Defining MSAs: methodologies and data sources

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A guide to mineral safeguarding in England

1. Background
2. Methodology
3. Safeguarding Toolkit
4. Annexes

• Incorporated relevant comments from today’s discussion

• Consultation draft available for download from www.mineralsuk.com between 11th-20th April

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Safeguarding toolkit

• to provide help and guidance relating to the purpose, use and delineation of MSAs within the framework of MPS1

• Toolkit comprises:
  Principles of MSAs: what they are and who must define them
  How to define MSAs in accord with MPS1 guidance
  Linking MSAs to policy at a regional and local level
  Policy to practice: flow models of how safeguarding should work
  Case Study illustration how MSAs can be defined in practice
MPS1

• Stronger on safeguarding
• New planning area: Mineral Safeguarding Areas
• Obligatory

‘……define Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in LDDs, in order that proven resources are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, although there is no presumption that resources defined in MSAs will be worked’ (MPS1 Planning and Minerals: Para.13)
A Mineral Resource is a concentration or occurrence of material of intrinsic economic interest in or on the earth’s crust in such form, quality and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction.

A Mineral Reserve is that part of a Mineral Resource which can be economically extracted. Appropriate assessments demonstrate that the quality and quantity of the mineral can be estimated to a level of confidence which could reasonably justify planning permission being granted.

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Safeguarding versus Supply

**MSAs**
Defined by all MPAs and incorporated into plans and policies

**MCAs**
May be defined in two-tier planning areas, where counties provide them to their districts

**Based on best available geological knowledge from mapping to drilling**

**Area of Search**
Planning permission possible

**Prefer red areas**
Planning permission anticipated

**Specific site**
Planning permission likely

**Planning Permission**
Mineral extraction allowed

**Increasing likelihood of extraction**
Increasing geological knowledge
How to define MSAs in accord with MPS1 policy and guidance
Criteria for developing methodology

• A simple methodology
  – not another “too difficult box”

• Have a life outside all other planning detail

• Avoid making judgments based on today's thinking
  – Who knows what future generations will need

• Define based on geology as not liable to change

• As extensive as is practical, reflecting longer term safeguarding
  - avoiding presumption for extraction
Methodology

**Use the best available geological and mineral resource information**

‘…MSAs can be defined objectively using the best available geological and mineral resources information, including that published or held by the British Geological Survey or made available by the industry’

**Refining resources in discussion with the industry**

‘However initially defined, areas will generally need to be refined in discussion with the industry and other stakeholders’

**Accounting for possible sterilisation resulting from proximal development**

‘…It should be kept in mind that, in addition to proposed development within a MSA, incompatible development that is allowed close to a MSA may also lead to sterilisation of part of the resource.’
1. Use the best available geological and mineral resource information

- Requires up to date impartial information on the location of mineral resources
- Delineation of mineral resources is imprecise – limited by quality and quantity of data
- Predicting what may or may not become economic to work
- Dynamic process taking into account a range of factors
- Geological interpretation and economic considerations may change but actual geology doesn’t

**NB: use best data available at the time**
BGS/DCLG Mineral Resource Maps

- Good starting point
- Consistent, impartial and nationally available – BGS identify those resources considered to be of importance
- Reduces the need for MPAs to make judgements on what resources may or may not be important in the future
- Only need updating if further data available or if economic factors change demand for a particular mineral.

Sand and gravel linework being revised next financial year (April 07 – March 08)
2. Refining resources in discussion with the industry

- Industry often has the best local knowledge
- Refine resource areas identified by BGS
- Identify further resource areas
- Consultation may take many forms
- Discuss criteria for delineating MSAs in local area – eg buffer widths, if applied.
- Additional information will enable the MPA to supplement the BGS mineral resource linework to provide more detailed or up-to-date information.
3. Accounting for possible sterilisation resulting from proximal development

• Extend the MSA beyond the resource boundary to
  - safeguard a resource in its entirety
  - account for the inexact nature of mapped geological boundaries
  - protecting from the impact of ‘proximal development’

• Resources and buffer width best decided through consultation
  - vary by resource type and local considerations

• Mineral resources do not stop at administrative boundaries!
  - MPAs should attempt to consider resources straddling other MPAs
  - avoid development in one MPA sterilising resources in an adjacent MPA, as a result of proximity.
Taking into account other planning considerations

Exfordshire MPA

Urban Area

National Park MPA

MSA

AONB

Urban Area

Rail

River

Motorway
Products commissioned by DCLG

Mineral Planning Factsheets

Role of minerals in the economy

Mineral Matters
Reminder - Guide to Mineral Safeguarding

Guide available for download after Easter (11\textsuperscript{th} April)
Written comments welcome up until 21\textsuperscript{st} April
Final guide available for download end of April

www.mineralsuk.com

Presentations available for download tomorrow (28\textsuperscript{th} March)