

## 6.2 Mineral Safeguarding

### Policy M2 - Safeguarding Minerals

Within the Plan area, Mineral Safeguarding Areas have been delineated on the Policies Map around all deposits of:

- Limestone
- Sand and Gravel
- Gritstone [Sandstone]
- Shallow Coal
- Brickshales
- Salt

Within these mineral safeguarding areas identified, planning permission will not be supported for any form of development that is incompatible by reason of scale, proximity and permanence with working the minerals, unless the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that:

- The mineral concerned is no longer of any value or has been fully extracted.
- The full extent of the mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to the incompatible development taking place.
- The incompatible development is of a temporary nature and can be completed and the site returned to its original condition prior to the minerals being worked.
- There is an overarching need for the incompatible development that outweighs the need to avoid the sterilisation of the mineral resource
- That prior extraction of minerals is not feasible due to the depth of the deposit.
- Extraction would lead to land stability problems.

### Justification

6.2.1 Minerals are a finite resource and all mineral planning authorities, both unitary and two tier authorities are required by national policy to ensure that unworked mineral deposits are safeguarded from development that would sterilise their potential exploitation at some future date, and to delineate them in their local plan. The Core Strategy (CS1) requires those minerals that have economic, environmental or heritage value and potential for extraction now or in the future to be identified and shown as mineral safeguarding areas on the Policies Map. Following the publication of the NPPF, peat is not considered to be a mineral of local or national importance and so is not safeguarded through Policy M2.

6.2.2 In compiling these mineral safeguarding areas the British Geological Survey (BGS) map 'The Mineral Resource Map for Lancashire 2006' (comprising Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) has been used as the best source of information available.

6.2.3 Current guidance advises that mineral safeguarding should not be curtailed by any other planning designation, such as urban areas or environmental designations without sound justification. The mineral deposits within the Plan area are extensive and whilst they continue beneath urban

areas they are already sterilised by non mineral development and are not sufficiently valuable with very little prospect of future working. Therefore in a wish to make our safeguarding realistic and practical as possible we have excluded such areas from the mineral safeguarding areas.

6.2.4 There is no set definition of incompatible development, but the mineral planning authorities would wish to be consulted on proposals, including planning applications that are likely to prejudice or prevent the future extraction of the minerals within the Mineral Safeguarding Area.

### **Implementation**

6.2.5 This policy will be implemented through the approval of applications subject to appropriate conditions, or refusal of applications if proposals are unsatisfactory; to be monitored and reported in the Joint Authorities Monitoring Report. Outside of the administrative areas of Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen the district and borough councils will be required to consult Lancashire County Council on relevant non minerals and waste developments that are within the areas covered by Policy M2.

### **Mineral Consultation Areas**

6.2.6 These are for use in two tier planning areas to identify where consultations are required between the county and district and borough councils about development which could have an affect on a potential mineral extraction.

6.2.7 Mineral Consultation Areas have previously been designated by the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority and notified to district and borough Councils under the terms of paragraph 7(3)(c) of Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These areas were restricted to areas around current workings and the level of safeguarding to minerals they have provided was minimal.

6.2.8 The current MCA's allowed a mechanism which obliged the district and borough councils to consult the County on certain types of planning applications for non mineral development within the boundaries of MCA's.

6.2.9 With the decision taken to delineate extensive areas as Mineral Safeguarding Areas, the boundary of Mineral Consultation Areas will not be required to be greater than these areas and will therefore be contiguous with the MSA.