

HEMERDON

INSET PLAN 38

LOCATION

(NGR SX 570625)

Hemerdon Mine is located at the southern end of the Lee Moor Consultation Area and lies to the north of the villages of Sparkwell and Hemerdon.

GEOLOGY

The Consultation Area is largely composed of Upper Carboniferous slates and gritstones. These have been heavily altered by the heating effects of the nearby granite intrusion (forming a metamorphic aureole) where the country rocks show a succession of mineral assemblages reflecting the degree of heat and pressure that they were subjected to. Within these rocks are veins of mineralisation originating from the effects of the intrusion containing such minerals as Cassiterite and Wolframite (ores of tin and tungsten).

PLANNING HISTORY

The tungsten deposit at Hemerdon was discovered in 1867 and in 1916 renewed exploration revealed a widespread low grade wolframite deposit. Mineral working was carried out between 1919 and 1920 and again between 1934 and 1944. In 1969, British Tungsten Ltd submitted a planning application to re-open the mine for the working of tungsten, tin and china clay, but this was later withdrawn before a decision could be made. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, exploratory work was carried out which extended knowledge of the mineralised area. This culminated in the submission of a planning application by Amax Exploration UK Ltd and Hemerdon Mining and Smelting Ltd. to reopen and extend the mine. This was "called in" by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Following a public inquiry, the application was refused in 1984. The decision, however, contained a number of recommendations that the Secretary of State indicated should be included in any subsequent application to win and work minerals. A revised submission was made in 1985 that took account of these points. The County Council approved the application in June 1986, subject to stringent conditions governing the development and operation of the mine. Since this date the subsequent price of tungsten on the world market has precluded economic working of the deposit. Details required by planning conditions have, however, been submitted and works carried out to keep the planning permission alive.

ROMP STATUS

Hemerdon is a Schedule 14 site which had a deadline for the submission of a 15 year periodic review in October 2001. This formal review process was unable to be carried out when notification deadlines were not complied with. The County Council, therefore, undertook an informal

review of the planning permission in July 2002. This found the existing conditions satisfactory, and the Council resolved that the site would be subject to a further informal review in 2017, or at an earlier time should it become apparent that the planning permission is to be fully implemented.

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS

Although the 1986 planning permission has been implemented, quarrying operations have not yet commenced. The development of the mine will result in the formation of an open pit approximately 850 metres long by 540 metres wide and 200 metres deep. Over 100 million tonnes of overburden, waste rock and mineralised ore will be excavated and the majority tipped on 175 hectares of Crownhill Down which lies to the north of the pit. The plant area will be constructed between the quarry and the tip, and the mine will have an anticipated life of over 20 years.

COMMENT

- The south-east and south-west parts of the Mineral Consultation Area are designated as Areas of Great Landscape Value.
- The Mineral Consultation Area lies within an area classified by the Environment Agency as a minor aquifer.
- Hemerdon Mine is a County Geological Site.
- There are a number of listed buildings within the Consultation Area. In addition, the Consultation Area lies adjacent to Newnham Park that is an area of parkland with an historic deer park.
- Need to assess the archaeological interest in any future proposals and as part of the ROMP process. Shaugh Moor and Crownhill Down are of particular importance.
- Need to assess the potential for backfilling.
- The Consultation Area contains very large and intrusive tipping areas that markedly affect the surrounding landscape.
- There is substantial and sensitive archaeological and industrial archaeological interest throughout the Mineral Site. Shaugh Moor and Crownhill Down have exceptionally well preserved archaeological landscapes.

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



Hemerdon Mine Workings (July 1987).

PROPOSAL: INSET 38.4

The MPA will consider the provision for the conservation of appropriate geological exposures as part of any future restoration proposals for the Hemerdon site.

PROPOSAL: INSET 38.5

The MPA will establish and implement a comprehensive extraction and restoration programme to reduce conflicts with significant environmental, archaeological and historic landscape interests.

PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL: INSET 38.1

The MPA will pay particular attention to the need for high quality restoration and landscaping of the workings due to the scale of the operations and their proximity to the National Park.

