

BRITISH AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION – NEWS RELEASE
Monday 6th December 2004

**MINERALS POLICY STATEMENT MPS1, PLANNING AND MINERALS
CONSULTATION PAPER**

BAA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the recently published ODPM consultation paper which will run until the end of February 2005. This is a revision of MPG1 and covers extraction of all minerals in England and Wales. This is the first guidance stage after the recent Planning Act and specific reference to aggregates extraction will be a revision to MPG6 and be an annex to be subject of a further consultation in 2005.

We will be consulting with our membership and discussing further with other stakeholders before finalising our views and the process has already started.

The first reaction is that MPS1 appears to be essentially a consolidation of existing guidance and practice. We need to ensure that this neither sterilises mineral nor makes access more difficult for operators.

The new Planning Act is intended to deliver fundamental change – a simpler, less complex, swifter and more business-friendly system as outlined in the government's green paper in 2001.

The new Act and the guidance in MPS1 and other policy statements along with the various annexes need to be studied together to ensure that society obtains its products and industry is given the ability to meet this need – and industry is also given confidence and encouragement to continue to invest in UK plc. The industry has provided already the optimum use of recycled and secondary products – and access to primary materials will now become more important. It will be important that access in the national need is still possible in the so-called sensitive areas as the deposits particularly of hard rock are naturally only occurring in these areas.

BAA supports sustainable development for our industry but believes that a more balanced approach of all three sustainable pillars is ensured – and that the social and economic needs of the nation are properly balanced against the environment which has previously tended to dominate.

For further information please contact BAA Secretary Peter Huxtable

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Notes to editors:

- The British Aggregates Association is the representative trade body for independent quarry operators www.british-aggregates.co.uk
- The Association represents some 70 members across the UK producing around 10% of national output from over 100 individual sites
- The Association was formed to fight the imposition of the ill-conceived Aggregates Levy and to protect the independent quarry sector from the increasing dominance of the major operators.
- The Association participates fully with all EU and UK consultations on environmental, economic, and health and safety legislation; and is an active member of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Minerals Committee, and the Construction Products Association (CPA).
- BAA has representatives on all 10 Regional Aggregate Working Party (RAWPs) committees in England and Wales and the national technical and policy groups; and has quarterly internal planning meetings, and regular annual meetings with Planning Officers' Society as well as other stakeholder groups.