



PRINCIPLES OF MINERAL SAFEGUARDING

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"MINERALS CAN ONLY BE WORKED WHERE THEY ARE FOUND....."

Buffer Zones – work both ways?

Mineral working v Highways – What's in the wrong place?

Birdstrike - Consideration in siting of airfields not mineral workings?





?? MINERAL SAFEGUARDING ??

"Any planning policy or mechanism which ensures that a mineral deposit which is of economic importance or may become of economic importance in the foreseeable future is not unnecessarily sterilised by surface development."

Derived from MPS1 Practice Guide, Para. 32.



?? MINERAL SAFEGUARDING ??

- **☑** World Heritage Sites
- **✓** AONBs
- **✓** Trees
- Badgers
- **✓** Newts
- **☑** Old things in the ground
- ✓ Pretty rocks
- Rocks that are really useful even if they aren't pretty
- Rocks that are essential to the nation's prosperity and quality of life and help to create and develop sustainable communities (MPS1)
- Rocks that have become vital to our survival.......

- ✓ National Parks
- **☑** Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- **Ducks**
- **☑** Beetles
- Old Buildings
- ☑ Pretty buildings even if they aren't old

Mineral Consultation Areas:



??WHAT'S WRONG WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT??

Are not always defined
Are seldom reviewed and updated
Are almost invariably ignored
THEY DON'T WORK!



??WHAT HAVE MPAs GOT TO DO??

Mineral Planning Authorities must define Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in their Development Frameworks (MPS1, Paragraph 13).

MSAs should be based primarily on geological information

Best to agree the local methodology for delineating MSAs first

Can be done through a policy in Core Strategy – example in the GPG



??WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO DO??

Simply defining MSAs on their own does not constitute safeguarding

Next steps can be varied to suit local circumstances

Must be tied in to the Development Framework by appropriate planning policies



TYPICAL SAFEGUARDING POLICIES:

No development which is likely to sterilise a mineral resource in an MSA will be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development in an MSA unless the applicant has demonstrated that the proposal will not sterilise a mineral resource.

All applications for development within an MSA must be accompanied by a Mineral Resource Assessment



SIX STEPS TO EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING OF MINERALS:

Decide if it is necessary to define Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) in addition to MSAs to ensure that mineral interests are taken into account when considering proposals for non-minerals development.

Decide how MSAs can be used most effectively to safeguard mineral resources in the specific Authority area and define local planning policies accordingly.

Incorporate the outcome of these processes into a planning policy on the identification / designation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas in the Minerals Core Strategy. The accompanying text should set out clearly the assumptions that have been made in order to define the MSAs.

Decide how the physical extent of the resource areas to be safeguarded should be determined.

Decide which minerals within the authority area are or may become of economic importance in the foreseeable future.

Assess what is the best geological and resource information available for the authority area.