The Lancashire coast is famous for its fine quality sand. Blackpool built its holiday reputation on the sea washed deposits, some of Britain's greatest links courses were carved out of the dunes.

Now a twenty five acre, thickly forested site near Southport adjacent to the Fylde coast recently acquired by Rufford Top Dress Supplies, part of the Rowcroft-Hambro Group has been found to hold deposits of one of Britain’s finest silica top dressing sands.

The litter from thousands of years of decaying vegetation has also produced a bonus of decomposed leaf mould, ideal for mixing with the sand to produce one of the country’s highest quality top dressings for sports turf surfaces, particularly suitable for golf courses.

Surveys have shown that in addition to the hundreds of thousands of tons of sand in the quarry there is also a huge deposit of valuable peat, as yet, untouched. Analysis has shown it is regarded as an ideal planting peat as it has been formed from a mixture of bark and sedge because it too lies under the forest.

The quarry owned by the Rowcroft-Hambro (Group) Limited, based in Manchester and the new owners are now determined to break into the top dress market in the UK. They believe they have a number of very real advantages over most of their rivals in the top dress business.

Firstly, with complete control they can extract and process the product and guarantee total consistency of quality. Secondly, they also guarantee to deliver to practically every corner of Great Britain within forty-eight hours and indeed within twenty-four hours to many areas. Lastly, considering the high quality of the product the Company believes it is priced extremely competitively.

The Company has invested heavily to bring the quality of processing up to a high standard. As both sand and soil deposits are lying under a forest, removing brambles and twigs proved difficult, but now at last this has been totally overcome. The final product is a very fine and easy to apply top dress.

As it is a single product with a single price the Company believe it would be advantageous for organisations such as manufacturers and suppliers of horticultural machinery as well as, of course, companies already involved in the marketing of top dress to act as their agents.

They plan to install a bagging plant in the coming weeks and currently deliver loads from five tonnes to twenty-five tonnes in bulk to most parts of the country by road, especially to the North-West, North-East, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cumbria which are the main areas already supplied. A fleet of contract lorries is on call to ensure delivery when the top dress is needed.

The Company has already had many glowing reports from golf clubs stating their entire satisfaction with both product and service.

It is the Company's hope that 1987 will be a significant year for them and hopefully by the year end they will have made their mark and will no longer be regarded merely as newcomers but rather as an established name.