

On Trent Mineral Restoration Seminar  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007  
National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire

Summary of question/answers

John Beckett (EA) Flood risk assessments

Is a 30m easement required between extraction site and river? EA is open minded. Braided channels are fine where they can be fitted in without causing problems. EA don't want to create long-term consequences with braided channels so flood risk must be assessed and the river must have room to develop. The Middleton example also improved flood storage capacity but it is very difficult to quantify the flood benefit from such schemes.

Alice Davies (RSPB) Nature after minerals [www.afterminerals.com](http://www.afterminerals.com)

RSPB hosting a series of workshops between November 2007 and May 2008. How local are the datasets? Can we integrate with local datasets and local projects, eg, On Trent? The dataset produced by the project is a nationally indicative dataset so there will not be full integration with all local datasets. English Heritage – a plea. As English Heritage are about to embark on a similar project, can we integrate the results?

Tim Deal (Lafarge) Community matters

How will rising food prices affect restoration objectives? A problem potentially; the industry has landbanked but most land is now leased, not freehold. Land owner opinions are often constraining.

Group discussion

River braiding – the EA are not always keen and not all sites are suitable. It needs to be a group decision. Can EA improve decision making process? Radical policy change is always tricky and this is a national debate as much as a local one. Can MPAs have a role through policy steer? Middleton river braiding project – the RSPB are now monitoring the site. Are the RSPB and WT's going to use the MIRO research for policy development? It could lead to 30-40 year plans and large nature reserves. Needs to be discussed in national workshops.

Tim Cooper (ARCUS) Trent Valley Aggregates

No questions.

Keith Easton (EA) Linking into the Trent

Connecting the river and water bodies can mean bypassing the flood defences. Yes, it can be difficult. Future of agricultural flood defences is

interesting. Grain price and biomass/biofuel could lead to increased pressure on land values.

Is silting of water bodies an issue when they are re-connected? Not usually as most links are 1m diameter (or less) so silting is slowed.

Tim Turner (Notts CC) – Developer contributions

Where previously there were 3 income streams from extraction (gravel, infill and land sale) now there is only the one (gravel) in most cases. The value of sand and gravel has not kept pace with the rising cost of gaining permissions. Should the industry be more up front about the cost of restoration? it would help the MPAs. MPAs are better informed than they were about this issue. Sites with very long planning histories are the most problematic in securing long-term restoration plans.