



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 setts 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





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.



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

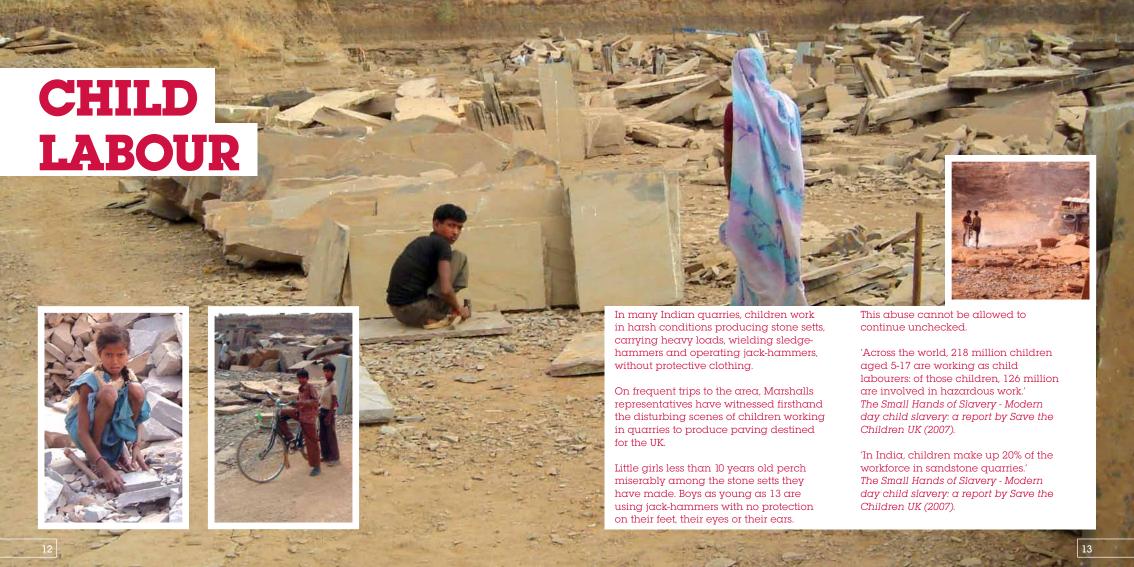
WHY IS MARSHALLS INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE?

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.





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.

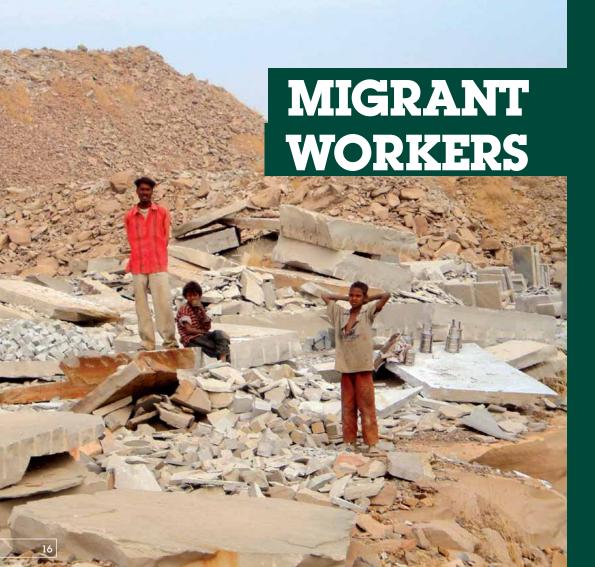
These debts can be passed down generations, so children grow up destined for bonded labour. 'In India, an estimated 15 million children could be working to pay off someone else's debt.'

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 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.





