



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Ms Naomi Idoine
British Geological Survey
Keyworth
Nottingham
NG12 5GG

3 March 2010

By letter and e-mail

Dear Ms Idoine

Consultation on *Evaluation of Mineral Policy Statements - A Questionnaire*

Response by English Heritage

Thank you for consulting English Heritage on the *Evaluation of Mineral Policy Statements - A Questionnaire*.

English Heritage is the Government's principal adviser on all aspects of the historic environment, including historic buildings and areas, archaeology and the historic landscape, with responsibilities that extend to the urban, rural and marine environments. Alongside our statutory duty to conserve the heritage, we are also required to advance its understanding and enjoyment by the public. As part of this function we manage an estate of over 400 historic properties open to visitors, the majority of which are in the countryside.

Although English Heritage is sponsored by the Department for Culture Media and Sport, our corporate objectives are set by DCMS in consultation with CLG and Defra, reflecting the cross-departmental interest in the historic environment.

Our input to minerals policy and guidance is fourfold. Firstly, we seek to minimise the impact of mineral extraction on the historic environment (whether this occurs as a direct result of mineral extraction, for example, on terrestrial or marine archaeological remains, or as indirect impacts such as noise or traffic on historic settlements and landscapes) and to mitigate impacts where they occur. Secondly, we wish to sustain supplies of traditional building and roofing materials in order to maintain the character and historical authenticity of the historic building stock, streetscapes and other structures as appropriate, together with maintaining local

distinctiveness with new build. Thirdly, we seek to characterise, and where appropriate designate, the historic mining and quarrying sites and landscapes which are significant elements of the historic environment. Fourthly, alongside Natural England and other agencies, we are a distributor of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund on behalf of Defra.

We are a statutory consultee to local planning authorities on local development documents and with development proposals affecting certain types of heritage asset and their settings, and we contribute to the development of regional spatial strategies for the historic environment.

Our high-level position on mineral extraction is set out in *Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment* (www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Mineral-Extraction.pdf?126761827). This statement confirms our position with regard to planning policy issues that will or may be reviewed as part of the current *Evaluation of Mineral Policy Statements* - for example regarding landbanks, quarry restoration and enduse, old mineral permissions, marine extraction, the supply of building stone, mineral safeguarding, and proportionality.

We convene and chair the Minerals and Historic Environment Forum, a cross-sectoral working group which comprises senior representatives from the mineral industry, planning and historic environment sectors. The Forum has focused on matters related to mineral planning and archaeology, and in 2008 it published *Mineral Extraction and Archaeology: a Practice Guide* (www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Mineral-Archaeology.pdf?1267618317), a document which has been widely adopted by the relevant professional organisations and trade federations.

Headlines

The headlines from our response to the questionnaire are as follows:

- English Heritage welcomes the *Evaluation of Mineral Policy Statements*
- In particular, we welcome the opportunity to highlight perceived difficulties with some areas of policy and current arrangements for their implementation, although in general terms we believe that the system can and often does work well. There can be, however, considerable variation both in implementation and the quality and extent of supporting information that is available for strategic forward planning.
- We recommend that particular emphasis needs to be placed on Government's objectives for securing sustainable supplies of building and roofing stone.
- We note that the focus of the review is MPS 1 and 2 and MPG 3. We would welcome an updating of MPG 7 on the reclamation of mineral workings, and we continue to have concerns with old mineral permissions which do not have appropriate conditions for safeguarding the historic environment and /or mitigating the impacts that may arise from mineral extraction.

Our more detailed comments are provided within the completed questionnaire which is enclosed. As noted on the questionnaire, if required, we would be pleased to provide BGS with photographs to assist with the illustration of the report.

I hope you find these comments of assistance. If it would be helpful, I would be happy to discuss these issues in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Humble', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jon Humble
Senior National Minerals Adviser
National Advice and Information Group
English Heritage

Mobile: 07771-885381

e-mail: jon.humble@english-heritage.org.uk

Encl: Evaluation of Mineral Policy Statements - A Questionnaire

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact
our Customer Services department:
Telephone: 0870 333 1181
Fax: 01793 414926
Textphone: 01793 414878
E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk