

Are Mineral Georesources Nationally Strategic Assets?



Recognition of the national value and contribution of our georesource assets is **outdated**.

It is time to reconsider the treatment of minerals in two ways;

- firstly in terms of governance and stewardship
 and
- secondly through the lenses of sustainable development, security and resilience.











Department for Energy Security & Net Zero











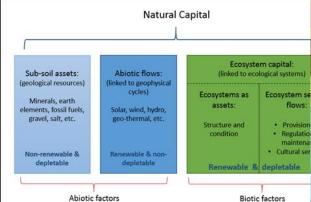


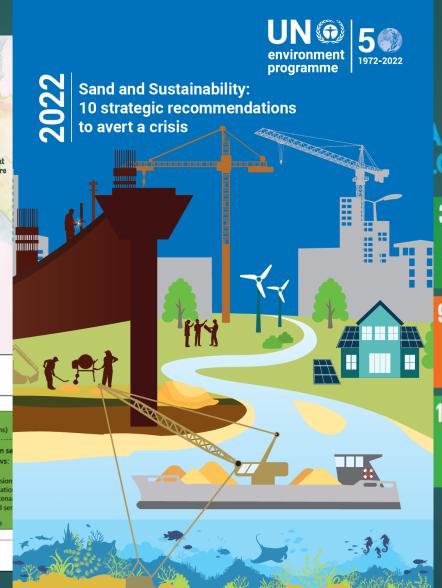


Lenses and Narratives









INABLE GALS



























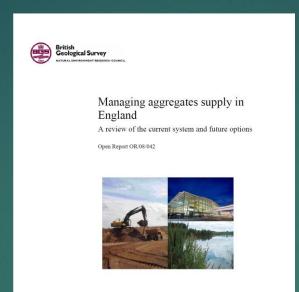




Aggregates Context

1970s

Stevens Committee on Minerals Planning Control: preparation of policy circular relating to the Stevens and Verney Reports 'Aggregates: The Way Ahead' 1976 and 'Planning Control over Mineral Working' 1976.

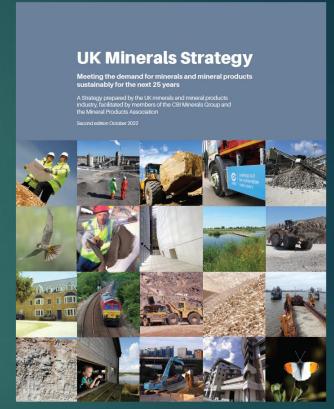


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United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook 2023 Bide, T.; Idoine, N.E.; Evans, E.; Raycraft, E.R.; Mankelow, J.. 2024 United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook 2023. British Geological Survey, 107pp. (OR/24/025) (Unpublished)

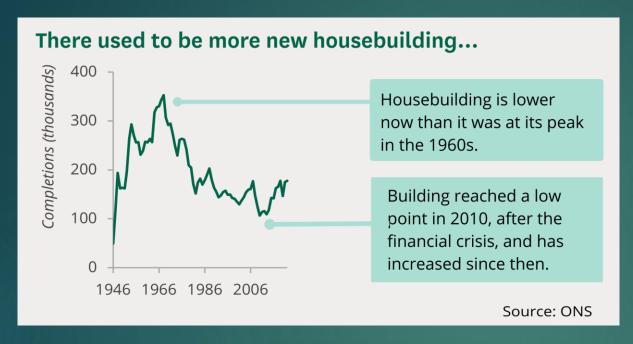






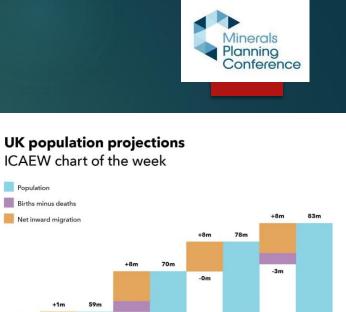
Essential vs Critical vs Strategic vs Development Minerals

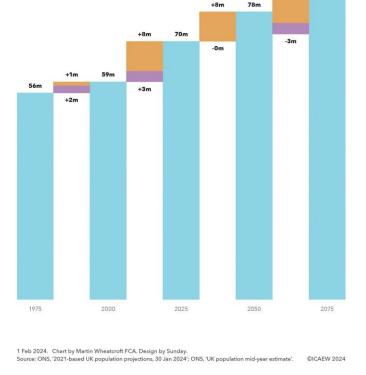




Economic vs Social Impact

- UK population is forecast to increase by 9.5 million from 2021-2046
- latest projections suggest the UK population could hit 70 million by mid-2026 – a decade sooner than in figures published in 2022, which projected a date of mid-2036.
- In 1946 UK population was 41 million.
- Annual Cost of poor housing is £18.5bn (bre 2021)





Births minus deaths Net inward migration









Stewardship & Actions



Take stock – establish a Georesources Commission which has the objective of sustainably managing our national georesources assets and will consider, on an ongoing basis;

- 1. Adoption and development of a culture of stewardship a new approach to management of our national assets
- 2. Governance build structures and ensure we have shrewd policies, planning and regulation
- 3. Resources identification and inventory, characterisation and management
- **4. Market Needs & demand management** secondary/recycled sources, waste reduction & the circular economy
- 5. Sector Performance & Economic incentives intervene to value responsible sourcing, decarbonising
- 6. Upskill developing training practical to academic
- 7. Re-brand Development Minerals? Communications, transparency, highlight progressive values



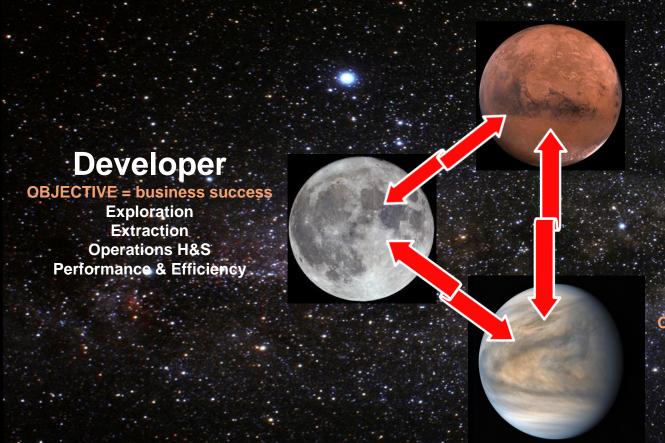






Governance – Development Minerals





Regulator

OBJECTIVE = environmental, operational and impact management

Operational permitting
Monitoring – environment
Enforcement

LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE Separation & Tension

Policies & Planning

Mineral owner

OBJECTIVE = strategic & sustainable resource management

Access & rights
Commerciality
Resource &
Knowledge management

Good Practice

Guidance

Standards









Geo-sensemaking, Responsible Sourcing & SDGs



DOWNSTREAM

Sustainable supply of aggregates

Demand, Delivery & Markets

Resource Management Policy, Planning & Regulation

Resource Audit

Stocktake & Characterisation

Resource Ownership

Rights & Responsibilities

UPSTREAM

Challenging Perceptions Conclusions – Development Minerals





YES - georesource and Aggregates/Development Minerals are nationally strategic assets – their value is growing



Thinking about treatment of natural resources has changed



Understanding of our resources is more complete



Agree a new philosophy and update policies & planning



What role do planners have to play?