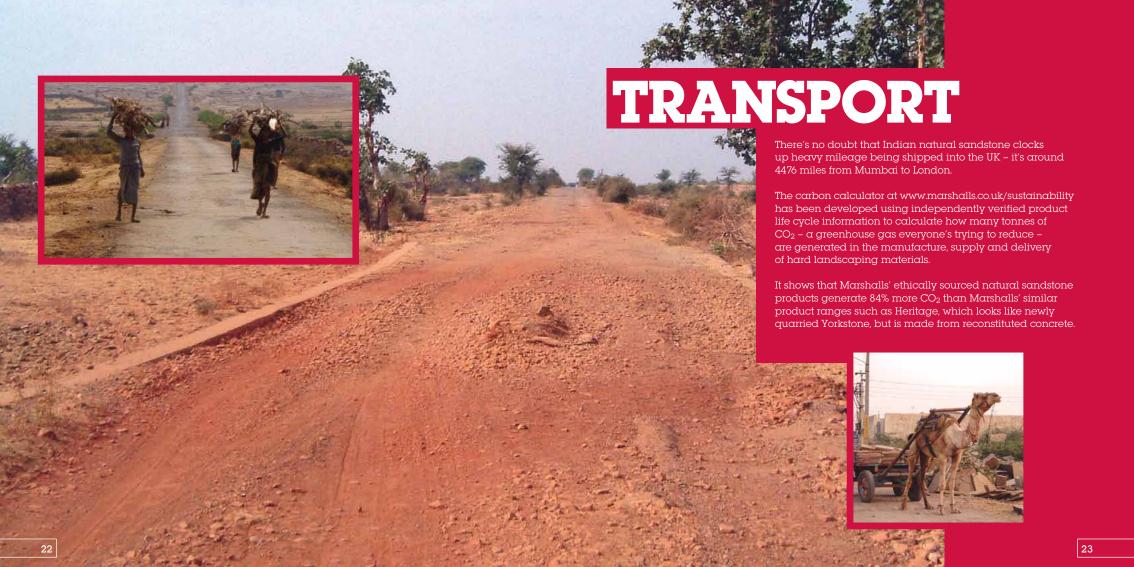
LIVING CONDITIONS



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.













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.

Ethical Trading Initiative 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 Tradina 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.ora



"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.



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.



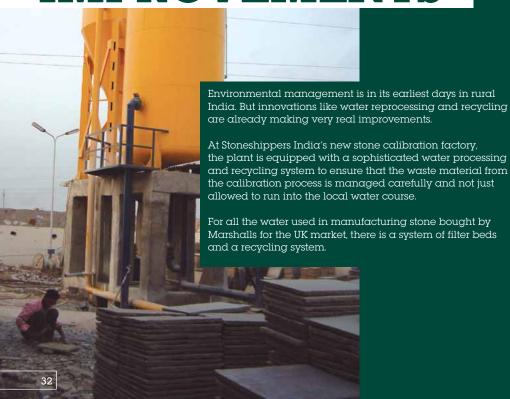
It has to be recognised that the culture and working practices in India are very different to those in the UK. However, certain working standards are absolutely non-negotiable for Marshalls:

- 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





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

positive contribution to the eco rating of our homes.

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 CO_2 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.

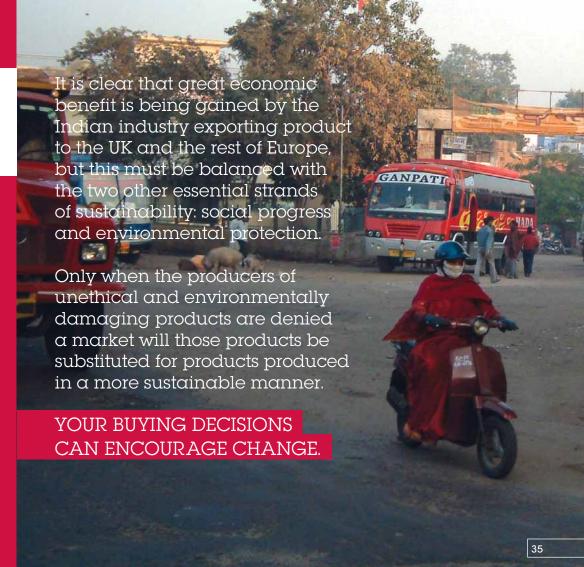




CONSUMER CHOICE

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.





for sustainable landscapes

www.marshalls.co.uk/sustainability

