



**THE TRUTH
ABOUT IMPORTED**

Indian Sandstone





THE FACTS

The popularity of Indian sandstone is growing fast. But are the cheaper options really as attractive as they seem?

For example, would you really want a patio that had been made using child labour? Or how about that smart new driveway... would you really feel as comfortable arriving home, knowing that the people who had made the stone sets lacked the most basic protection or even the security of a living wage? Would you really condone such poor working conditions?

When choosing imported natural stone from an unverified source, here's what you need to know:

FACT: Nearly 20% of workers in Indian quarries are children, some as young as six

FACT: Many quarries in India enforce bonded labour and exploit migrant labour

FACT: Illegal quarries are openly flouting international labour standards and safety laws

FACT: The environmental damage is disastrous for poor agricultural communities

Source: Budhpura 'Ground Zero' Sandstone Quarrying in India by Pmadhavan, Dr. Sanjay Raj, commissioned by India Committee of the Netherlands

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WHERE INDIAN
SANDSTONE
ENDS UP...

THE DREAM

Redesigning your outside space is one of the most exciting transformations you could make to your home.

Creating the right fusion of hard and soft landscaping is essential to good garden design and can offer so many possibilities to suit your lifestyle.

But it's not just getting the right balance between hard and soft landscaping that helps you to enjoy every moment in your garden.

Ensuring that the building materials in your garden are ethically sourced and environmentally sound means you can feel even better about your choices.

After all, there's no better place to help create a more sustainable landscape than in your own garden.

However, most homeowners are completely unaware that much natural stone coming into the UK is from highly unethical sources with a large carbon footprint.

THE GROWING UNREGULATED MARKET

THE REALITY

More and more gardeners are choosing natural stone from abroad to landscape their gardens, as it's less expensive than natural British stones like Yorkstone.

In 2007, over 2 million m² of sandstone was imported into the UK from India.

And unless sandstone comes from a verified source, there's no way of knowing exactly how it has been produced – or at what cost, human and environmental.

Working with Indian quarries can bring its own set of issues and challenges:

- Widespread use of child labour (primary research from Hadoti Hast Shilp Sansthan showed that between 15 and 20% of workers in quarries are children - July 2007)
- Environmental damage caused by quarrying
- Illegal practice of bonded labour
- Exploitation of migrant workers
- Breach of health and safety regulations
- Non-living wages and excessive working hours

WHY IS MARSHALLS INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE?

Many suppliers importing Indian natural sandstone are not engaged in monitoring how their stone is produced. However, these independent checks are vital to ensure that Indian Sandstone coming into the UK is not linked to terrible abuses of human rights. Put simply, buying from an independently verified source is the only way that you can be sure that your imported natural stone has not been produced by young children.

Marshalls is fundamentally committed to sustainable development and to demonstrating a high degree of social responsibility, particularly with regard to ethical trading and the environment.

As the first company in the hard landscaping industry to belong to the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), Marshalls is committed to improving the lives of workers who make our products. Now Marshalls aims to highlight issues linked to natural stone arriving in the UK so that consumers can understand the social and environmental impact of their choices.



CHILD LABOUR



In many Indian quarries, children work in harsh conditions producing stone setts, carrying heavy loads, wielding sledge-hammers and operating jack-hammers, without protective clothing.

On frequent trips to the area, Marshalls representatives have witnessed firsthand the disturbing scenes of children working in quarries to produce paving destined for the UK.

Little girls less than 10 years old perch miserably among the stone setts they have made. Boys as young as 13 are using jack-hammers with no protection on their feet, their eyes or their ears.



This abuse cannot be allowed to continue unchecked.

'Across the world, 218 million children aged 5-17 are working as child labourers: of those children, 126 million are involved in hazardous work.' *The Small Hands of Slavery - Modern day child slavery: a report by Save the Children UK (2007).*

'In India, children make up 20% of the workforce in sandstone quarries.' *The Small Hands of Slavery - Modern day child slavery: a report by Save the Children UK (2007).*

BONDED LABOUR



Throughout history, desperately poor people have pledged their labour under any terms, in order to survive. Bonded labour is a system of forced or partly forced labour in which a person borrows money vital to survive, then works to pay off their debts to an employer.

