

## Central Rivers Project Strategy

Staffordshire County Council, Lichfield and East Staffordshire District Councils, English Nature, RSPB, Aggregate Industries, Hanson Aggregates, Lafarge Redland Aggregates and others

There is a long history of sand and gravel working within the 'Central Rivers Area', which is located along the Trent / Tame river corridor between Burton-upon-Trent and Tamworth in Staffordshire. The area includes several existing mineral workings and further allocations are identified in the Minerals Local Plan. Unworked sand and gravel resources may be subject to future allocations.

Staffordshire County Council together with other partner organisations recognised that future mineral workings in the Area could, if well-planned at a strategic level, deliver much greater environmental benefits than had been achieved by past workings. These benefits could play a significant part in delivering a wide range of environmental targets and objectives. It was also recognised that the identification of those potential benefits could assist mineral companies with their forward planning.

In order to pursue these opportunities a formal partnership was established comprising public, private and voluntary sector organisations. All of the partners shared a common vision of what could be achieved by co-operating at a strategic level, although each also had other reasons for being involved, reflecting their individual corporate objectives and responsibilities. In view of this, the partnership decided that the best way to develop the Central Rivers Project was to appoint consultants who could act independently of the partners to prepare a forward-looking strategy for the Project. Entec was commissioned to play this role.

The strategy, which received its public launch in February 2000, provides a framework that identifies strategic opportunities for different parts of the area, whether allocated for minerals development or not, to:



### *An innovative strategic study into delivering environmental benefits from mineral workings*

- contribute to species and habitat targets in the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP);
- conserve, restore and regenerate the landscape;
- encourage recreational and tourism development; and
- assist agricultural diversification.

It is intended that the strategy will inform the planning of future mineral developments and restoration schemes within the study area.

A copy of Entec's report can be accessed at:  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/centralrivers/entec.htm](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/centralrivers/entec.htm)

