

Minerals Planning Conference 2024



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THE GOOD
THE BAD
THE UGLY



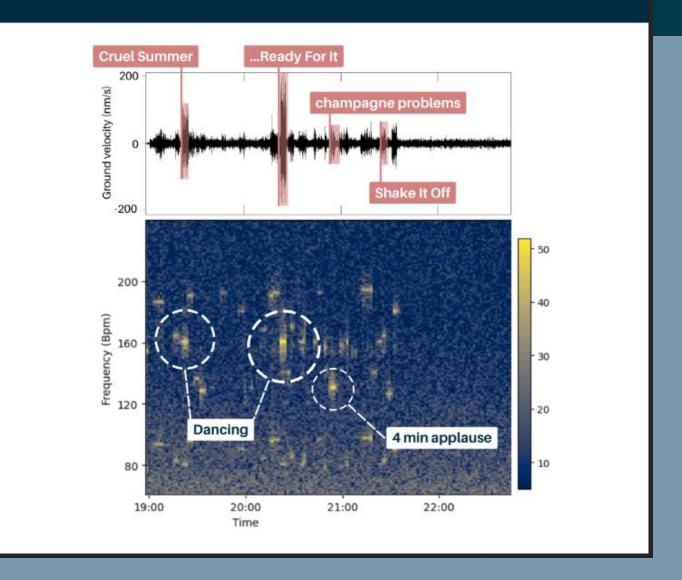
About BGS



Taylor Swift seismograph



Friday 7 June 2024 | Edinburgh Murrayfield Stadium







There is a problem with the current planning system for minerals, what is the nature of the problem and how do we fix it?

Have we lost the knowledge of the link between our needs as a society and the raw materials that are essential in meeting those needs?

*these are my views and not necessarily those of the MPA or RTPI



BROKEN PROMISES: SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROMISED REFORMS TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

On 30 June 2020, the then Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced what he described as the "most radical reforms to our planning system since the Second World War".

He levelled the failure to meet targets, unnecessary red tape and artificial constraints squarely at the feet of the planning system, outlining the aspiration to "build, from the ground up, a whole new planning system for England".





What is the problem?

- Headline a failure to deliver enough new homes and infrastructure
- Increasing planning delays in an overcomplex system
- But also a failure to deliver up to date development plans, inconsistent LAAs
- A failure to replenish minerals supply
- Increasing costs and barriers to entry
- Reduced certainty, increased member overturns and appeals
- Ultimately a system that undermines competitiveness and increases raw materials costs for UK

Fewer Appeals, More Appealing Joining the Strategic Dots

Local Government Structure

- Abolition of Regional Government
- Fragmentation of County Councils in many areas
- Failure of Duty to Cooperate

National Policy

- Loss of comprehensive Minerals Policy Guidance (the MPG's)
- Loss of specific guidance for individual minerals
- Erosion of National Forecasting and Targets

Priorities and Resourcing

- Mineral Planning has been given a low priority
- Mineral planning authorities have been starved of resources
- Expertise has been eroded



Why is this now so important?

- The UK cannot rely on simply being a trading nation, purchasing goods and materials where they are cheapest
- Geopolitical change has altered those perceptions: Brexit, Ukraine, China
- The new industrial revolution, focussed on climate change and a zero carbon agenda demands a new approach to raw materials and supply chain issues
- The UK (and EU) is exposed to geopolitical shocks, lacking control over raw materials supplies that are essential in supporting the green economy of the future
- The UK must now focus its attention on domestic sources of supply
- Importantly, this also means that needs are met from the most sustainable sources



A Positive Example: The UK Critical Minerals Strategy

2023 Critical Minerals Refresh: delivering resilience in a changing global environment

"As this government builds the foundation upon which Britain can thrive in the 21st century, it's clear that we must create resilient and diversified mineral supply chains.

We need lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite for batteries; silicon, tin and gallium for our electronics; rare earth elements for electric motors and so on.

But critical mineral supply chains are strained by rapidly increasing demand, and there's no quick fix — it takes a long time to build new production and supply chains."

