

PETROCKSTOWE/MEETH

INSET PLAN 10

LOCATION

(NGR Peters Marland SS 512121

Meeth SS 535085)

The two separate quarry workings lie within the Petrockstowe Basin between the villages of Winswell in the north and Meeth in the south, approximately 10 kilometres north of Okehampton. The Consultation Area straddles the boundary between Torridge District and West Devon Borough.

GEOLOGY

The Petrockstowe Basin was formed by a large fault zone associated with the Sticklepath Fault which runs across Devon in a northwest-southeast direction. The subsided area of the fault zone became an inland lake during the Tertiary Period and thick deposits of clay, gravel, silt and lignite accumulated during the Oligocene and Miocene Epochs as a result of erosion of the Dartmoor Massif.

PLANNING HISTORY

Planning permission for working ball clay in the Petrockstowe Basin dates from 1960, although clay has been mined in the areas for many years prior to that date. Subsequent planning permissions were granted mainly for extensions to tipped areas and for the erection of buildings. Clay is now extracted from both sites by open pit methods. The need to maintain a number of operational faces has in the past precluded backfilling of voids with mineral waste resulting in the need for large areas of land for surface waste disposal.

MEETH QUARRY

The area permitted in 1960 for clay extraction extends to some 90 hectares. Later permissions were granted for the excavation of stone from Woolladon Quarry for the construction of internal haul roads.

Clay is currently being extracted from three pits - Stockleigh, Glebe and Woolladon. Three waste tips are in operation - Stockleigh, Woolladon and the former Meeth Pit which, having been worked out, is now being backfilled.

A planning application for a small easterly extension to Stockleigh Pit was approved in January 2001.



Meeth Quarry.

PETERS MARLAND QUARRY

Clay has been extracted from the Peters Marland area for over 300 years. The 1960 permission allowed for clay to be extracted from over 200 hectares of land, although only about 60% of this area is in use at present. Since 1960 there have been further planning permissions granted for the construction of clay storage sheds and ancillary buildings and plant. Clay is currently being extracted from Courtmoor and Westbeare Quarries which will combine in the future to form one large pit and allow backfilling to take place within parts of the void area.



Courtmoor Pit looking south onto area being backfilled.

ROMP STATUS

Both Meeth and Peters Marland Quarries are classified as Active Phase I sites. At Meeth Quarry, there is an approved scheme of conditions (dated 3 September 1998), which includes proposals for the deposit of waste materials, prospecting for clay, removal of redundant plant and machinery, tree planting, restoration and aftercare of tipped areas. The approved scheme for Peters Marland (dated 18 November 1998) includes conditions controlling the working programme, hours of working, access and protection of the public highway, environmental protection, landscaping, restoration and aftercare, a programme of archaeological investigation and the management of areas of Culm Grassland.

Source: Devon County Minerals Local Plan, Adopted Plan: Part B, June 2004



Loading ball clay from Petrockstowe Basin at The Quay, Bideford.

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS

The Petrockstowe Basin contains large reserves of ball clay. Its output represents about 15% of the County's ball clay production. Clay is removed from the quarry face by hydraulic excavators after careful analysis of the chemical content of the various clay horizons. Each type of clay is stored in separate bays before being shredded and blended as required. Bulk road vehicles are used to transport clay away from the ball clay workings following closure of the local railway line in 1982. Two thirds of the clay from Meeth Quarry travels south to the company's other ball clay working in the Bovey Basin and the remainder is exported from Bideford Docks. At Peters Marland, extracted clay is shredded and either sent to Bovey Tracey for further processing or exported via Bideford.

COMMENT

- Mineral Working Area.
- The Basin is classified by the Environment Agency as a minor aquifer.
- There are a number of listed buildings within the Consultation Area and two at Woolladon within the south-western part of the Meeth permission area.
- The Petrockstowe Basin contains a varied range of habitats with considerable potential for nature conservation. These include areas of unimproved Culm Grassland, areas of open water and bogs.
- The County Geological Site shown in the Constraints Plan to the south-west of Meeth is a viewpoint for the Petrockstowe Basin and the clay workings.
- Continuing need to assess the impact of the working (especially tipping) on the environment.

- Significant archaeological features lie within the Mineral Site.
- Need to monitor the effects of mineral proposals on the Tarka Trail which passes through the Consultation Area along part of the line of the old railway and then by way of a recently opened section through the Meeth Works alongside the Little Mere River before diverting back onto the line of the quarry access road near Meeth Village.
- The Mineral Site lies within an example of an isolated Tertiary Lake Deposit.

PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL: INSET 10.1

The MPA will consider the provision for the conservation of appropriate geological exposures as part of any future restoration proposals for the Petrockstowe/Meeth sites.

