

# The Minerals Planning Conference

## Mineral Planning at a Crossroads

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### Programme

**9.30 am**      **Registration**

**10.00 am**      **Welcome**

**Lindsey Richards FRTPI** - Vice President, Royal Town Planning Institute

**10.10 am**      **Keynote address**

The BGS is host to the UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre. In 2022, The UK Government launched its Critical Minerals Strategy in response to the global energy security concerns. The strategy, however, does not address other essential minerals also needed to enable the UK to achieve its net zero target. 2022 also saw the relaunch of the of the UK Minerals Strategy published by the Minerals Sector. Arguably, many of the broad concerns of mineral supply in the UK are similar for critical and non-critical minerals, and many of the actions to mitigate the concern are likewise similar. Dr Karen Hanghøj will consider Criticality vs Importance.

**Dr Karen Hanghøj** – Director, British Geological Survey

**10.30 am**      **Environment and Heritage**

An overview, update, and opinions on some of the key issues that minerals planners are grappling with. Clive Waddington will consider recent developments in archaeological investigations and draw some lessons for the future in mineral development. Kirsty Kirkham will outline forthcoming biodiversity net gain requirements and how this may be best applied to minerals. Jim Davies will consider how climate change may affect minerals development, particularly extraction and management of water and how minerals development offers opportunities for adaptation. James Dodds will talk consider how new abstraction licensing rules relating to quarry dewatering link to the planning application process and how to avoid duplication of effort.

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**Jim Davies** - Senior Advisor, Environment Agency

**James Dodds** - Director, Water Management Specialist, Envireau Water

**Kirsty Kirkham** - Director, BSG Ecology

**Clive Waddington** - Managing Director, Archaeological Research Services

**Chair: Nick Horsley** - Director of Planning, Industrial Minerals & Wales, Mineral Products Association

**11.40 am**      **Morning break**

**12.00 pm**      **Planning Reform and Minerals**

Planning reform is a perennial issue, and the speed and effectiveness of the system is usually cited by business and government as a barrier to growth. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will introduce changes and the government has recently consulted on the scope of changes to the NPPF. As usual, most of this relates to housing, although there will be implications for minerals planning. Christina Davey will provide an update on national policy including the government's agenda for reform, and implications for minerals planning. Alex Minhinick will reflect on his experience using the Development Consent Order process to support NSIP developments and provide some thoughts on the potential for this alternative consenting route to be used for minerals.

**Christina Davey** - Team Leader - Minerals & Waste, Planning Directorate, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

**Alex Minhinick** - Director, Burges Salmon LLP

**Chair: Harry Steele** - Infrastructure specialist, Royal Town Planning Institute

**1.00 pm**      **Lunch**

**2.00 pm**      **Legal update - The perils of minerals decisions and how to avoid them**

Richard Kimblin KC returns to the Minerals Planning Conference this year to provide the legal update. Richard will offer insight on legal issues arising from recent minerals planning appeals, issues which developers and decision-makers can help each other to avoid and a way to avoid lawyers.

**Richard Kimblin KC** – Barrister, No5 Chambers

**Odette Chalaby** - Barrister, No5 Chambers



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3.00 pm **Afternoon break**

3.15 pm **Planning Practice and Implementation**

Both public and private sector are experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified and experienced staff, while the requirements and pressures of the job increase. Speakers will consider whether there are better ways of working, and opportunities to collaborate and share resources to deliver more efficient services and attractive career paths, alongside better strategic planning.

**Andy Farrow** - Chief Planner, Flintshire County Council

**Councillor Win Mullen-James** – Lead Member for Local Development and Planning, Denbighshire County Council

**Lisa Kirby-Hawkes MRTPI** - Development Planning Manager, Hampshire County Council

**Chair: David Payne** - Senior Planning Advisor, Mineral Products Association

4.15 pm **Closing remarks**

**Mark Russell** - Executive Director - Planning, Mineral Resources & BMAPA, Mineral Products Association

4.25 pm **Conference end and networking drinks**

5.15 pm **Event close**