kelly (Whitemountain)  
Jim Leitch (Northstone NI)  
Ken Logan (Health & Safety Executive NI)  
Cathy Maguire (Acheson & Glover Group)  
Richard Maguire (Quinn Building Products Ltd)  
Graham Matthews (Kilwaughter Minerals)  
Bob McHenry (Lagan Group)  
Damien Teague (McQuillan Companies)



## Asphalt Committee

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Peter Collen (Collen Bros)  
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Chris Diamond (P Keenan Roads)  
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Francis Fullerton (Gibson Bros Ltd)  
James McCartan (Tullyraine Quarries)  
Mark Quigley (Whitemountain)  
Gareth Telford (Northstone Materials)



## Concrete Development Group

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Brian Curtis (Curtis Enterprises)  
Colin Emerson (Norman Emerson Group)  
Henry Heron (F P McCann)  
Kevin Maguire (Quinn Building Products Ltd)  
Darren McMillan (Lagan Cement Products)  
Kieran McHugh (Tracey Concrete)  
Samuel McIlroy (RTU)  
Keith Wood (Northstone NI)



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Brian Watt (Northstone NI)

# QPANI Committees



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Gareth McCallion (Quarryplan)  
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Rebecca McQuillan (Northstone NI Ltd)  
John McReynolds (Northstone NI)  
Peter O'Connor (SLR Consulting)  
Stephen Robinson (Robinson Quarry Masters)

## Biodiversity

**Group administered by**  
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Adam Mantell (Buglife)  
Alison Diver (Mid & East Antrim Council)  
Aoibhinn Corrigan (DAERA)  
Catherine Bertrand (Butterfly Conservation)  
Conor McKinney (Ulster Wildlife)  
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