

MINERALS MONITORING REPORT 2016-2023 – STATEMENT OF PROGRESS

This report has been prepared by the Strategic Planning & Minerals Team and is provided as an addendum to the Monitoring Report 2016/17-2022/23 after the omission of the Minerals Policies in the substantive document. The report reviews policy performance and gives a general overview of the matters dealt with by the team over the monitoring period but is not exhaustive.

Policy Objectives

Minerals development is strongly controlled so that: only in exceptional cases major development may be permitted (MIN1)

The extraction of proven deposits of fluorspar is supported by Policy MIN2, but only by means of underground working.

Policy MIN3 allows for the development of small-scale building stone quarries that provide for building and roofing material to be used within the National Park.

MIN4 also provides a basis for the safeguarding of the mineral resource, including the mineralised vein structures (fluorspar), very high purity limestone and other limestone. The gritstone building resource is also safeguarded under Policy DMMW7 of the Development Management Policies document.

Policy MIN1	Minerals Development
Indicators	New consents & aftercare of mineral sites
Target	N/A

Policy:

The control of mineral development is a key element in the protection and preservation of the National Park and particular its landscapes given the potential impact of large scale opencast mineral extraction sites. As such, it is important that large scale extraction is only permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Indicator:

No consents granted under MIN1 for aggregate extraction during the AMR period.

A consolidating application was granted in May 2015 at Birchover Quarry that provides building stone for sale on the open market. The consent consolidated a number of permissions covering discreet areas of the quarry and was submitted as an alternative to a ROMP of the individual permissions.

An application to vary a number of conditions to agree a revised working strategy and the provision of screening and restoration at Dale View Quarry was approved in 2018. Dale view is an existing building stone quarry supplying stone to the open market.

An application for the extension of time to extract the remaining previously consented reserves at New Pilhough was brought before the planning committee in November 2023. The committee resolved to grant the application which provided an enhanced restoration scheme with improved biodiversity net gain. The consent is subject to an S.106 legal agreement requiring a 10 year aftercare period and the decision was issued in July 2024.

The restoration of mineral workings is a significant opportunity to achieve National Park Authority outcomes for achieving amenity (nature conservation) after-use for the sites, enhancing landscape and biodiversity and providing recreational opportunities, as well as the objectives of landowners, mineral companies and local people. The National Park Management Plan observes that restored sites may provide opportunities for increased biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural interest.

Indicator: See statement of progress section

Policy MIN2	Fluorspar Proposals
Indicators	No permissions granted to opencast mining of fluorspar ore
Target	N/A

Policy:

Opencast mining of fluorspar ore will in future be resisted unless the exceptional circumstances tests set out in paragraph 183 of the NPPF (2023) can be demonstrated (see footnote to policy MIN1 for the detail of the exceptional circumstances criteria*). Based upon the understanding of where surface resources are located it is considered to be unlikely that proposals in those locations will be able to comply with all the exceptional circumstances, due firstly to the availability of the option of underground mining which could be expected to have less environmental impact, and secondly to the considerable foreseeable difficulty of working likely sites in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Indicator:

No planning permissions were granted for the opencast mining of fluorspar ore during the AMR period.

Milldam Mine, granted its latest consent in February 2015 under Policy MIN2 ceased production in July 2023 despite consented reverses remaining in situ. As such, there are currently no sites actively operating under a MIN2 consent.

Policy MIN3	Local small-scale building and roofing stone
Indicators	New consents & use of stone in local developments
Target	N/A

Policy:

The policy was devised in an attempt to ensure a continuity of supply of traditional building materials to service the needs of the National Park, whilst limiting the scale and nature of mineral extraction within the protected landscape. The policy sought to provide for the upkeep and restoration of heritage assets and to provide building materials for new developments in keeping with the local vernacular.

Indicator: One new permission was granted at Chinley Moor Quarry in 2018 under Policy MIN3 during the AMR period. The site is small scale in nature and produces stone for use within the National Park only. There is a condition pursuant to the consent requiring the operator to supply the Authority with sale destination data, but in practice this has been difficult to obtain.

Once-a-week quarry produces limestone for use as dimension stone under Policy MIN3 and has supplied developments including Colonel Wright Close in Bakewell and Gregory's Croft in Taddington. The use of local stone has resulted in high quality developments and demonstrates that the MIN3 policy can be effective in delivering for a local need.

This outcome has not been reflected in regards the MIN3 gritstone sites however, and it is unclear why this is the case. It is possible that there has been less emphasis on delivery of affordable housing by the District/Borough Authorities in the gritstone areas, a preference for different materials, availability of suitable gritstone or the quarries are not proving to be economically viable when sales are restricted to National Park end use destinations.

