

Minerals Subject Plan for the Maltese Islands Planning Authority Malta



Establishing the context for minerals extraction in the Maltese Islands

The Maltese Islands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and land-use pressures are particularly acute. There are around 100 quarries on the islands extracting soft limestones that are cut in-situ into building blocks and hard limestones that are blasted and sold as aggregates. A significant challenge for the Planning Authority is to bring the existing quarries up to modern standards in terms of their operational practices and to provide for the future development of quarries within a broader land-use framework.

The Planning Authority commissioned Entec to undertake this task through the preparation of the islands' first minerals local plan. Preparation of the plan involved a critical review of the legislative context for minerals extraction; consideration of the environmental, social and economic constraints and opportunities; the formulation of development control policies; an assessment of the need for the release of land for the extraction of minerals; policies on site restoration; and a strategy for implementing the plan.

Entec applied its expertise in strategic policy development, particularly in the minerals sector, to formulate a robust plan for the next 10 years. Advice was also provided on changes to the legislative context for minerals extraction and on a code of practice for quarry operators to assist in achieving the aspirations of the plan.

