

WORKSHOP 3
Restoration

GREEN GROUP

b) Which of these approaches is considered most appropriate to be taken forward through the Core Strategy;

i. Plan wide restoration strategy

In general the Group felt that a restoration based approach had been around for years but not always worked. The reason for this tends to be because industry tends to like flexibility. Mineral workings tend to take place over a long period of time and it is not always possible to fix a restoration scheme at the outset.

A plan wide approach may not work but the Group endorsed “area wide” strategies – taking on board the landscape character work e.g river catchment areas / landscape type approach

ii. Bespoke site specific restoration schemes

The Group discussed this at length with no real consensus but felt the area wide approach was a good one. In general it was felt that there could be a case for looking at linkages between other landuses and requirements and determining from that what the aims are e.g. water storage areas.

Specific projects were discussed in this context e.g. the Eden Project and that fact that a site was located for a specific end use.

iii. Mineral type/area specific strategies

The Group felt there may be a place for interim restoration objectives, particularly for hard rock quarries with a long timescale.

The Group felt that through this approach there is an opportunity to bring in wider biodiversity issues and recreational objectives / uses.

iv. Other

Members of the Group were keen on Community-led restoration. The Communities know what there needs and aspirations are and should be involved in determining the restoration of sites in the locality (positive planning). It was recognised that many minerals are worked under “mineral rights” and the landowners often have different aspirations. The group suggested that further use of trusts / community trusts should be explored.