

Corporate Outcome B: The adverse impact of mineral working on the special qualities of the National Park and its communities is minimised by ...

1. *Influencing government policy and legislation (Priority level 1)*
2. *Ensuring those quarries that remain are worked to the highest modern environmental standards (Priority level 2)*
3. *Managing the reduction of quarrying in the National Park (Priority level 2)*

Two major successes during 2008/09 were the final resolution to prevent quarrying on historically significant Stanton Moor and the Court of Appeal decision to uphold the Authority's enforcement action at Backdale quarry, requiring a high degree of professional input from our in-house minerals and legal teams as well as external legal expertise. An improved communications programme to keep the public and pressure groups informed of progress supported this work.

We are in the final stages of producing a Minerals Strategy to support our input into regional and national policy documents and for lobbying purposes. Over the past 12 months we consider we have had an expected influence on new documents in this arena.

Over the year we slightly improved on the number of quarries working to modern environmental standards from 76.4% to 77%. In addition, the number of quarries in operation has been reduced by 3 to 52. This led to a reduction in the area of the Park being quarried to 3407.4 hectares, exceeding our target. The High Court challenge to the Authority's enforcement action at Smalldale Head quarry has been put in abeyance pending the outcome of the Backdale court proceedings, which should give guidance on the proper interpretation of the Smalldale planning permission.

Looking ahead to 2009/10

For 2009/10 there will be a focus on developing a prioritised work programme for managing enforcement action against unlawful quarrying. We have set ourselves a target to improve the number of quarries to modern environmental standards to 85%.

Key actions for 2009/10 include:

- *Respond to government and regional consultation and lobby effectively (L1)*
- *Complete the Minerals Strategic Action Plan and begin implementation (L1) PIP 3.2a/1&3, 2.1a/3*
- *Review old mineral consents in accordance with policy (L1) PIP 3.2a/2*
- *Ensure all high priority enforcement cases are the subject of a negotiated settlement or referred to legal services (L1)*
- *Effectively communicate with relevant stakeholders regarding our minerals strategy (L2)*

Success at Longstone Edge:

The Court of Appeal upheld the Authority's enforcement action to control limestone quarrying on Longstone Edge; a significant milestone in a long drawn out legal process.

The Longstone Edge enforcement and supporting legal action has been a major priority case for the Authority. Significant staff and financial resources were committed to this action in order to establish the extent of working that can take place under the benefit of a 1952 planning permission on the eastern end of Longstone Edge, to exert control over the mineral activities on the eastern end of Longstone Edge and prevent unacceptable harm to the national designated landscape and other valued characteristics.

The ruling confirmed that only a limited amount of limestone is allowed to be removed off site and sold in the course of extracting fluorspar – the primary mineral named in the 1952 planning permission.

Community groups have been kept informed throughout and have provided the Authority with valued support.

The landowner has petitioned the House of Lords to grant permission to challenge the Court of Appeal judgment. We wait to see whether permission is granted or if the Court of Appeal judgment stands.