

CAPABILITY STATEMENT



Minerals

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Overview

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Minerals Capability

Our project experience includes work on large-scale active quarries, proposed quarry extensions, brick pits, gravel pits, secondary open cast mineral extraction and re-claiming former colliery sites. Amongst our staff there are several former minerals planning authority employees with a detailed understanding of ecology issues at minerals sites.

BSG Ecology provides ecological advice and support for schemes that require:

- Reviewing and updating of old mineral planning permission conditions (ROMPs) with regard to the provisions of the Environment Act 1995;
- Stage 1 Screening Assessments and Appropriate Assessments (under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010) due to changing extraction requirements;
- Consolidation planning applications and time extension applications;
- Planning applications for new extraction and for extensions to extraction at existing quarries;
- Planning applications for re-development of former mineral sites that include the recovery and re-working of secondary materials, and staged restoration ready for subsequent re-development; and
- Restoration and monitoring plans often through planning gain, for example using Section 106 agreements.

Ecology Consultancy Services

Our consultancy services to the minerals sector include:

- Preliminary site appraisal to enable early understanding of likely survey requirements, costs and project risk;
- Upfront or integrated desk-based site appraisal;
- Ecological survey design and implementation based on industry guidance, knowledge of local conservation priorities and likely sensitivities;
- Support in protected species survey, mitigation and licensing;
- Stakeholder liaison and negotiation;
- Input to multi-disciplinary, and stand-alone ecological, scoping reports;
- The production of ecological impact assessments (EclAs) supported by detailed and robust technical baseline reports;
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) advice, reports and consultation;
- The provision of expert witness services at Public Inquiry;
- Working closely with landscape architects and consultees on an advisory level, including local authority and National Park Authority staff, to agree commensurate survey, mitigation and habitat management / creation measures and the review of planning conditions and obligations for clients;
- Providing ecological advice / input to the development of restoration proposals;
- Developing or advising on the specifications for habitat restoration / creation; and,
- Production of 5 year and 10 year Biodiversity Management Plans for both active and restored mineral sites.