These debts can be passed down generations, so children grow up destined for bonded labour. 'In India, an estimated 15 million children could be working to pay off someone else's debt.'

The Small Hands of Slavery - Modern day child slavery: a report by Save the Children UK (2007).

Bonded labour is a violation of universal human rights. But despite being abolished in 1976, it is thought that around 90%* of workers in Indian quarries are forced to work in order to pay off all their debts.

**According to the Indian NGO Mine Labour Protection Campaign.*



MIGRANT WORKERS



Migrant workers tend to come from the poorest rural communities and are usually landless peasants in search of any work they can find.

Whole families of migrant workers often work in quarries as 'spoil removers' and are paid by the tractor load for the amount of quarry waste they remove.

Migrant workers live among the spoil heaps, without even the most basic facilities.

There are no facilities in place for their health, or the education of their children.

This represents another very serious issue for the sandstone industry – and one which Marshalls is helping to address by funding the voluntary organisation, Hadoti Hast Shilp Sansthan, which aims to improve the lives of migrant labourers.



ILLEGAL QUARRIES



In the Bundi district, illegal quarries and corruption are rife, with many quarries operating recklessly and polluting the landscape, while evading all legal responsibilities.

At these illegal quarries, young boys and men can be seen working in open sandals, with no gloves, no ear protection and no eye protection.

Even during a brief visit, there is clear evidence that children are working to produce setts and paving.

All around, abandoned spoil heaps devastate the landscape.

Yet in this immensely rural country, even government land and protected areas cannot be entirely safeguarded from illicit quarrying.

LIVING CONDITIONS



Workers in many quarries lack the most basic facilities to fulfil their needs. Health and medical facilities are desperately needed, as are nurseries and schools.

Housing is poor, without even safe drinking water or sanitation and the most vulnerable are those who suffer most. Women and children are deprived of even minimum wages and welfare.



"Only one overseas company across the world is doing something about the workers' terrible conditions. Only one!... Marshalls"

Mrs Manjula Joshi
- Hadoti Hast Shilp Sansthan

TRANSPORT

There's no doubt that Indian natural sandstone clocks up heavy mileage being shipped into the UK – it's around 4476 miles from Mumbai to London.

The carbon calculator at www.marshalls.co.uk/sustainability has been developed using independently verified product life cycle information to calculate how many tonnes of CO₂ – a greenhouse gas everyone's trying to reduce – are generated in the manufacture, supply and delivery of hard landscaping materials.

It shows that Marshalls' ethically sourced natural sandstone products generate 84% more CO₂ than Marshalls' similar product ranges such as Heritage, which looks like newly quarried Yorkstone, but is made from reconstituted concrete.



ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

In the Bundi district, years of stone quarrying have left their mark on the land. Travelling towards Budhpura, there are many abandoned quarries and fields of sandstone setts.

Deserted spoil heaps seem to cover an endless area of what was once agricultural land.

Rudimentary attempts by some quarry owners to replant spoil heaps demonstrates that at least some of the environmental damage can be repaired.

But for now, the dust from quarries is causing serious air and water pollution, with degradation of topsoil and scarcity of groundwater making it even more difficult to scratch out a living in this harsh region.

IT IS ALL
TOO CLEAR
WHAT EFFECT
QUARRYING
HAS HAD
ON THE
WATER TABLE





PROPER
PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT
IS USED



THE ALTERNATIVE

The only way that natural stone suppliers can guarantee that their products are ethically sourced is by actively managing their supply chain.

Regular independent auditing is essential to ensure that safety, environmental and human rights laws are upheld in quarries producing stone for the UK market.

The Stoneshippers India Masons yard in Kota demonstrates just how different life can be with help from a socially responsible British company like Marshalls.

At this site, proper personal protective equipment is used, adequate wages are provided and child labour is strictly banned.

There is more to do, but the difference between this operation and other sites is already dramatic.

ETI MEMBERSHIP



The Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) is a diverse alliance of retailers and brands, trade unions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working collectively to tackle the complex questions posed by ethical trade.

