

9 AMENITY AND DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Amenity sailing/fishing/diving/marina development

A range of developments, including sailing, fishing, diving, and marina development comprise amenity afteruses. Each category has specific requirements in terms of lake size, depth and gradient to name but a few. Financial and access factors are also extremely significant and given the broad range of the subject an in-depth discussion is beyond the scope of this report.

9.2 Lakeshore built development

Demand for housing and other built development grows annually. Restored quarries are generally considered as restored back to greenfield land rather than brownfield sites and for this reason built development on quarry sites has been limited. *Jarvis et al (2006)* examine the potential for aggregate quarries to provide built development sites as well as mineral by examination of 7 English counties and the production/deconstruction of development options in 7 demonstration quarry sites and conclude that there is potential for an integrated approach to development.

9.3 Cotswold Water Park

An example of an integrated restoration is the Cotswold Water Park which provides combined amenity value and income from tourism, a desirable setting for residential development and high nature conservation value. Set up in 1967 for its amenity and wildlife value, the Cotswold Water Park comprises over 120 large lakes created by the extraction of gravel together with associated wetland and grassland habitats. The Park is nationally important for aquatic plants and wintering wildfowl, and regionally important for many other species. It includes several areas that have been notified as SSSIs. The high wildlife conservation value of the area is the result of a combination of factors including its large size (over 1,000 Ha of water), high water quality, sensitive planning controls on afteruse, and high quality aftercare and management. Much of the Park's interest has developed without specific planning for biodiversity. With careful planning, there is potential to achieve much more. This was recognised by the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee which, in 1996 established a steering group to guide the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Park. The steering group has representation from the mineral industry, local authorities, English Nature and other wildlife organisations. A biodiversity audit of the Park's wildlife was carried out to inform the preparation of the BAP, which includes a set of species and habitat targets for 9 priority BAP species and 8 priority habitats. Companies extracting sand and gravel work with the Water Park Society's Biodiversity Officer to contribute to delivering the BAP targets through appropriate restoration and afteruse.

The Water Park certainly offers today an enhanced and diverse biodiversity compared with its previous agricultural use and in more recent years the leisure industry has also evolved considerably with a wide range of facilities available. Over the next 10 or so years there is a proposed expansion of the Water Park to the east which will create further opportunities.

An overall strategic plan for the area has been complicated by wide property ownership and the fact that the Water Park is covered by two County and two District Authorities. Parts of the Water Park comprise a selection of water areas contained within traditional field boundaries and in many cases the areas of water reflect property ownership (*pers com*, J Murfitt).