PROPOSAL: INSET 10.2

The MPA will encourage the restoration and creation of wet grassland and bog habitats as part of any future restoration proposals at the Petrockstowe/Meeth mineral sites.



Ball Clay Working, Peters Marland.

Source: Devon County Minerals Local Plan, Adopted Plan: Part B, June 2004



Main faces, Peters Marland.



Meeth Quarry with Peters Marland in background (August 1987).



Peters Marland with Meeth Quarry in background (August 1987).





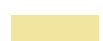

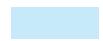



CONSTRAINTS PLAN 10

PETROCKSTOWE / MEETH

Environmental Constraints

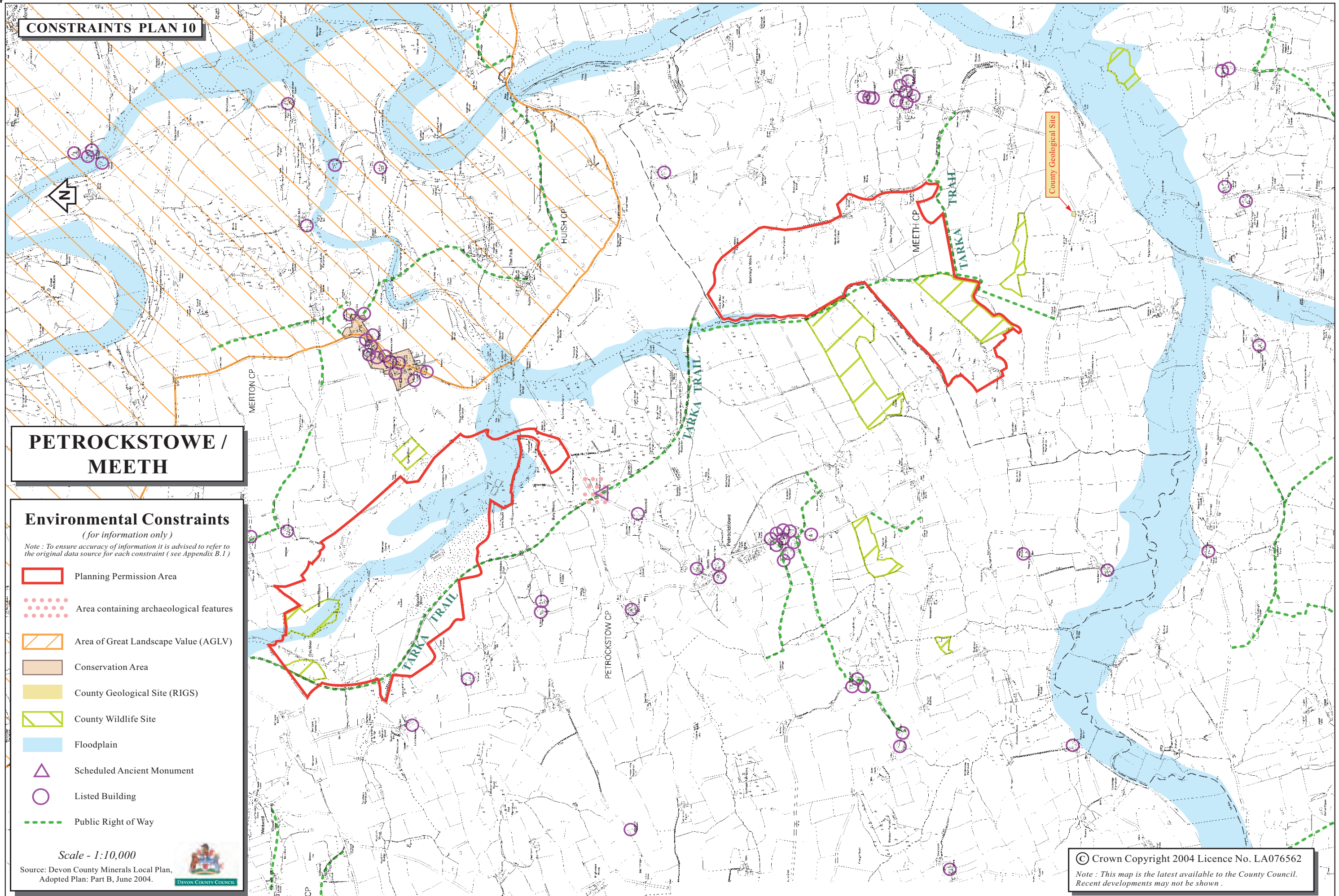
(for information only)

Note: To ensure accuracy of information it is advised to refer to the original data source for each constraint (see Appendix B.1)

-  Planning Permission Area
-  Area containing archaeological features
-  Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)
-  Conservation Area
-  County Geological Site (RIGS)
-  County Wildlife Site
-  Floodplain
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument
-  Listed Building
-  Public Right of Way

Scale - 1:10,000

Source: Devon County Minerals Local Plan, Adopted Plan: Part B, June 2004.

