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Dear Tina

Consultation on a new National Parks and Broads Circular and Vision Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed new circular to replace the DoE Circular 12/96 on National Parks ahead of publication.

The British Aggregates Association (BAA) represents the interests of some 90 members of which 60 are independent and privately-owned SME quarry companies throughout the UK with some 10% of national output and who operate out of over 180 sites. We are part of the consultation and lobbying process both in the UK and Europe – and are also represented through the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) Minerals Group and CPA (Construction Products Association). We have individual member representation on all the ten Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs) in England and Wales, and through the national steering groups; and work closely and constructively with other stakeholders including central and local government and the Planning Officers' Society (POS).

It has been of considerable concern to our membership that regional authorities including some national park authorities are openly attempting to either ignore or to circumvent national policy. Indeed several authorities are trying to decrease or prevent mineral and aggregate extraction which is directly contrary to Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (MPS1). We are pleased that your section 7.13 on Minerals para 97 clearly states and notes national government policy.

To ensure the nation's needs are met it is essential that there are no *no-go* areas with regard to mineral extraction. Much of the future needs of the country will have to be met from resources which are predominantly in National parks and AONBs. The industry is always happy to work in close harmony with the local community to ensure minimal disturbance within the remit of sustainable development which gives equivalent weight to the three pillars of the economy, social and environment.

We note that these are stated in the principles of sustainable development 6th March 2008 which apply to the UK Government, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Administration... *for a policy to be sustainable; it must respect all five principles. We want to live within environmental limits and achieve a just society, and we will do so by means of sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science.*
www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/principles.htm

Yours Sincerely

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Secretary

