

# Mineral Development – The Owner’s Perspective

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## Key words:

## SUMMARY

Land Economy Surveyors throughout the world have various roles to play. One of their primary functions is to enable the development of land and natural resources. The exploitation of natural resources has enabled the human race to survive and grow; to construct pyramids and to evolve into the modern world as we know it.

In most cultures land is “owned” by individuals or groups or governments and in many different ways. The surveyor can form the link between owner and prospective developer. His or her role is to ensure that the development is brought to fruition to mutual benefit.

This paper highlights mineral development as an example and briefly explores how rights of ownership must be understood by the surveyor to protect the owner’s interests. The paper divides these interests into three.

Firstly: environmental. The role of Environmental Impact Assessment is as important for the owner as it is for the local community or the nation. The paper highlights the issues which the surveyor must identify.

Secondly: financial. When an owner is approached by a developer who seeks to exploit a resource, the owner must know what revenue is appropriate and how it should be paid.

Thirdly: social. How will the host society relate to the development?

The paper considers not only issues when minerals are being worked but also when mineral working ceases.

The surveyor must have a good working knowledge of the proposals, their objectives, implications and affects if the development is to be successful and the owner’s interests are to be protected.