

Summary of PACE Field Trip to SRC on Tuesday 2 July

25 PACE Supporters joined the Field Trip to SRC Aggregates at Martell's Quarry in Ardleigh. We were welcomed by Joanna Bradley, Quality and Environmental Manager who showed us round. Large amounts of construction waste are brought to this site, and to other SRC locations in East Anglia, from various construction projects such as building sites, road improvements and demolition projects etc. All waste is tested in advance to ensure it is inert and not contaminated. The waste is loaded on to a massive conveyor which firstly removes the large rubble (which is crushed) then it is graded by a series of sieves and screens to provide sharp sand, shingle, gravel of various sizes up to cobbles for gabions. Thus, the waste which used to go to landfill now provides useful recycled construction materials. The process leaves "cake" – the finest clay material- which goes to cap landfill sites etc. a large amount of the recycled gravel and sand goes to make bespoke Eco-blocks on site – we saw thousands of Eco-blocks which had been made that day and which will be cured for 28 days before being sold for construction projects, mostly in East Anglia. SRC is proud of its work towards a more circular economy, and we thank Joanna for her passion in explaining this.

Some of our group went on to Skylark Café at Prettyfields Vineyard for a drink and a chat and where Matt explained the Vineyard and the Jack Rabbit Brewery which is based there.

Thanks to all who came and all who helped make this a great Field Trip – most of us had no idea that SRC was on our doorstep.

Next Field Trip on Tuesday 6 August 7pm will be to Humberlands, Lawford's top spot for biodiversity – details to follow shortly.

Photos:

1. SRC Grading Plant at slough Lane Ardleigh
2. Manufacture of Eco-blocks from recycled materials