PROPOSAL: INSET 38.2

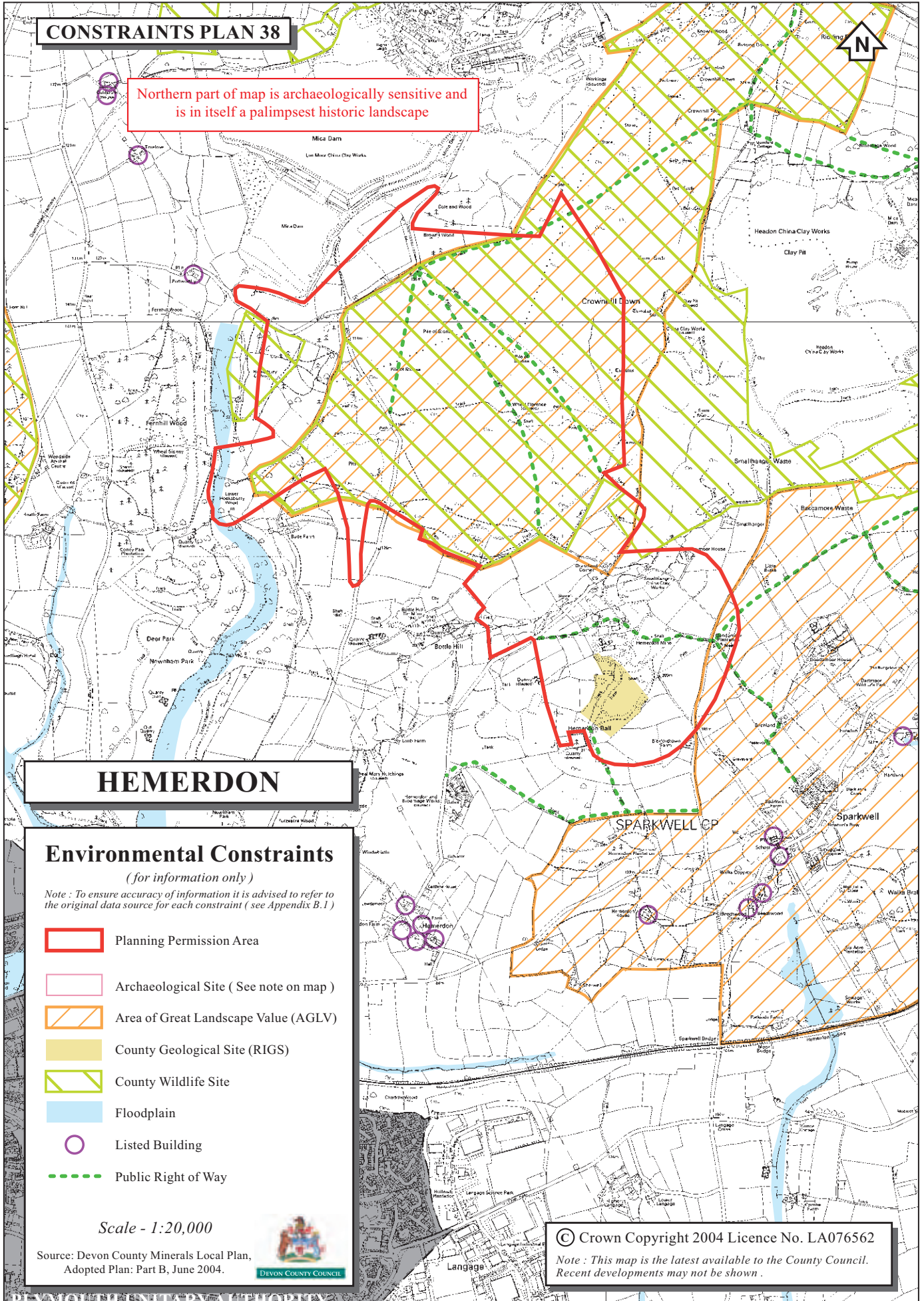
The MPA will ensure that a comprehensive scheme of archaeological survey evaluation will be required in advance of the consideration of any future proposals.

PROPOSAL: INSET 38.3

The MPA will ensure that a full survey of nature conservation interests and the potential for wildlife habitat creation will be included within any proposed restoration/aftercare measures.

