

Annex 1: Policy in MPS1 paragraph 14 on mineral working in National Parks

It is national policy that RPBs, MPAs and LPAs in exercising their functions:

“do not permit major mineral developments in *National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty* and *World Heritage Sites* except in exceptional circumstances. Because of the serious impact that major mineral developments may have on these areas of natural beauty, and taking account of the recreational opportunities that they provide, applications for these developments should be subject to the most rigorous examination. Major mineral development proposals should be demonstrated to be in the public interest before being allowed to proceed. Consideration of such applications should therefore include an assessment of:

- i the need for the development, including in terms of national considerations of mineral supply and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- ii the cost of, and scope for making available an alternative supply from outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way;
- iii any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities and the extent to which that could be moderated.

Planning authorities should ensure that for any planning permission granted for major mineral development in these designated areas, the development and all restoration should be carried out to high environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions, where necessary, and be in character with the local landscape and its natural features.

Proposals in these areas which are not considered to be major mineral developments should be carefully assessed, with great weight being given in decisions to the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside, the conservation of wildlife and the cultural heritage and the need to avoid adverse impacts on recreational opportunities.”