

Quarry Restoration and Eco Village Development

“ I believe the time is right to re-examine the restoration of quarry pits in the U.K., placing a priority on restoring them to a state of beneficial potential for the community and sustainable landscapes. ”

Sheila Blagg (Former Councillor and Cabinet Member for Worcestershire County Council)

Location:

Undisclosed - Worcestershire

Value:

£15m



The Brief

The purpose of the competition, run by Worcestershire County Council, was to generate imaginative ideas for the restoration and use of sand and gravel quarries based upon principals of sustainable development, including benefits to local communities, creating business opportunities and protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The site was also sensitively located within the Green Belt.

The competition organiser, Mrs Blagg, asked for entries to “Be brave, be imaginative, be innovative, this is your chance to break out, to show that the legacy of mineral working doesn't have to be the same everywhere”.

Project Overview

The design solution is inspired by the concept that the quarry is part of human advancement and development. It is something that humans could celebrate and remember, instead of hiding this part of their interaction with the landscape.

The shapes within the design mimic the landforms and processes which occur within mineral quarry extraction. Also as every fingerprint is unique to an individual human, so is every quarry unique to its place. We see our design as part of a series of destinations that could be created across the Midlands. Each unique in its own right, but part of a network of places for people and wildlife to visit, enjoy and perhaps stay.

The fingerprint forms a distinctive art feature, attracting visitors to the site. Like a human fingerprint it makes this design unique from potentially a series of restorations in the region, all with their own unique solution. It will also become a habitat for pioneer plant communities and bio-diversity, with seasonal water levels submerging the space at certain times, only to be re-revealed during other periods of the year.



Worcestershire - Unbuilt Project

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