



Minerals and Biodiversity



4th March 2011
Riverside Centre, Pride Park, Derby



A programme of talks, and a local site visit to look at the contributions made to local biodiversity targets by the mineral industry .

The event is funded by the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund

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Supported through Defra's
Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund

In September 2009, the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership received a grant from DEFRA's Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund to carry out a project to quantify the contribution made by the aggregate industry in lowland Derbyshire. The results from the project, which involved desk-top as well as site surveys, will be shared at this seminar as well as some personal observations on mineral restoration made by James Frith, the project surveyor.

The mineral industry probably represents one of the greatest opportunities for habitat creation in the wider countryside. With careful planning, priority areas can be safeguarded and large areas of land can be secured for a future nature conservation use. Mineral restoration schemes can include opportunities for habitat creation, as well as providing valuable corridors between adjacent sites.

The Nature After Minerals project has looked at the national potential of the mineral industry and worked with operators and conservation organisations to develop a series of tools to help companies and planners put suitable habitats in the right places.

Derbyshire's unique geology has led to an associated large and diverse mineral industry. The county makes up 17% of England's limestone aggregate. Sand and Gravel is the second most important aggregate, predominantly along the Trent Valley.

Derbyshire County Council's mineral planning team, and its specialist internal advisors, has worked over the last decade with the mineral operators to safeguard existing priorities and contribute towards Derbyshire's future biodiversity and landscape character. Many of these sites have contributed towards local biodiversity targets.

Dingy and Grizzled Skipper butterflies are UK Priority species, whose populations have been noted as declining. Butterfly Conservation has been working with a number of landowning organisations to promote their conservation.

Witches Oak Water is a recently created, but now maturing wetland site within the Trent Valley. The main features of the site consist of a number of lakes with fringing reedbeds, immediately adjacent to the River Trent. With 12 hectares of reedbed, it has one of the largest areas of reedbed in Derbyshire, which it is hoped one day will attract booming bitterns! The conference will include a visit to Witches Oak Water to see at first hand this successful restoration scheme.

Speakers Include:

- Paul French and Charlotte Kinnear from the Nature After Minerals Project
- Glynis Foster and Tom French from the Conservation and Design section of Derbyshire County Council
- Bill Bacon, Chairman of the East Midlands branch of Butterfly Conservation
- James Frith, a Derbyshire based ecological surveyor
- Carlos Abrahams, an ecological consultant who was involved with the initial design and early site works at Witches Oak Water.

The event is free and is aimed at mineral operator personnel, mineral planners, biodiversity partners, and landowners.

Attendance at the conference is **free, but places must be booked** in advance using the booking form.

Due to the size of the venue and the transport arrangements for the site visit, there are only 50 places available and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Programme

9.30	Registration and Tea/Coffee
10.00	Welcome and introduction
10.05	A national perspective on minerals and biodiversity <i>Charlotte Kinnear and Paul French, Nature After Minerals Project</i>
10.35	Derbyshire and minerals <i>Glynis Foster and Tom French, Derbyshire County Council</i>
11.00	Questions
11.15	Tea break
11.40	Dingy and Grizzled Skippers <i>Bill Bacon, Butterfly Conservation</i>
11.50	Some personal observations of habitat restoration on mineral sites <i>James Frith</i>
12.00	Case Study: Witches Oak Water <i>Carlos Abrahams</i>
12.15	Questions
12.30	Buffet Lunch
13.30	Depart for site visit to Witches Oak Water
15.45	Return from site visits & coffee break
16.05	Final discussion and round up
16.15	Finish