

## Appendix 2: Geodiversity and Local Requirements

The Assessment Guidance requires the applicant to submit a Geodiversity Assessment for all mineral developments, since such developments are likely to expose features of geological conservation interest. The assessment must balance the benefits of exposing such features against the scale and significance of any harm to or loss of such features and show how the benefits of exposure will be realised through interventions throughout the development process. This is in addition to considering the effects on designated sites and known geological features (see list below).

The Assessment Guidance also requires the applicant to submit a Geodiversity Assessment where the proposed development is likely to affect a designated site or a geodiversity feature within a site, such sites are listed below:

### Criteria (Trigger List) for requiring a Geodiversity Assessment

#### ***Designated Sites***

Internationally designated sites:

- World Heritage Sites.

Nationally designated sites:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

Regionally and locally designated sites:

- Local Geological Sites (LGS).
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

For further information please visit [Magic](#) and/or [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust](#).

#### ***Other Geodiversity Conservation Features***

Based on the Earth Science Conservation Classification) Presence of these features outside designated sites may need to be checked and the relevant Local Geodiversity Action Plan (where available) consulted – For further assistance please [visit Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust](#).

Exposure or Extensive sites:

- Active quarries and pits.
- Disused quarries and pits.
- River and stream sections.
- Inland outcrops.
- Exposed underground mines and tunnels.
- Extensive buried interest.
- Road rail and canal cuttings.

Integrity Site:

- Static (fossil) geomorphological.
  - Active process geomorphological.
  - Caves.
  - Karst (i.e. water dissolved limestone systems).

Finite Site:

- Finite minerals, fossil or other geodiversity features.
- Mine dumps.
- Finite underground mines and tunnels.
- Finite buried interest.

**NOTE:** Exceptions (not applicable to mineral developments) where a full survey and assessment may not be required.

International and National Sites: A survey and report will not be required where the applicant is able to provide copies of pre-application correspondence with Natural England, where the latter confirms in writing that they are satisfied that the proposed development will not affect any statutory sites designated for their national importance.

Regional and Local Sites: A survey and report will not be required where the applicant is able to provide copies of pre-application correspondence with appropriate local geological experts (such as the Local Geology Trust) and that they are satisfied that the proposed development will not affect any regional or local sites designated for their local geodiversity importance.

For further information on any of the above please visit [Hereford and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust](#) or [Natural England Geodiversity](#).