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

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




CONSTRAINTS PLAN 38

Northern part of map is archaeologically sensitive and is in itself a palimpsest historic landscape


HEMERDON

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
-  Archaeological Site (See note on map)
-  Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)
-  County Geological Site (RIGS)
-  County Wildlife Site
-  Floodplain
-  Listed Building
-  Public Right of Way

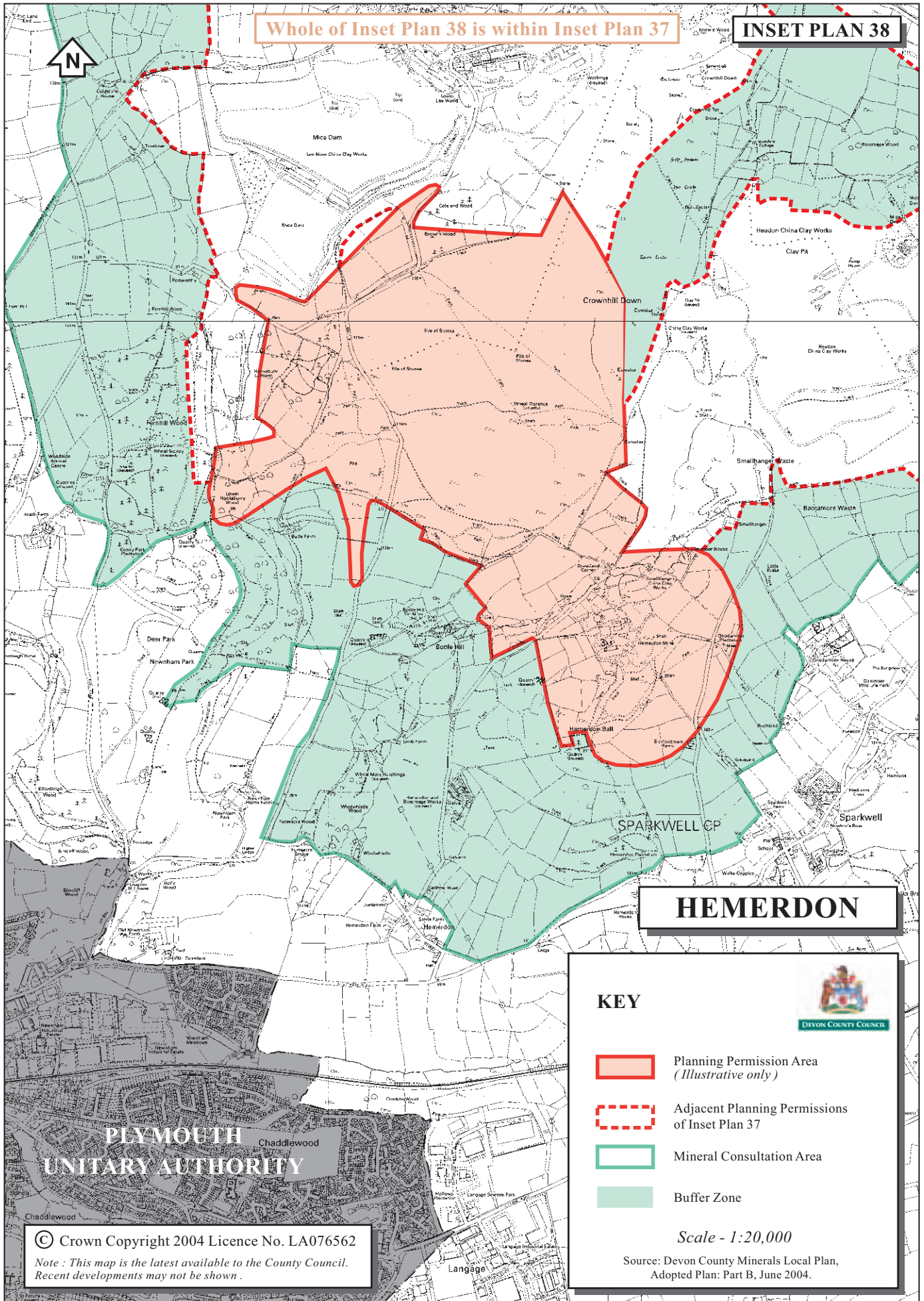
Scale - 1:20,000

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



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 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



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