



**British Geological Survey**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Applied geoscience for our  
changing Earth

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **East Midlands' students decide whether to quarry or not**

**Minerals are essential materials needed to build our homes, schools, hospitals and work places; and the minerals industry is an important part of the UK economy. So how do you balance economic necessity with environmental protection?**

'Quarry or Not?' is an environmental decision-making exercise for East Midlands' sixth form students that demonstrates the importance of minerals in their lives and the difficult decisions faced when balancing economic and environmental issues.



**Students filming a mock protest at the Quarry or not? 2009 event**

The 'Quarry or Not?' schools event was held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at the British Geological Survey (BGS) headquarters in Keyworth, Nottingham. The event was organised by the BGS in collaboration with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the UK minerals industry.

Students were presented with a fictitious scenario that involved the proposed development of limestone quarry close to a National Park. The event came to a nail-biting conclusion in a 'mock' public inquiry where students presented their case to a panel of planning commissioners. Who won depended upon how well the students got their message across to the key players!

Andrew Bloodworth, Head of Science for Minerals and Waste, at the BGS said:

*"Quarry or Not? heightens students' awareness of how society makes difficult decisions. Balancing the need for the raw materials such as minerals to maintain our economy and lifestyle, with the need to protect our environment is a central problem of our time. Through this event, students have an opportunity to role play that decision-making process."*

*"Students are guaranteed an action-packed, fun-filled and informative day. The exercise involves teamwork, time management, critical thinking, analytical, numerical, comprehensive, presentation and debating skills".*

Sixty students, from schools in Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Grantham and Melton Mowbray, worked in stakeholder groups representing the minerals industry and its economic dependents, planning authorities and regulators, as well as national and local campaigning groups and the local parish council. They were guided by professionals from the BGS, the minerals industry, planning bodies, government organisations and non-government organisations.

The event focused on the various planning, environmental, economic, political, and social issues which influence the decisions made related to contentious developments such as quarries.

**\*Ends\***

**To arrange media interviews please contact:**

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**Notes for Editors**

Photographs from the event are available to download from the BGS ftp server:

<ftp://ftp.bgs.ac.uk/pubload/cjmi/QuarryOrNot2009Photos/>

**The participating schools were:**

1. Carlton le Willows School and Technology College, Gedling, Nottinghamshire
2. Dayncourt School Specialist Sports College, Radcliffe, Nottinghamshire
3. King Edward VII School, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire
4. The King's School, Grantham, Lincolnshire
5. Saint Benedict Catholic School and Performing Arts College, Darley Abbey, Derbyshire
6. Swanwick Hall School, Swanwick, Derbyshire
7. West Bridgford School, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire

## **Web content and video of past Quarry or not? events**

A summary and video of the previous events can be found on our website:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/planning/quarryornot.html>

## **MineralsUK**

MineralsUK is the British Geological Survey's (BGS) Centre for Sustainable Mineral Development. Managed by the BGS Minerals Science programme, the Centre is a global leader in the compilation, provision and analysis of mineral statistics and the major UK national provider of spatial and statistical minerals information. Scientists also carry out research in areas directly relevant to their user community, such as metallogenesis, land-use impacts of mineral extraction and geomaterials. For more information please go to [www.MineralsUK.com](http://www.MineralsUK.com).

## **The British Geological Survey**

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk).