Aims and Limitations

The extent of all known extant and former planning permissions for mineral working is shown on the map, irrespective of their current status. Current planning status is not qualified on the map but is available in the underlying database.

CoLst Limestone (comprising Lancashire, Boroughs of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) is a key material resource in the region. Glaciofluvial deposits, 4 m to 20 m thick, are naturally very clean and can be processed by simple dry screening without the need for washing. These deposits are found in areas of the resource that have been sterilised by urban development.

Sand and gravel resources occur in a variety of geological environments. In Lancashire, these resources mainly occur within superficial or 'drift' deposits, subdivided into river sand and gravel up to 5 m thick and river terrace deposits which have been worked on a small scale in the Galgate area.

Pensthorpe Sandstone, a key material resource, occurs predominantly in the southwest of the county, cropping out in the red and yellow sandstones of the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group succession. The Haslingden Flags (Lower and Upper) were quarried and mined in several areas around Chorley and, most extensively, along the Haslingden-Lancashire border. Pendle Grit (Ogden Reservoir), Warley Wise Grit (Sabden Reservoir), and Kinderscout Grit (Walshaw Dean and Longdendale reservoirs) are also key material resources in the region.

Shap Granite, a hard rock suitable for use as aggregate, is found in the north of the county. It is resistant to erosion and has high strength, making it suitable for use in construction. A variety of hard rocks are suitable for use as aggregates, and their technical suitability for different applications depends on their physical characteristics, such as crushing strength and resistance to impact and abrasion. Higher quality aggregates are required for road construction and civil engineering projects.

Current digital availability of these sheets can be found on the British Geological Survey website: www.bgs.ac.uk.