Operators of the non MIN3 building stone sites (all producing gritstone) were contacted in 2023 with a request to provide the details as to the destination of the products in an attempt to gauge use of products within and outside the National Park. However, none of the operators were able to provide any end destination data, with their products sold to the open market or processed outside of the National Park before onward transfer.

Policy MIN4	Mineral safeguarding
Indicators	Development within safeguarding areas and application for prior extraction
Target	N/A

Policy:

This policy has been formulated with the objective of preventing the sterilisation of mineral by built development. Where development is granted within the mineral safeguarding area, prior extraction should be considered and form part of the proposal where viable. This ensures that any useable mineral contributes to the national need rather than being sterilised by the proposed development.

Indicator: No applications for significant development within safeguarding areas and no proposal for prior extraction received within AMR period.

Statement of Progress 2016 - 2023

Review of Mineral Permissions (ROMPs)

Old Moor: A modern scheme of planning conditions were agreed under the periodic review process allowing for the phased working and restoration of Old Moor Quarry (contiguous with Tunstead Quarry in DCC MPA area) in February 2017. The quarry is one of the largest remaining in the National Park and produces limestone for aggregate and industrial uses. The consent is due to expire on the 31st January 2040, unless an application to extend the life of the site is received and approved.

Beelow: A modern scheme of planning conditions were agreed under the periodic review process allowing for the phased working and restoration of Beelow Quarry, tantamount to an extension of the existing Doveholes Quarry within DCC MPA area. The scheme of conditions were agreed in November 2023 and include provision for significant biodiversity net gain on a progressive basis throughout the life of the development. The agreement of conditions will release approximately 33 million tonnes of limestone likely to be used for aggregate purposes. The consent expires on the 21st February 2042 in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Act 1995, unless an application for extension is forthcoming and is approved.

Birchover: Review submission was withdrawn in June 2020 following the approval of a consolidating application for the site.

Planning Applications

Longstone Edge West: A planning application seeking to amend the duration, extent, working strategy and restoration scheme at Bow Rake / High Rake and the continuation of underground extraction at Watersaw mine was received in September 2015. The planning committee resolved to approve the application in 2020, however the consent is yet to be issued after the company failed to sign up to a restoration bond as stipulated in the draft S.106 agreement. The company Fluorsid-British Fluorspar Ltd (now Greenland PD Ltd) has since ceased to operate the site and the associated processing facility at Cavendish Mill in July 2023. The company is facing a winding up order and as such is not expected to recommence operations. The minerals team is in the process of taking formal enforcement action to ensure the restoration of Bow Rake / High Rake and Watersaw mine compound in accordance with the extant 2004 consent. Bow Rake / High Rake is subject to a restoration bond that the MPA may choose to draw upon if it is necessary to take direct action to ensure appropriate restoration of the site.

The associated 'Deep Rake' is now out of its formal aftercare period and the PDNPA Ecologist is pleased with the final restoration and species present on site.

The Arthurton West extension remains in its statutory aftercare period until 2025. The S.106 legal agreement requires implementation of the Scrub Control Scheme of Longstone Moor SSSI until 2029). Monitoring visits conducted in 2023 have concluded positive progress has been made.

Ballidon: Ballidon Quarry produces a mixture of aggregates and industrial grade limestone, with a minimum 40% of annual production required to be used for industrial purposes. Two planning permissions were granted in August 2016 for revisions to the quarry development scheme and an enhanced restoration scheme. A third application was granted for the installation of an LPG tank compound housing 12 tanks.

An application for the installation of a 3km pipeline for the discharge of ground water was submitted in June 2016 but withdrawn in September of the same year.

Burntwood: Section 73 application for the variation of conditions to extend the end date for mineral extraction by 30 years and revised reclamation scheme. Approved January 2020.

Birchover: Following the issue of the consolidated permission for Birchover Quarry, an application was received for an amendment to the design of one of the new work sheds. The application was approved in February 2016. A further application was granted in 2017 for the siting of a storage container.

Chinley Moor: Permission was granted in November 2018 for an extension of time to complete the extraction of gritstone for local use with ancillary on site processing and restoration of the site for nature conservation purposes.

Shire Hill: Permission was granted in October 2017 for the installation of wire saw and associated infrastructure including water management system, concrete pad and water abstraction borehole.

Topley Pike: An application for the dismantling and remediation of the Deep Dale tip with final placement of waste material in the quarry void was granted consent in February 2017.

Further to this application the operator discovered further tip material present against the northern valley side of Deep Dale. Consequently a S.73 application was submitted in December 2020 seeking to include the additional material as part of a revised remediation strategy. The application remains on hand after concerns were raised with the applicant's contamination sampling methodology and potential hydrological links to the nearby water course which runs into the Deepdale SSSI and River Wye SAC.

