

## **QPANI Environmental Awards 2009**

### **Northstone (NI) Limited Quarry & Asphalt Division entry**

#### **CSR CATEGORY**

##### **Going the extra mile for the community**

Northstone's Quarry & Asphalt Division regularly engages with the community with the aim of positively promoting and increasing the environmental and social responsibility profile of both the company and the industry at large. We achieve this by organising events and facilitating special interest group visits to our quarries. To-date this year, we have successfully run three events which have been greatly appreciated by all who took part. Part of that success is our desire to 'go the extra mile' in our effort to ensure that everyone derives the maximum interest and benefit from each event.

##### **European Minerals Day**

For the European Minerals Day, our North Down Quarries hosted an open day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The open day was advertised in the local press (*see attachment 1*). Despite rain on the day, 94 out of 96 pre-booked visitors turned up. Six additional non-booked visitors also turned up, making 100 visitors altogether.

##### **The extra mile**

Our visitors were able to enjoy light refreshments and exhibits in a large marquee erected for the day and which provided welcome shelter from the rain. Laverne Bell manned an exhibit for QPANI, and Mark Ruddock, from the NI Raptor Group, had a captive-bred Peregrine Falcon on display.

Visitors were allowed to climb into the cabs of a dumper, shovel loader and tipper lorry which were also on display. Two minibuses were used to take the visitors on a guided tour round the quarry. They were able to see the face excavator, a dumper and the primary crusher in action. Production Director Sam Deane and Quarry Manager Declan Close were the 'tour guides' on the day. Jim Shannon, MLA for the Ards Peninsula also called in.

Our strong commitment to the event was shown by all the Northstone staff and employees who happily gave up their Saturday morning to engage with the visitors with good humour, chat, and general helpfulness, whether it was directing cars, providing drinks and eats, manning stands, driving mini-buses, showing the children round the plant, or giving the guided tours and answering scores of questions. A sheet (*see attachment 2*) illustrating the quarry and how it worked, including simple notes on the geology and environmental impact of the quarry, was also given to visitors.

Altogether, the event was appreciated by all the visitors, many of whom had small children.

A short video clip (*on CD provided*) of the event was produced and which is being used to promote the value of open days within the industry.

### **Moth Trapping Training Course**

At the request of QPANI, we hosted a QPANI/NIEA Moth Trapping Training event at our Long Mountain Quarry. The ½ day training session was delivered by Dave Allen and Clive Mellon, of Allen & Mellon Environmental, who are biodiversity consultants to the NIEA. The traps were set out on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>, and opened up the following morning for identification of the moths caught. Twelve biodiversity officers, from NIEA, two local councils, and the UWT, attended. Training on netting, beating and sweeping, which are additional invertebrate sampling techniques, was also given. The course proved to be of great interest to all who attended.

A total of 45 moth species were recorded, 27 of these were new records for the 10km square the quarry is in. One is a new County Antrim record.

#### **The extra mile**

To maximise the training impact of such an event, Angus Kennedy, our Environmental Manager, edited and produced a set of illustrated notes on the course (*see attachment 3*). Again a camcorder was used to record the event and a short training video produced (*on DV provided*) to complement the course notes. Dave and Clive's expertise in all aspects of moth trapping has been encapsulated in the notes and video and should prove of lasting interest and benefit, not only to the biodiversity officers who attended the course, but to a wider audience in the industry and further afield.

### **Geological Excursion**

Carmean hosted a visit from the Wessex Open University Geological Society and the Dorset Geologist's Association on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August. It was the last day of the combined group's week-long excursion to the Province and Donegal. The group were guided round the quarry by Angus, who is a geologist himself. David Glasgow, our KTP Associate who is based at Carmean, assisted in shepherding the group round the quarry. Alan Holiday, the party leader, expressed his appreciation on behalf of his group to Angus and David for guiding them around.

The visit arose from Mr Holiday spotting an article about the Belfast Geologists' Association's visit to Carmean in May 2007 in an issue of the Earth Science Ireland publication. Initial contact was through Laverne Bell who helped facilitate the visit.

#### **The extra mile**

Handouts, specially drawn up for the visitors, were provided (*see attachment 4*). The handout contained the necessary safety induction points as well as a description of the geology which is so well displayed on the ground at the quarry. Our visitors were particularly pleased at being able to collect many fossils from an easily accessible 'hot spot' in the quarry.

All the above events were featured as news items on our website (*see attachment 5*). The moth trapping event was also featured on both QPANI's and Biodiversity NI's websites.

We trust that the above amply demonstrates Northstone's Quarry & Asphalt Division's commitment in *going the extra mile* in its continuing engagement with the community.

***Attachments:***

- *Quarry Visitors Day advert*
- *North Down Open Day leaflet*
- *Open Day Video (On CD)*
- *Moth Trapping Training Course Notes*
- *Moth Trapping Course Video (On DV)*
- *Carmean Geology Leaflet produced for OUGS/DGA visit*
- *Northstone, QPANI and Biodiversity NI website news items.*

**Submitted by:** Angus Kennedy, Quality, Technical & Environmental Manager.

28/8/09