

# Biodiversity & Community

## OUR ASPIRATION

To support and enhance biodiversity through good site management and the restoration of quarries and to be an active member of the communities in which we operate.

## KEY STATS

70 educational visits and site tours hosted by UK brick manufacturers in 2019.

All UK brick manufacturers are involved in community liaison activities, with many running active liaison committees. Other ways in which companies support local communities include the sponsorship of local groups and events, employee volunteer programmes and charitable donations.

The number of sites with biodiversity plans doubled in the last year.

## THE CHALLENGE

As a natural resource, clay should be extracted and used responsibly. The majority of clay brick manufacturers are landowners and are able to help offset the impact of quarrying on their sites and contribute positively to biodiversity, during extraction and also after through quarry restoration activities. The sector continues to work together to understand the contribution it makes to natural capital.

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

The National Planning Policy Framework is the framework for mineral safeguarding and extraction. It also incorporates the sector's sustainable development principles. Minerals can only be worked where they are located geographically and every quarry is carefully managed throughout the extraction process, and restored upon completion, in accordance with the planning process.

The maintenance and enhancement of natural capital is a key priority for Government and, by implementing quarry biodiversity and restoration plans, the brick sector helps to enhance local wildlife and biodiversity. In 2019, the Brick Development Association held a seminar on natural capital to investigate the sector's current contribution to natural capital and potential future steps in this emerging field.

Regular local community engagement by brick companies continues to be high, with educational visits and site tours hosted by manufacturers to promote of a better understanding of clay quarrying and brick manufacturing. Quarry excavation can often uncover exciting historical finds, which allows specialists group like archeologists to better understand our past.

## WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

- + The sector will continue to facilitate community engagement with local communities across the UK
- + Continue close collaboration with conservation and wildlife organisations to inform effective biodiversity planning and management
- + Continue to work with natural capital experts to understand the contribution and role of the sector
- + Contribute to emerging Government natural capital and biodiversity net gain approaches, where the sector has an important role to play.

