

Focus 17	Quarry potential	
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To show that abandoned quarries can have a range of different uses, some more appropriate than others To develop decision-making skills 	
Suitable site	An abandoned quarry	
Possible questions	Possible answers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used to dispose of high level nuclear waste material? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarries would not be used to dispose of high level nuclear waste. They are too shallow and most are too near urban centres 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used to dispose of household waste material? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the rock is permeable or cracked, waste fluids or gases could escape and damage water supplies or buildings. It could be lined, but this is very expensive. There may be problems with transport, blowing rubbish or scavenging birds. But places to dispose of the huge volumes of waste we produce have to be found 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used to dispose of demolition rubble? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most quarries could safely be filled with rubble and then landscaped to match the surrounding countryside. They would need monitoring to ensure that dangerous chemicals or gases did not leak 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used as a water reservoir? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unlikely to be large enough, and permeable rocks would leak 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used as a nature reserve? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarries can be made safe and be made to blend in with the landscape, but this can be expensive. They do contain a range of habitats for plants and animals 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used as part of a golf course? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most golfers would be unwilling to climb down into, and back out of a quarry, although it could provide a number of interesting golf course hazards 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used as part of an orienteering course? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is probably only one access point and the rock walls would be dangerous, so probably not 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be used as a Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Site (RIGS) for its scientific or educational interest or its beauty. If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It clearly has educational value, because we are here It also has scientific value because ... It is beautiful/not beautiful because ... I think there are better/not better quarries elsewhere. It would need to be made safe by ... 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could this quarry be re-opened to supply building material? If so, why? If not, why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the quarry is now closed, there are probably cheaper or more accessible alternatives elsewhere, so re-opening is unlikely 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which of these options would be the best one? Might different groups of people have different points of view? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different groups would have different opinions, but the student should be able to justify his/her own views 	