

Mineral Safeguarding for Sustainable Communities

At a time of increasing concerns about security of supply and increasing awareness of the need to manage all our finite resources in a prudent and responsible manner, regulators are beginning to attach more importance to mineral safeguarding. Mineral resources are important non-renewable national assets, which, like other national and cultural assets, should be protected from permanent sterilisation. Continuing adequate supplies of minerals are essential for the sustainable development of a modern economy. It is our responsibility to protect mineral resources which may be required by future generations.

Planning for Sustainability

Minerals Policy Statement 1 (MPS1) published in November 2006 builds upon UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, providing stronger policy for safeguarding, based on an obligation to define Mineral Safeguarding Areas. MSAs are of particular relevance to Local and District planners, as it is their responsibility to ensure that they are defined, supported by appropriate policies, and incorporated into Local Development Documents. This will ensure that developments incompatible with mineral resources cannot proceed, without reasonable justification.

Safeguarding mineral resources from sterilisation will ensure adequate supplies of materials for the

27th March 2007

Dissemination Event

A free half-day dissemination workshop will take place at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth on 27th March 2007. If you would like to attend the event or obtain further information, please register by contacting s.hannis@bgs.ac.uk. The event is aimed at planners in all types of authorities whom are in the process of preparing development frameworks and other interested parties.



Old Moor Quarry in the Peak District National Park.

future, as well as allowing greater choice when identifying sites for future extraction. This will provide greater flexibility in selecting sites with the least environmental impact.

Guidance

Guidance on consistent methodologies for delineating MSAs has been developed following the newly released MPS1. It aims to clarify the process of defining and protecting mineral resources and highlight the role of the planning system in safeguarding them. This guidance is distributed based on findings from a project funded by ALSF. Research and consultation has been undertaken by the BGS in partnership with Somerset and Durham County Councils and Mineral and Resource Planning Associates. The methodologies are in the process of being implemented by Staffordshire County Council. A brochure incorporating the guidance, including a real case study example, will be available for free download at the end of March 2007 from

the MineralsUK website
www.mineralsUK.com

Project Leader:

Fiona McEvoy,
Kingsley Dunham Centre,
British Geological Survey,
Keyworth, Nottingham,
NG12 5GG
tel: 0115 9363583
email: fmcevoy@bgs.ac.uk

Dissemination Event Contact

Sarah Hannis
tel: 0115 936 3051
email: s.hannis@bgs.ac.uk



British Geological Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL