

NEWS RELEASE

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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£29m TO REDUCE IMPACT OF QUARRYING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Defra will be providing £29.3m of funding to address the impacts that extraction of aggregates has on the environment and local communities.

The money will come through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) in 2005/2006.

This fund provides support to eight national organisations. These include reducing demand for new aggregates, reducing the impact of lorries and assessing marine extraction to reduce the need for quarrying in National Parks and elsewhere.

Following a successful pilot in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Somerset, Defra has opened the fund to 14 more counties with the highest amounts of aggregate extraction. £3m will go to community projects chosen by these local authorities and, combined with other funds, will meet a variety of needs.

Commenting on the funding, Environment Minister Elliot Morley said:

"This funding will provide a wide range of benefits, from increasing the amount of construction and demolition waste that is recycled, to improving our knowledge of the marine environment and restoring derelict quarries.

"The increase in funding available through local authorities next year will also see communities in the areas with highest levels of aggregate production benefit."

Notes for editors

1. The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund was started in 2002. It uses revenue from the Aggregates Levy to address the impacts of aggregates extraction on the environment and local communities. More information can be found on the Defra website at:

- www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/aggregates/index.htm

2. The ALSF has four objectives:

- The first objective seeks to remove the market barriers to using recycled and secondary aggregates rather than virgin aggregates (e.g. delivering 3 million tonnes increase in reprocessing capacity for recycled/secondary aggregates by 2006).
- The second objective seeks to improve the environmental performance of aggregates extraction and transport both on land and in the marine environment (e.g. providing Defra and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with the necessary evidence base to inform its statutory licensing role in relation to the newly discovered aggregates reserves in the Eastern English Channel).
- The third objective is to deal with the legacy of environmental problems associated with past aggregates extraction (e.g. restoring derelict quarries in national parks).
- The fourth objective is to compensate local communities for the impacts of aggregates extraction (eg by providing play areas or improvements to village halls)

3. The bodies which deliver ALSF funding and their priorities are:

	Main Priorities	Allocation
First Objective: Minimise the demand for primary aggregates		
Waste and Resources Action Programme	Promoting greater use of recycled and secondary aggregates	£7.07m
Second Objective (on land): Promote environmentally friendly aggregates extraction		
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	Improving the information base on aggregates and environmental constraints, onshore and offshore. Improvement of environmental management practices providing information and examples of good practices to stakeholders in the process	£1.60m
Mineral industries Research Organisation	Development, promotion and implementation of sustainable technologies for aggregate production	£1.50m
Department for Transport	Promoting the environmentally friendly transport of aggregates	£3.70m
English Heritage	Reduction of the future impact of aggregate extraction upon the historic	£2.05m

	environment on land	
Second Objective (marine): Promote environmentally friendly maritime aggregates extraction		
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Reducing the environmental impacts of marine aggregate extraction and promotion of environmentally friendly practices for the extraction of marine aggregate	£1.18m
English Heritage	Reduction of the future impact of aggregate extraction upon the marine historic environment	£0.89m
English Nature	Conservation of marine bio-diversity	£0.89m
Third Objective: To address the environmental impacts of past aggregates extraction		
Partnership of Countryside Agency and English Nature	Reduction the impact of extracting aggregates by improving access to land from which aggregates have been extracted or by improving such sites and the surrounding areas and by addressing the effects of past extraction on biodiversity and geoconservation	£5.20m
English Heritage	Repair or conservation of specific sites, monuments, buildings and landscapes physically damaged by past aggregates extraction and promotion of the understanding of the conservation issues arising from the impacts of aggregates extraction on the historic environment	£1.50m
Fourth Objective: To compensate local communities for impacts of aggregates extraction		
Leicestershire/Rutland		£0.40m
Derbyshire incl part Peak		£0.40m
Somerset		£0.40m
North Yorkshire		£0.37m
Staffordshire		£0.25m
Cumbria		£0.18m
Avon:		£0.18m

Bath and North East Somerset Bristol North Somerset South Gloucestershire		
Lancashire		£0.17m
Devon		£0.15m
Essex		£0.14m
Lincolnshire		£0.13m
Durham		£0.13m
South Yorkshire: Sheffield Rotherham Doncaster Barnsley		£0.12m
Shropshire		£0.11m
Cornwall		£0.11m
Nottinghamshire		£0.11m
Gloucestershire		£0.11m

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