



Impression of the stair



Realizing calcareous grasslands and construction site of the stair in the background



Dingy Skipper

## RESTORE

### Demonstration site ENCI (Maastricht – the Netherlands)

The ENCI quarry is an active limestone quarry on the river Meuse side of the St. Pieters Mountain in Maastricht. It is situated in the Province of Limburg in the south of the Netherlands). In 2018 the excavation of limestone will end in this quarry.

Together with Natuurmonumenten, the quarry is being transformed into a beautiful nature area with several possibilities for recreation. A natural pool, calcareous grasslands, steep walls, walking paths, and connections are important elements.

#### Reinstating history

This RESTORE-project focuses on restoring a historical long-distance footpath from Maastricht (NL) to Liège (B). This will be done by means of a 40 m high stair and viewpoint that will go from the top of the St. Pieters Mountain to the floor of the quarry. The project integrates biodiversity and other benefits including those for people (giving them access to green space).

#### Wildlife in the quarry

Quarries play an important role in maintaining and developing biodiversity. The ENCI quarry proves that biodiversity can thrive in quarries that are still operational.

In the area where the stair, viewpoint and calcareous grasslands are being realized, full ecological surveys were carried out. Several protected species were present and had to be moved to another part of the quarry such as: the slow worm, natterjack toad, common midwife toad, dingy skipper, mazerine blue, badger, fern grass, oregano and early march orchid. Mitigation included reptile/amphibian fencing (total length 1,4 km!) being installed in the quarry to prevent these species accessing the working area. Almost every year, baby eagle owls are born in the quarry.

The ENCI quarry in Maastricht is a 135 ha limestone quarry, providing an important raw material for the production of cement. ENCI is a cement plant that was established in 1926.

In 2009, a Transformation Plan for the whole ENCI Area was developed, among which a transformation plan for the quarry. This Transformation Plan answers the question 'how can we connect economy, nature and people'?

Some parts of the quarry have already been restored and handed over to «Natuurmonumenten», a nature organisation and the future owner of the quarry. These parts have already proven to be important for nature with many species of plants, birds, butterflies and amphibians recorded. Given the close proximity of the quarry to the city of Maastricht, it will become an important resource for the local community.

