



MPA Wales/Cymru

Delivering for Wales

Priorities for Government . . . Priorities for Industry

Extracting Minerals . . . Manufacturing Products . . . Supplying Markets



Delivering for Wales

[The mineral products and quarrying industry](#) is the largest producer in the UK economy at 400 million tonnes per year. It supplies cement, ready-mixed and precast concrete, lime, asphalt, aggregates, industrial sands and clays, slate and dimension stone to construction and many other industries.

As Wales recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic, adjusts to the post-Brexit world and takes on the net zero challenge whilst delivering net benefit, our industry will continue to supply the essential materials needed to build new homes and infrastructure, and supply strategic and foundation industries including the utilities, manufacturing and agriculture but needs to be supported by the right policies.

The sector produces the majority of the 'heavy' materials critical to the delivery of the Construction Sector Deal and the National Infrastructure Strategy. Transport, energy, water, flood defence and housing all rely upon the supply of mineral products of one type or another. **We are essential to the economy, the operation, development and maintenance of Welsh infrastructure, as well as the built environment and our quality of life.**

In a typical year our members supply more than one million tonnes of mineral resources and products per day across the UK. **Restored quarries provide huge biodiversity benefits for nature, with at least 83km² of priority habitat created by MPA members to date across the UK with much more committed to in the future.** This means that as well as being essential to the economy, infrastructure and the built environment we play a key role in creating net benefit in the natural

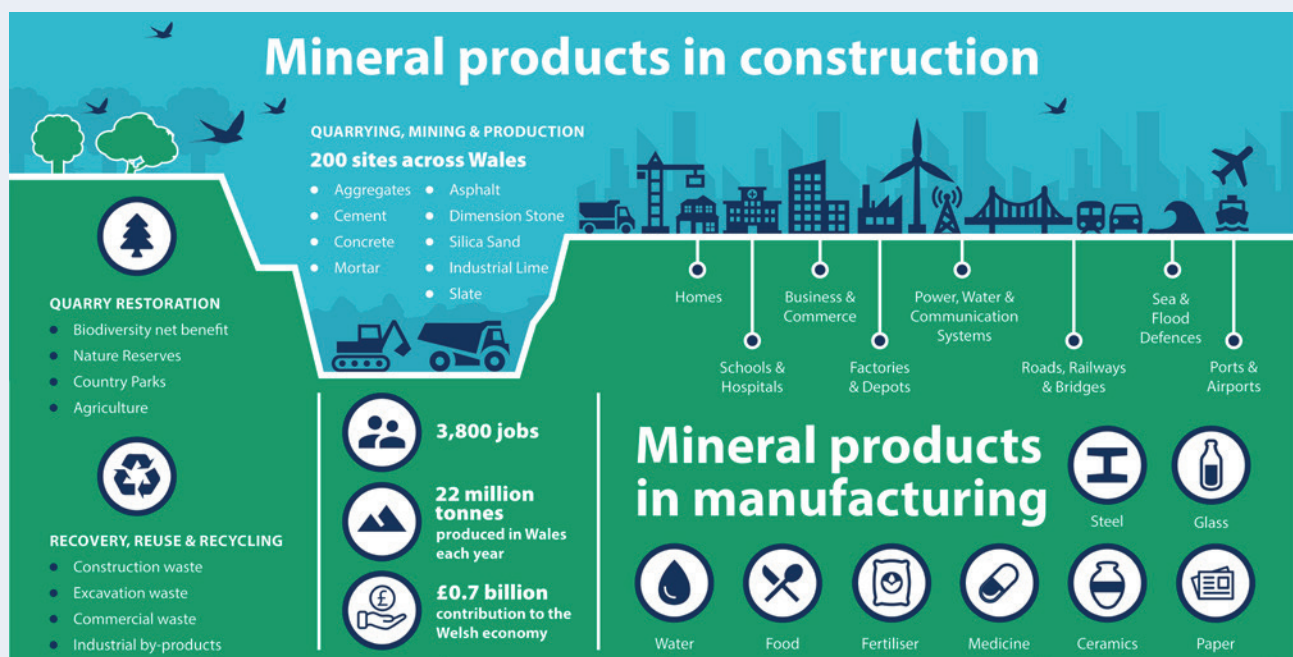
environment and great spaces in which wildlife can thrive and, in many cases, people can connect with nature. Proposals for mandatory biodiversity net benefit need to reflect the real differences between mineral extraction and other development, and not make delivery of the substantial opportunities for nature more difficult.

Mineral products will continue to be essential throughout the economic recovery and critical to growth in the long term. They will be vital to efforts to 'level up' communities, regions and nations, in particular supplying infrastructure projects. **However, the [steady and adequate supply of these materials cannot be assumed.](#)**

Government support for business during the initial stages of the pandemic was vital. MPA members particularly appreciated measures that helped them protect cash flow including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the VAT deferral. We welcome Government's recognition of the essentiality of our industry, but this recognition must now stimulate policy change by introducing a statement of national need.

