

**Company:** Lafarge Granulats Ouest  
**Location:** Sand quarry of St Colombar , Loire Atlantique (44), France

**Objective** Creation of a natural regional reserve which aims at preserving the wooded environment and at increasing biodiversity.  
Implementation of the monitoring programme on biodiversity IBL (Long term Biodiversity Index) run by Lafarge group.

**Context** A remarkable environment close to the sand quarry extraction areas (humid zones, wooded environment).  
Lafarge group decided to buy these lands to create a reserve and to link the reserve with the redevelopment of the exploited site.

**Solution**

- A precise inventory has been made: pond with the Utricularia austalis species, butterflies and dragonflies. Two rare species: the « Thécla du chêne » and the « Hespérie du chiendent ».
- Many meetings have been organised with local councillors and farmers, in partnership with Ouest Aménagement, an independent research centre.
- Activities to preserve ponds (including maintenance of the site)
- Specific planning to encourage the development of biodiversity.

**Result** Increase of the biodiversity: 16 species of dragonflies in 1999, 19 in 2003.  
Preservation of the wooded environment  
Creation of a network of environmental specialists working on the site

**Partners** Ouest Aménagement, an independent research centre.