The MPA now has confidence that the material is largely homogenous with that previously approved for relocation and that the revised remediation and restoration strategy is suitable to ensure no adverse impact on protected species/habitats. The application is expected to be reported to the planning committee in the coming months subject to completion of a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Mineral extraction is conditioned to cease at the end of 2025 with restoration to be completed by the end of 2026.

Dale View: Planning consent was granted in March 2019 for the continued extraction of dimensional stone from land to the west of the existing quarry along with provision of screening, landscaping and the revised restoration of the existing quarry in order to amend the phased working and restoration of the site. Mineral extraction is conditioned to cease at the end of 2028. A further application for revisions to the restoration scheme is expected within the next 12 months.

New Pilhough: An application was submitted in October 2022 for a 2 year extension of time to extract remaining consented reserves at the site, along with a revised restoration strategy to provide a greater biodiversity net gain. Planning committee resolved to grant the extension of time subject to a Section 106 legal agreement. Consent was issued in July 2024. Extraction is now required to cease by the end of 2024 with final restoration to be completed by the end of 2025.

Stoke Hall: Approval was granted in August 2023 for two replacement water towers. The replacements are coloured brown so as to be less visually intrusive in the landscape. The former operator had deviated from the approved working strategy and as such a S.73 application will be required for regularisation and revised restoration. This is expected in the next 12 months.

Friden Landfill Site: An application for the regularisation of the over tipped area to the east of the 1884/9/4 consent, retaining use of the site for depositing industrial waste from DSF Refractories and consolidation of progressive restoration and aftercare strategy for the revised site area was submitted in May 2023. The application was approved in May 2024 and allows for the continued recovery of inert waste generated by the nearby refractory reducing the need for vehicle movements. The consent provides a modern scheme of conditions to regulate operations and a significant biodiversity net gain by way of the revised restoration strategy.

Hope Cement Works: An application for the importation of up to 450,000 tonnes per annum of alternative raw materials (ARM) by rail to supplement/substitute the on-site shale as a secondary kiln feed stock was approved in November 2022. The approval allows for the continuation of cement manufacture while on-site reserves of limestone remain and lowers the SO₂ emissions that were being generated by the remaining high sulphur shale. The consent provided an enhancement to the NP by removing a section of overhead powers lines, and importantly imposed an end date on the quarrying and cement manufacture process of 22nd February 2042 by way of a Section 106 legal agreement. Until this point the life of the cement works was open ended, so the agreement is a significant milestone for the National Park and a level of control not since achieved.

Ancillary permissions for the use of storage silos and a reconfiguration and extension of the rail sidings within the works complex were also approved in 2023.

Former Meltham Quarry: Application received in March 2023 for the infilling of a pond created as part of a former quarry restoration scheme and re-grading of final landform. Application submitted in the interest of public safety and is seeking to provide a biodiversity net gain. Application currently on hand awaiting further information from applicant.

Conditions Discharge, Non-Material Amendments & GPDO Submissions

In addition to the above applications there were 65 discharge of conditions applications and 9 non-material amendment applications submitted for various sites.

14 applications were submitted under the GPDO in relation to a range of matters including ancillary buildings and structures at Hope Cement Works, remediation of surface collapses along Hucklow Edge and for exploratory drilling works.

Restoration & Aftercare

Restoration and aftercare works remained ongoing and not yet completed at 8 sites. One of these is the result of a scheme imposed through a Prohibition Order and a further 3 are a result of a scheme imposed through an Enforcement Notice. The remainder are schemes determined through planning permissions.

Enforcement

Moss Rake East: Stop Notice and Enforcement Notice served in December 2016 to prevent the deposition of hazardous waste and requiring remediation of the site. Breach of Condition Notice served in December 2017 in relation to failure to restore land and remove plant/machinery. Site has since been restored under direct action by the Authority.

Stoke Hall: An Enforcement Notice was served in October 2016 requiring the two Pellegrin wire saws and associated infrastructure to be removed from the site by 21st February 2026. There was a second Enforcement Notice was served in May 2018 to prevent the importation of stone for processing.

Land at Park Lane, Rowsley: Enforcement Notice served in February 2017 to prevent the change of use from forestry to importation, storage and distribution of block stone.

Cop Rake: Enforcement Notice served in July 2022 requiring the removal of waste tipped into historic lead rake surface workings.

Wagers Flat: Unauthorised mineral extraction identified during random site inspection in December 2023 in breach of the Prohibition Order (PO) confirmed on the site in 2016. Temporary Stop Notice issued in December resulting in the cessation of unauthorised mineral extraction. On going work to ensure full compliance with the PO requiring removal of haul road and restoration of former quarry floor.