Nusrat Ghani MP Minister of State at the Department for Business and Trade

- Other political parties are available!
- Supply chain focussed, the strategy sets out an assessment of need, identifies the key minerals and the challenges and approach to securing the development of a UK critical minerals supply chain and a task force to deliver it.
- BGS acting as UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre



A Critical Mineral - Imerys British Lithium





- Proposed development of the UK's first integrated Lithium extraction and processing facility, based in Cornwall
- Using existing China Clay operational areas
- Nationally significant, aiming to supply 21,000 tonnes per annum of battery grade Lithium Carbonate, one third of UK demand
- R&D production already achieved through first pilot plant of its kind
- Planning application in mid 2025
- Production by 2030





The Right Ingredients

- A major new resource and proposed operation
- Within an area of existing and past mineral activity
- Significant Cornwall based skills and expertise
- A clear and strong regulatory environment, which supports inward investment in sustainable technology
- But also within an area rich in mining heritage, cultural associations and biodiversity
- A clear Net Zero vision from Cornwall Council, taking a strategic approach to minerals development
- Planning Performance Agreement, expertise within MPA
- Support from UK Government and a national strategy
- Support from the local community.







CBI Minerals Group and MPA – UK Minerals Strategy

An industry initiative that needs Government support

Key Pillars of the Strategy





DEMAND & IMPORTANCE

Government should provide clear national policy and a statement of need for minerals and mineral products to underpin local plan-making, policy and decisions to enable a steady and adequate supply of minerals and mineral products to be maintained.



SUPPLY & DISTRIBUTION

The Industry will submit sufficient planning or marine licence applications. Mineral planning authorities and marine regulators should ensure that sufficient sites are allocated in plans and consents or marine licences granted, to maintain a steady and adequate supply of minerals and mineral products to meet demand, while also ensuring that reuse and recycling is maximised.



TRADE & INVESTMENT

Government should ensure there is a supportive regulatory, operating and trading environment to encourage investment, trade and export of UK minerals and mineral products, and reduce risks from insecurity of international supply.





PLANNING & REGULATION

Government should ensure that the mineral planning system is properly resourced to operate effectively and that duplication with other regulation, particularly environmental permitting, is minimised



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The Industry will aim to deliver environmental net gains through responsible site management and high quality restoration, adding to the wildlife, recreational and landscape assets already



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Industry will continue to avoid and mitigate the impacts of extraction, processing, manufacturing and transportation as part of the transition to a low carbon and circular economy.





EDUCATION, SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT

The Industry will continue to provide attractive career opportunities and meet skills needs for a modern, healthy, safe, welleducated and diverse workforce and encourage people to choose to work in the industry.



O O O PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING & **ENGAGEMENT**

The Industry and Government should work with stakeholders to improve public understanding of the need for minerals and mineral products and their associated supply chains, and strengthen the evidence base and availability of relevant data.



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Industry will encourage and invest in innovation, research and development, including the identification of new resources and the development of new markets.



Lessons for A UK Minerals Strategy?



- Government should establish a working group to consider how best to plan for the UK raw materials supply chain a key industrial sector strategy
- It should acknowledge the importance of UK minerals as one of the foundations of a successful and competitive economy;
- Set out sector specific guidance that acknowledges and plans positively for the issues associated with the winning and working of those minerals;
- Sets a planning policy framework and targets for growth, meeting the UK's minerals needs, with a supply chain focus;
- Adopt a new, strategic approach to natural resource planning, whether regional, county wide or through joint plans in a clear national framework;
- Speed up the Minerals Local Plans process, area/site focussed, but with criteria that allow for discovery, innovation and change;
- Development management policies to be established at a national level;
- Digitisation and resourcing the planning system, standardising software and better access to interactive maps and planning documents;
- Better resourcing of BGS, minerals planning authorities and centres of excellence;
- Support for accredited minerals planning courses.



The Minerals Sector does good things plan for it and celebrate it!

THANK YOU

