

## Old quarry permissions a 'timebomb'

A report by environmental protection charity the Council for National Parks has brought to light 20 old planning permissions in National Parks across England, that it claims could operate free from modern environmental stipulations.

The report also notes that a further 33 sites could be opened up and used until 2042, due to outstanding permissions granted years ago.

The council fears that current laws regulating existing quarries do not impose modern environmental conditions, so companies operating within the law could potentially damage National Parks.

Peter Huxtable, secretary of the independent quarry body the British Aggregates Association, dismissed the claims as misleading, saying that local authorities could intervene in cases where they believed operators were working outside modern guidelines, *Construction News* reports.

Huxtable also commented that current planning regulations in the UK are some of the most stringent in the world, and if anything should be made more flexible.

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