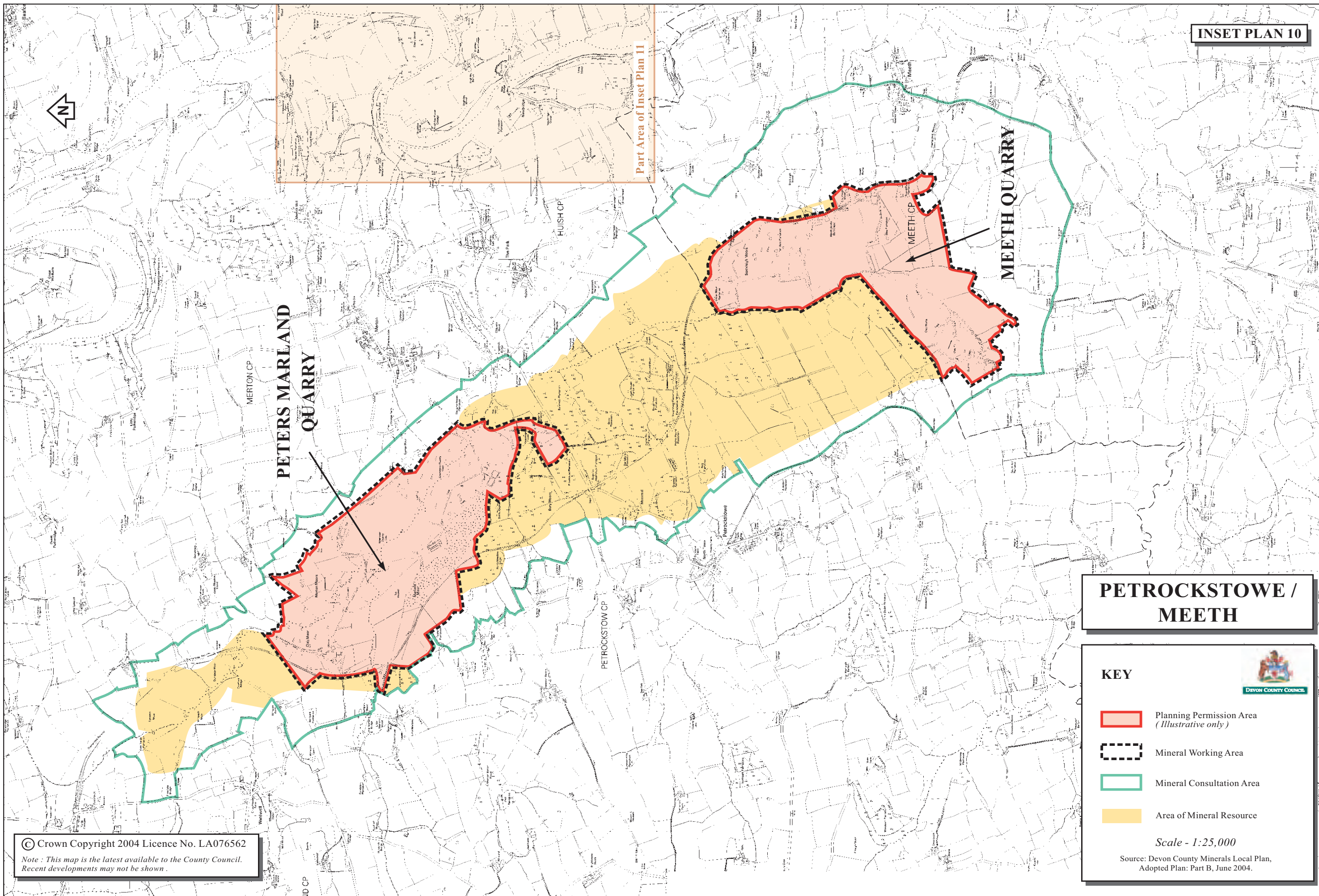


© Crown Copyright 2004 Licence No. LA076562

Note: This map is the latest available to the County Council. Recent developments may not be shown.


INSET PLAN 10





Part Area of Inset Plan 11



PETROCKSTOWE / MEETH

KEY



-  Planning Permission Area (Illustrative only)
-  Mineral Working Area
-  Mineral Consultation Area
-  Area of Mineral Resource

Scale - 1:25,000

Source: Devon County Minerals Local Plan, Adopted Plan: Part B, June 2004.

© Crown Copyright 2004 Licence No. LA076562
Note : This map is the latest available to the County Council.
Recent developments may not be shown .

Source: Devon County Minerals Local Plan, Adopted Plan: Part B, June 2004