Marshalls is a member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and has adopted the ETI Base Code, which is based on the ILO's Conventions and is widely accepted as a model code of practice. It contains provisions based on the following principles:

- No-one should be forced to work
- Workers should be able to join and form trade unions
- Working conditions should be safe and healthy
- Child labour should not be used
- Working hours should not be excessive
- Wages should be enough to live on and provide some discretionary income
- Workers should be treated equally, regardless of their sex, ethnic group, religion or political opinions
- Where possible, workers should be provided with regular employment
- Workers should not be verbally, physically or sexually abused or disciplined

www.ethicaltrade.org

INDEPENDENT AUDITING



"The relationship with Stoneshippers India just goes from strength to strength. It's a true partnership. Year on year, Stoneshippers continues to meet the ETI Base Code and together, we're working on some great projects. Over the years, we've implemented rain water harvesting, energy conservation programmes as well as recycling and water processing systems. Last year, we started an environmental management and land restoration project, and we're now providing schooling for the children of migrant labourers."

Chris Harrop, Marshalls Group Marketing Director, August 2008.

HADOTI HAST SHILP SANSTHAN

MARSHALLS' COMMITMENTS

In 2008, Marshalls continues to work with Hadoti Hast Shilp Sansthan (HHSS), an NGO which helps migrant labourers to implement sustainable development programmes in the mining areas of Rajasthan.

Marshalls' investment in Hadoti has already made a substantial impact. The clinics have offered routine check-ups, free medicines and vaccinations and treated diseases like TB, asthma, malaria and skin conditions rife amongst workers. So far, the clinics have reached over 500 workers and their families.

Hadoti's work extends to providing financial security to the migrant labourers and their families. Since 2007, Marshalls has enabled Hadoti to provide insurance to over 200 workers.

This year, Hadoti aims to make education universal for children and encourage more girls to go to school. In particular, Hadoti will focus on training, employment and development plans for women.



It has to be recognised that the culture and working practices in India are very different to those in the UK. However, certain working standards are absolutely non-negotiable for Marshalls:

- Its suppliers never use child labour
- Personal Protective Equipment is provided
- Adequate wages are ensured at all sites

Marshalls is also helping the local school attended by the children of workers at Stoneshippers India - and providing new outdoor play equipment to encourage children to attend school.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Environmental management is in its earliest days in rural India. But innovations like water reprocessing and recycling are already making very real improvements.

At Stoneshippers India's new stone calibration factory, the plant is equipped with a sophisticated water processing and recycling system to ensure that the waste material from the calibration process is managed carefully and not just allowed to run into the local water course.

For all the water used in manufacturing stone bought by Marshalls for the UK market, there is a system of filter beds and a recycling system.



Choosing environmentally friendly building materials makes a genuine, significant and positive contribution to the eco rating of our homes.

By balancing hard landscaping with tree planting and other soft landscaping, it is perfectly possible to create a carbon-neutral garden.

Marshalls' carbon calculator at www.marshalls.co.uk/sustainability not only gives details of lower carbon products, but also suggests how many trees can be planted to help offset the CO₂ emissions and aim towards creating a carbon-neutral oasis.

This year, Marshalls is also launching its carbon labelling scheme in partnership with The Carbon Trust. From now on, all Marshalls products will have clear carbon labels to enable everyone to know exactly what they're buying and work out their own carbon impact.





CONSUMER CHOICE

Surely it is simply unacceptable for UK gardeners to buy products that have been made using child labour or bonded labour and without any regard for social or environmental responsibility.

We need to understand how we can all contribute to the sustainability of our own domestic landscapes, by choosing hard landscaping that has fair foundations.

These issues go far deeper than any one producer can address. For progress to be made, it is essential that people buying stone products sourced from India are aware of the very real impact that their choices make.

It is clear that great economic benefit is being gained by the Indian industry exporting product to the UK and the rest of Europe, but this must be balanced with the two other essential strands of sustainability: social progress and environmental protection.

Only when the producers of unethical and environmentally damaging products are denied a market will those products be substituted for products produced in a more sustainable manner.

**YOUR BUYING DECISIONS
CAN ENCOURAGE CHANGE.**





Marshalls

for sustainable landscapes

www.marshalls.co.uk/sustainability

Marshalls plc Landscape House Premier Way
Lowfields Business Park Elland HX5 9HT