The mineral products industry will play its full part in delivering the UK's 2050 net zero commitment. The recently published [Cement and Concrete Industry Roadmap to Beyond Net Zero](#) is an ambitious goal but is achievable with the right support. The industry will continue to be a world leader recycling construction and mineral wastes.

The mineral products industry aims to support and work with the Welsh Government to deliver its agenda. To enable us to do so governments needs to create conditions which minimise uncertainty, build confidence, encourage investment and boost growth.



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Priorities for Government to deliver

Supporting business to prosper by:

- Delivering a new post-Brexit economic settlement that keeps Wales competitive and ensures it remains an attractive, reliable investment choice
- Improving the planned delivery of housing and energy and transport infrastructure
- Ensuring education and skills systems provide the workforce with the skills and capabilities required for the modern economy

Supporting industry to decarbonise by:

- Establishing the financial and regulatory support needed for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) in time for industry to invest and make it a reality
- Improving the measurement and understanding of our emissions by using a consumption measure of carbon emissions in order to minimise leakage and creating a level playing field as well as introducing a balanced scorecard for all sectors
- Assessing emissions from buildings over their whole lifetimes
- Supporting the use of biomass and waste biomass in directly fired operations rather than incentivising it to less efficient uses

Strengthening Welsh supply chains by:

- Making the link between all forms of development and the essential mineral product supply chains they rely on and embedding this in policy by introducing a statement of national need
- Prioritising and supporting the indigenous supply of minerals and mineral products, and replenishing reserves, in line with [the UK Minerals Strategy](#)
- Ensuring neutrality between construction methods and materials to deliver sustainable and value-for-money projects
- Adopting procurement policies which support the supply of responsibly sourced construction materials

Enhancing industrial competitiveness by:

- Ensuring a level playing field for UK Energy Intensive Industries with proportionate and competitive energy and carbon taxes
- Maintaining regulatory and quality equivalence with European standards where it protects or advances UK businesses
- Holding imported construction materials to the same environmental standards as domestic production

Making industry taxation fairer and more efficient by:

- Ensuring proportionate and consistent taxation especially on energy costs for industries facing carbon leakage
- Reflecting industry specific taxes such as the Aggregates Levy with adequate policy support for those industries, e.g. properly funding the mineral planning system with a small proportion of the revenue alongside a [Communities Fund](#) to support local communities and the environment

Improving regulation by:

- Properly resourcing the [mineral planning system](#) and the environmental permitting system
- Maintaining existing environmental and technical standards, but implementing regulation more efficiently
- Minimising the cumulative impacts of planning and permitting regulation and avoiding regulatory duplication
- Ensuring land use planning safeguards mineral operations and associated transport facilities



Priorities for Industry to deliver

Improving the sustainability of Welsh supply by:

- Protecting the [health and safety](#) of our workforce and all associated with the industry, including [neighbours and local communities](#)
- Continuing to make full use of [recycled and secondary materials](#), supporting the circular economy
- Contributing to improvements in local air quality, reducing emissions of air pollutants
- Consuming waste as fuel and reducing it in our processes, while increasing recycling and energy efficiency

Providing and enabling solutions for the Wales to deliver net zero by 2050 by:

- Maximising use of alternative fuels including waste biomass, waste-derived fuel and exploring new technology including hydrogen trialling in place of exploring
- Delivering more new products such as low carbon cements and concretes
- Working towards deploying CCUS

Increasing net benefit for biodiversity and nature conservation by:

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and nature recovery through land and site management and restoration, including wherever possible, delivering a net benefit for biodiversity, in accordance with the [MPA Biodiversity Strategy](#)

- Extending our knowledge of the biodiversity potential on and adjacent to active sites, and how best to maximise benefits through management, restoration and after-use, through monitoring and sharing of experience
- Sharing best practice between our members and partners through regular events, briefings, and through our Biodiversity & Nature Conservation working group
- Developing our partnerships with conservation organisations, decision makers and individuals to ensure that opportunities to improve biodiversity associated with minerals operations are understood and realised

Meeting future demands for mineral products generated by economic growth and development by:

- Investing in our people to improve skills and competence, improving productivity and broadening awareness of employment opportunities in the sector
- Investing in indigenous mineral resources, manufacturing plant and transport operations
- Contributing to the innovative development of mineral products and evolution of product standards and design codes



The Mineral Products Association is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.

For further MPA information visit www.mineralproducts.org

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**deunyddiau hanfodol
atebion cynaliadwy**

**essential materials
sustainable solutions**

*Mineral Products: essential for schools ... hospitals ... homes ... roads ... railways
... energy supply ... airports ... ports ... food ... water ... agriculture*