

# Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK



bringing materials to *life*™

Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK comprises three business units: Aggregates, Readymix, and Asphalt and Contracting. It is a major supplier of construction materials including rock, sand and gravel and recycled aggregates, as well as road surfacing solutions and waste management services.

The company leads the way with its innovative product ranges which include high performance asphalts and concretes, and is passionate about serving its customers well. Lafarge is proud of its active approach to sustainability and safety, driving hard towards zero harm to its employees and contractors.

HQ is at Granite House, Syston, Leicestershire.

## HISTORY OF LAFARGE IN THE UK

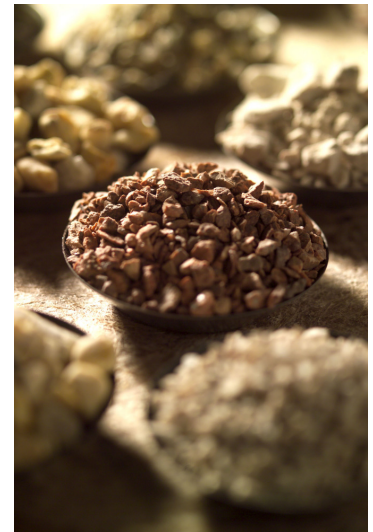
Lafarge was originally founded in France in 1883 as an industrial lime production operation. But it wasn't until the late 1990s that the company expanded significantly into the UK with the acquisition of Redland in 1997.

Redland had a history going back to 1919 when it was established as the Redhill Tile Company, producing concrete tiles. In 1959 Redland branched into aggregates, taking over the Mountsorrel Granite Company in Leicestershire, whose quarries produced granite and stone for road building.

Then in 1966 Redland bought Inns and Company a producer of stone, sand, gravel, asphalt and readymix concrete and consolidated its aggregates companies to form Redland Aggregates. It became one of the largest suppliers of sand and gravel in the UK. By the time of the Lafarge acquisition Redland had aggregates, concrete and asphalt production and paving/construction businesses across the world including the USA, continental and Eastern Europe, Australia, the Middle East and the Far East.

Lafarge is the world's largest building materials supplier: No1 in Cement, No2 in Aggregates, No3 in Readymix concrete, No3 in Gypsum. Sales in 2009 were €15.8 billion. The company has 2,000+ locations worldwide with around 78,000 employees.

In the UK the group employs around 3,700 people across its three divisions, Aggregates & Concrete, Cement and Plasterboard (Gypsum).



**CONTACT US** Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK, Granite House, Watermead Business Park, Syston, Leicestershire, LE7 1WA.  
**Tel: 0844 561 0037** [www.lafarge.co.uk](http://www.lafarge.co.uk)

For Press Enquiries please contact Karen Almond: 0116 264 8255 / 07972 533724.

## HISTORY OF LAFARGE

- 1833 – Leon Pavin de Lafarge launches an industrial lime production operation in south eastern France.
- 1864 – The company wins its first major international order, a contract to supply 110,000 tonnes of lime for the construction of the Suez Canal.
- 1887- Lafarge opens its first research laboratory, Le Teil Central Laboratory, showing that innovation has been an important part of Lafarge's ethos right from the start.
- 1909 to1913 – Now known as Societe des Chaux et des Ciments de Lafarge du Teil, the company makes a determined move into the cement industry and acquires lime and cement companies throughout France.
- 1926 – Lafarge opens the first aluminous cement plant at West Thurrock in the United Kingdom.
- 1931 – The company diversifies into gypsum.
- By the end of the 1930s Lafarge is the leading cement producer in France and by 1955, production has doubled thanks to reconstruction following the Second World War.
- By 1960 Lafarge had moved into North America (Canada) and Brazil and over the next 30 years, thanks to acquisitions and expansion the company broadens its markets worldwide with interests in Spain, Turkey, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, China and the UK.
- 2000 – Lafarge becomes the first industrial group to enter into a partnership with the conservation organisation, World Wildlife Fund for Nature – WWF.
- 2001 – Lafarge acquires UK based cement giant Blue Circle and becomes the world's leading cement producer.
- By 2010 Lafarge consolidates its positions in North America, Brazil and Central Europe and enters into new markets in Africa, the Middle East and India.
- The Lafarge Group now employs 78,000 people in 78 countries around the world.



two worlds, one planet



## LAFARGE'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

- Without the vital construction materials provided by Lafarge our modern world would not function.
- Lafarge supplies, designs and produces the essential building materials which make our world, homes, roads, hospitals, workplaces and schools.
- Providing these materials in a sustainable way is key to the Lafarge ethos and the company is proud of its sustainable credentials.
- Across the world it has partnerships with WWF, Habitat for Humanity and CARE International and in 2009, and for the fifth year in a row, Lafarge was listed in the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World.
- The company has a reputation for award-winning quarry restoration spanning four decades.
- It was the first commercial company in the UK to be awarded Approved Body status by Natural England, enabling it to manage National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and it now looks after two NNRs and 34 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, either directly or in partnership.
- The company actively manages 16,187 hectares and is a partner with numerous Wildlife Trusts.
- Its partnership and restoration activity with the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire earned the company the prestigious Cooper-Heyman Cup for restoration in 2009.
- The NMA was established after Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK gifted, for a peppercorn rent, 62 hectares of land on former sand and gravel workings next to its quarry at Alrewas.
- In 2010 Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK earned the Carbon Trust Standard for reducing its carbon emissions by more than 24 per cent.
- Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK have been involved with numerous sustainable construction projects including eco-build houses and offices in Lincolnshire and Greening the Box – a retrofit of 1950s housing in Norfolk to reduce energy usage and CO2 footprint.



**The Construction & Business Services Leadership Group**  
Building Better Lives