

Creating a platform for safe, successful eco-tourism development.

Project: Holiday resort development

Client: Habitat First Group

Contractor: MJ Church

Location: North Devon

The project

EPC-UK was awarded a contract to carry out the drilling & blasting on the Venn Quarry Project - a conversion of a disused quarry in Devon to create an eco-tourism development of holiday cabins, lodges and a hotel.

The project involved the blasting of a series of trenches for the development's drainage, together with excavation work to create settlement ponds and a recreational lake.

Situational challenges

The main constraints surrounding this project have been the strict vibration criteria imposed by local planning authorities, along with the presence of a public path that runs through the site.

The strict vibration constraints meant that the site was also environmentally sensitive.

Key Facts

Vibration objectives & constraints:

- Local planning constraints dictated that the maximum vibration level for each blast should not exceed 6.0 mm/s.

Blasting / environmental performance:

- All blasts were designed and executed to achieve a level well within the above given vibration limit.



Tailored blasting procedure

Our experienced team presented a scope of works involving drilling and blasting to achieve ground clearance for the development of buildings, and further drilling and blasting for the creation of the ponds and lakes together with trenching.

From experience, we knew to apply the proven capabilities of the reliable, Down-The-Hole Epiroc- ROC D55 drill rig - equipped with a range of hammers for high performance. The rig provided us with the required high levels of stability to aid vibration constraints. We operated a non-electric Detonator System charged with our emulsion, which was supplied by one of our mobile delivery units for speed, convenience and accuracy of delivery.



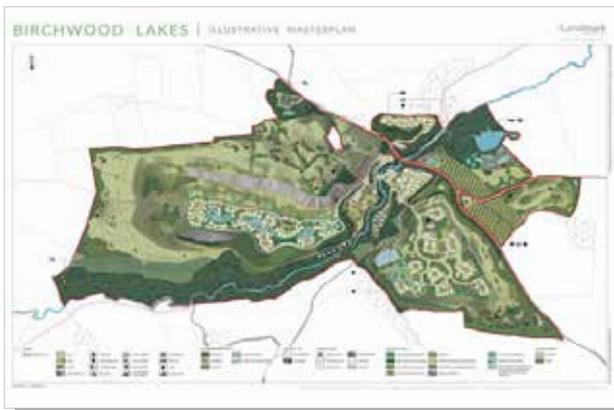
Safety & social responsibility

Alongside the holiday accommodation development, our work at the former quarry (which ceased operation in 2006) has served to create space for the growth of a nature reserve - offering "world-class nature conservation" - representing "an exemplary scheme within the North Devon Biosphere reserve, whose purpose is to harmonise development with the natural environment."

Regular species surveys take place at the project site to identify areas of ecological importance and help create habitats for wildlife to thrive.

Environmental performance

All blasts were carried out without incident and vibration kept well within the given vibration limit.



Values that define the way we work



Within all operations, EPC-UK performs using methods that support our company's established SPIRIT ethos, demonstrating **safety, passion, integrity, respect, innovation, and teamwork.**

The Venn Quarry civils project presents an example of where our industry leading values can be recognised.

Innovation has been an integral element of this quarry conversion project, leading our civil engineering team to work effectively with vibration criteria constraints, and **respect** the site's environmental sensitivities. Our **teamwork** capabilities came to the fore, delivering a transparent programme of works that have resulted in the creation of a holiday environment for the benefit of both people and nature.

Civils solutions

Leading our Civils Solutions team is EPC-UK Civils Manager Mark Jones. With 33 years of experience within the quarrying, offshore and civil engineering industry, Mark is well placed to drive our capable civils team, having managed numerous drilling and blasting and civil engineering projects within the UK, as well as several offshore developments across the globe.

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