

# TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE CROAGHAN QUARRY



## PROJECT LOCATION

Croaghan Quarry, Coleraine

## START & END DATE

July 2021 - Present

## RELATED SDGS





CASE STUDY

# TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE CROAGHAN QUARRY

## THE CHALLENGE

As one of the largest landowners in Northern Ireland, Northstone Materials have a responsibility to help local government reach their tree planting targets where possible. With ambitious decarbonisation targets, it is hoped that new woodlands will help by offsetting carbon produced by industry. However, the challenge for us is that woodlands are not only expensive to plant and maintain, but that we need access to our reserves. After publication of the Northstone Materials Biodiversity Action Plan, tree planting is high on the agenda.



## THE SOLUTION

DAERA offer a forestry grant that encourages the creation of new woodlands. After a survey of our sites, it was decided that Croaghan Quarry would be the pilot for our tree planting venture.

Throughout the summer of 2021, the environmental team assisted local Forestry Agent, NI Farm Forestry in preparing a grant submission which included: woodland surveys; environmental checks for biodiversity, protected species and historical features; woodland risk assessments to mitigate against livestock, competing vegetation, flooding and fire; stakeholder engagement with the likes of NIE Networks and residential neighbours; agreeing on a woodland maintenance plan; and determining a suitable woodland species mix.



## THE RESULT

The application was approved, and 10,250 trees were directly hand planted onto 5 hectares of land at Croaghan Quarry. A mix of native tree species were used to create a mixed mosaic woodland including Scots Pine, Cherry, and Crab apple. The species mix was carefully selected to appeal to pollinators and local species to increase the biodiversity of the area.