

CONFERENCE



Minerals and Waste Management Conference

Driving innovation and sustainability in the UK's minerals and Waste Industries

Thursday 27th March 2025

Marriott Leicester Hotel, Smith Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester, LE19 1SW



Type of event

Face to face



CPD Hours

5.5
Formal

Join us for this year's highly anticipated Minerals and Waste Management conference, where industry leaders, policymakers, and experts will come together to explore innovative solutions, share best practices, and address critical challenges in land, minerals, and waste management.

The conference will explore how collaboration accelerates progress in dynamic sectors, showing how cross-discipline partnerships foster innovative solutions for evolving industry needs. A legal update will address upcoming legislative changes, including case law, policies, and environmental permitting. Key sessions will focus on waste classification, recycling innovation, and net-zero commitments, providing tools to navigate a shifting regulatory landscape.

Attendees will gain insights into the complexities of waste management planning, including securing permissions and aligning processes with local development plans and environmental standards to address public concerns.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the minerals and waste sector will feature prominently, with case studies on repurposing former industrial sites like landfills and quarries into biodiversity hubs, enhancing ecosystems and climate resilience. This is your opportunity to engage with thought leaders, expand your network, and gain practical knowledge to drive impactful change within your organisation. Join us to stay ahead in the ever-evolving minerals and waste sector and to contribute to shaping a more sustainable future.



Time zone:

GMT

8:30

Registration & networking

9:30

Welcome remarks from conference chair

Update on the Land & Natural Resources Professional Group Panel and Expert Working Groups along with hearing about the value this conference brings in sharing best practice.

9:50

Legal update

Staying abreast of legal developments is crucial for navigating the evolving regulatory frameworks in minerals and waste management. This session will provide an essential update on recent changes in legislation, case law, and policy affecting the sector. Topics will include updates on environmental permits, changes to waste classification and recycling targets, mineral extraction rights, and implications of net-zero commitments.

10:30

The essential role of minerals

Instead of taking their own Q&A sessions, the following four speakers will instead convene for a panel discussion at 12:40

10:30

Planning in minerals and waste

This presentation provides an overview of the latest developments in UK planning policy in relations to minerals. It will cover updates on waste management plans, sustainable approaches to resource extraction, as well as covering other essential planning updates in the minerals sector.

10:55

UK minerals and their role in the UK economy

Minerals are the foundation of the UK's economy, fuelling industries from construction and manufacturing to technology and renewable energy. This session will explore how the mineral sector drives economic growth and contributes significantly to GDP.



Time zone:

GMT

11:20

Networking break

11:50

Critical minerals

As the UK strives to achieve a net-zero economy, critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements are becoming indispensable for clean energy technologies. This presentation will explore their vital role in powering innovations such as wind turbines, electric vehicles, and battery storage. Attendees will gain insights into the challenges of securing sustainable supplies, the potential for domestic production, and the strategies needed to support the UK's green energy ambitions.

Speaker(s): Josh Conibear, Founder, J J Conibear

12:15

Marine minerals

This presentation will explore the strategic role of marine minerals in the UK's overall supply. It highlights their socio-economic importance, contributions to national and regional supply chains, and critical applications in construction and coastal protection. The session will also touch upon the environmental impacts of marine mineral extraction, the strict regulatory controls in place, and the industry's sustainable development plans.

Speaker(s): Nick Everington, Marine Minerals Portfolio Manager, The Crown Estate

12:40

Q&A discussion with Planning, UK Economy, Critical minerals & Marine mineral speakers

13:10

Lunch and networking

14:10

Navigating ESG and sustainability in waste management

This session will examine the key challenges faced by waste management companies in navigating the planning process, including addressing public concerns, aligning with local development plans, and meeting environmental standards.

Speaker(s): Fiona Campbell, Head of Sustainability, Biffa



Time zone:

GMT

14:40

Reclaiming nature: Unlocking biodiversity in former landfills and quarries

There's a very important intersection within waste management and biodiversity net gain (BNG), focusing on the innovative re-purposing of former landfills and quarries. These sites, often seen as remnants of industrial activity, hold massive potential for restoration when integrated into waste management strategies. By transitioning from waste repositories to biodiversity hubs, these landscapes can be transformed into habitats that enhance ecosystem services and sequesters carbon. Case studies and expert insights will examine how these initiatives can demonstrate leadership in turning past liabilities into future assets for nature and society.

15:20

Recycled quarry materials and calcined clays in cement manufacturing

In an era where sustainability is paramount, the role of surveyors in resource optimisation is more crucial than ever. This session will delve into the innovative use of recycled quarry materials and calcined clays in the cement manufacturing process. Attendees will explore how these materials can reduce waste, lower carbon emissions, and improve construction practices.

15:50

Understanding the CL:AIRE protocol in practice

Effective material reuse is at the heart of sustainable development. Our speaker will explore the CL:AIRE Protocol, a vital framework for managing excavated materials and soils in compliance with waste regulations. Designed for surveyors and industry professionals, this session will provide an in-depth look at the principles of the protocol and its application in mineral extraction and remediation projects whilst real-world examples will demonstrate how the protocol supports cost-effective, environmentally sound material reuse in minerals and waste management.

16:20

Chair closing remarks

16:30

Networking

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

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