

minerals and waste

Minerals and Waste Planning

The extraction of minerals and the processing and disposal of waste generally requires planning permission. It is often viewed as a contentious and complex form of development which gives rise to conflicting planning demands. The planning system can be complex and without proper advice from the start it can be a long and costly process to negotiate.

Development involving incidental mineral extraction & excavation

The extraction of minerals and the processing and disposal of waste are fundamental to the needs of society and can lead to significant demands in terms of land use and resources. Securing planning consent for mineral and waste developments can be a complicated and often controversial process. Whilst the outcome can provide economic benefits, as can the long term restoration of land once the processes have been completed, all proposals need to be supported by the appropriate planning and environmental assessments in order to describe both the positive and negative effects, as a means of demonstrating that there will be no permanent long term negative impacts on the surrounding environment and local population.

In some cases the recovery of minerals can be incidental to the primary development proposed. Major schemes for housing, road building or recreation uses such as golf courses and fishing lakes can often involve the incidental recovery of minerals as well as the excavation and removal of surplus material. This may often requires a separate planning application to be made to the Mineral and Waste Planning Authority and can be an important aspect of the overall development proposal.

In other cases, development may require large scale landscaping schemes, often using imported waste materials. These are generally regarded as waste disposal operations and require detailed consideration to be given to the processes involved including the environmental issues that may arise.

DLP Planning Ltd can advise on all pre-application aspects of developments involving mineral or waste disposal processes and on the likely issues which may arise.

Environmental Impact Assessments

Most mineral and waste planning applications also require an assessment of the environmental impact and the provision of an environmental statement to accompany a planning application.

DLP Planning Ltd can screen and scope projects for environmental impact and can prepare Environmental Impact Assessments and produce Environmental Statements – see our Brochure on this topic for further details.

Planning for Minerals and Waste Disposal

Minerals and Waste legislation is constantly being updated and it is important to be abreast of current legislative requirements and the process by which such activities operate. Our expert staff maintain a first class knowledge of the current planning system and the legislative framework for minerals and waste in the UK and can apply spatial planning policies to mineral extraction and waste processing, within the prevailing legislative context.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced significant changes to the planning system including the way policy is developed at a national, regional and local level. The changes in approach to planning policy preparation introduced by the Act has placed increased emphasis upon working with regional waste guidance, involving communities and undertaking Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of new waste and mineral planning documents (the Minerals and Waste Development Framework) as well as a new approach to the development plan and development control systems.

The role of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) in decision making has been reconsidered in the light of requirements for SEA. Such assessments will constitute part of the wider sustainability appraisal of the new Local Development Document's. It is therefore important that minerals and waste sites are put forward at an early stage in the stages of these new development documents in order that they be assessed under SEA. DLP Planning Ltd can advise Clients on this approach and make representations on their behalf.