



Digital Geological Map of Great Britain (DiGMapGB) data

Information Note, 2007: [100k, Min Res](#)

[Mineral Resource Data](#)

1:100 000 scale

This note should be read in conjunction with:

DiGMapGB Information Note 2007: 'General' for data at all scales,

DiGMapGB Information Note 2007: '50k' for 1:50 000 &

DiGMapGB Information Note 2007: '100k' for 1:100 000 scale data

1 Caution

The 1:100 000 scale data may be used as a guide to the mineral resources at a local or regional level. The purpose of this information is to show the broad distribution of those mineral resources which may be of current or potential economic interest. These data are intended to assist in the consideration and preparation of development plan policies in respect of mineral extraction and the protection of important mineral resources against sterilisation.

The economic potential of specific sites can only be proved by a detailed evaluation programme. Such an investigation is an essential precursor to submitting a planning application for mineral working. The individual merits of the site must then be judged against other land-use planning issues.

The scale of the original information is indicated by the nominal scale attribute (NOM_SCALE: 100000) embedded in the data. Do not over-enlarge the data; for example, do not use 1:100 000 nominal scale data at 1:25 000 or 1:10 000 working scale. If more-detailed information is required then the 1:10 000 (or 1:10 560) scale geological maps or digital data, usually the most-detailed interpretations available, should be consulted.

The digital data do not necessarily fit a more modern topographic base.

The compilation of geological lines (i.e. the cartographic accuracy) is probably no better than 1 mm which equates to 100 m on the ground for the 1:100 000 scale base maps.

2 Sources of 1:100 000 scale information

The mineral resource lines are largely derived from the BGS 1:50 000 scale digital dataset **DiGMapGB-50** (Versions 1 and 2). The background and limitations to digital geological maps and to the DiGMapGB-50 dataset in particular are explained in other customer information notes.

Where available, more-detailed lines, based for example on digitised 1:25 000 scale BGS mineral assessment maps, have been used.

Information on both the surface and subsurface extent of coal resources is mostly derived from the digital data used to compile the Coal Resources Map of Britain. More information on this map can be found at www.mineralsuk.com.

The sources of information specific to each digital tile are available.

3. Mineral resource classification

The mineral resources maps, published by BGS on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and its predecessors, show the geological distribution of selected mineral resources (see www.mineralsuk.com site which has the interactive Mineral Resource maps on it at http://bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/digital_maps/maps/home.html for more details). Mineral resources are rocks or natural concentrations of minerals with particular physical or chemical properties from which intrinsically useful commodities can be extracted; and they are of economic



interest or of potential economic interest. Mineral resources are thus economic as well as physical entities.

The identification and delineation of mineral resources is inevitably imprecise as it is limited not only by the quantity and quality of geological information available but also by the economic climate. It involves predicting what deposits might, or might not, become economic to work in the future. The assessment of mineral resources is, therefore, a dynamic process which must take into account a range of factors. These include geological reinterpretation as additional data become available, as well as the continually evolving demand for minerals, or specific qualities of minerals, due to changing economic, technical and environmental factors. Consequently areas that are of potential economic interest as sources of minerals may change with time. Criteria used to define resources, for example in terms of mineral to waste ratios, also change with location and time. Thus a mineral deposit with a high proportion of waste may be viable if located close to a major market, but uneconomic if far away. These criteria vary depending on the quality of the information available.

The extent of mineral resources shown in these data is generally the surface expression of the resource. However, users should note that workable minerals may extend beneath overburden adjacent to the outcrop areas shown.

The digital mineral resource data mainly shows the extent of **inferred mineral resources**, that is those mineral resources that can be defined from available geological information. They have not been evaluated by drilling or other sampling methods, nor had their technical properties characterised, on any systematic basis.

In those areas where the sand and gravel assessment studies have been undertaken by the British Geological Survey or other organisations, sufficient information may be available to define mineral resources at the **indicated resource level**.

Users should note that, at the interface between areas surveyed at different levels of detail, apparent mismatches between mineral resource lines may occur (e.g. between indicated and inferred resources). Mismatches may also occur for other reasons (see below).

This digital information has been produced by collation and interpretation of mineral resource data principally held by the BGS. The mineral resource data presented are based on the best available information, but are not comprehensive and their quality is variable. The inferred boundaries shown are, therefore, approximate. Mineral resources defined on the map show areas within which potentially workable minerals may occur. These areas are not of uniform potential and they take no account of planning constraints that may limit their working.

Extensive areas are shown as having no mineral resource potential, but some isolated mineral workings may occur in these areas. The presence of these operations generally reflect local or specific situations.