

Saturday, 30 August 2014

Matter 10

Site Reclamation

Site reclamation can be expensive, especially for the very large aggregate quarries on the Mendips. The best agricultural land is on the East Mendips. The West Mendips has poor land for agriculture. As the ownership of these quarries changes from time to time it is important that sufficient funds are built up to fund site reclamation, especially as some old quarry sites have been sold on to firms unable to afford to reclaim the site.

It is important that the plan is sufficiently robust to prevent old sites being converted to industrial use. As present the District Council can give permission for this to take place (and has done so).

A possible solution would be for all sites when the companies finish quarrying to be transferred to Somerset County Council ownership, with sufficient funds to convert them to safe, non industrial usage. Sites will have high, dangerous and unstable cliffs, and deep treacherous water. People have drowned in the water in old sites, and cliffs have collapsed – closing footpaths and roads.

7. It should refer to all mineral sites, especially to the large aggregate quarries.

Blasting is intended to make the land unstable. It can have effects away from the quarry, and possibly later in time. Quarry blasts can be felt to shake the land up to two kilometres from the blast site.