



# 13

## MINERALS

### Introduction

- 13.1 Minerals make an essential contribution to the nation's prosperity and to quality of life, not least in helping to create and develop sustainable communities. Their extraction can have positive impacts on the environment and the economy. In accordance with sustainable principles an adequate and steady supply of minerals is necessary to contribute towards infrastructure and buildings as well as goods that society, industry and the economy needs. Minerals are a vital but finite resource, and can only be worked where they exist. Primary aggregates, a non-renewable resource, are heavily used for building and infrastructure as well as goods that society, industry and the economy need. However, to support the long-term sustainability of North Lincolnshire, the need to maximise the use of secondary aggregates will be key. These secondary materials, including by-products from primary mineral workings, power generation and steel working – such as pulverised fuel ash, colliery shale, furnace bottom ash, and blast furnace slag, are all reusable and recyclable materials. The use of these materials is advocated in national guidance to reduce dependency on primary extraction. Scunthorpe, with its steel tradition, is well placed for this. Recycled materials embrace construction and demolition waste, and road planings. Markets for such reclamations need to be viable and space is needed for sorting, processing, and stockpiling materials.
- 13.2 The extraction of minerals should take account of their impact on the environment, and people living in close proximity. Provision of supplies to meet current needs is conducted via sites with planning permission. To meet long-term future needs, mineral resources that are known to exist, but do not currently have permission for extraction, must be protected from other development. This is achieved through Minerals Safeguarding Areas, which the Core Strategy identifies. The Strategy also endorses sustainable mineral extraction practices. More detailed policies will be included in a Minerals and Waste DPD.

### Context

#### National/Regional

- 13.3 Minerals Planning Guidance Notes and Minerals Planning Statements (MPGs and MPSs) are published by the government, which give advice on detailed criteria for assessing proposals for mineral extraction to ensure environmental acceptability. Topics include processing planning applications, reclamations, and review of pre-1948 permissions. MPG13 and MPG15 refer to peat extraction and silica sand respectively, both of which are minerals of scarcity, of national economic importance and relevant to North Lincolnshire. MPS1: Planning and Minerals and MPS2: Control and Mitigation are also relevant for planning in the area.

- 13.4 The MPGs and MPSs state that an adequate and steady supply of minerals is essential in helping to achieve sustainable development. A hierarchical approach seeks to reduce extraction and waste generation, whilst maximising recycling and secondary material. National mineral objectives are to:
- to ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction;
  - to conserve mineral resources through appropriate domestic provision and timing of supply;
  - to safeguard mineral resources as far as possible;
  - to prevent or minimise production of mineral waste;
  - to secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health arising from the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals;
  - to protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape value and nature conservation importance from minerals development, other than in the exceptional circumstances as detailed national planning policy and guidance;
  - to secure adequate and steady supplies of minerals needed by society and the economy within the limits set by the environment, assessed through sustainability appraisal, without irreversible damage;
  - to maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of minerals operations over their full life cycle;
  - to promote the sustainable transport of minerals by rail, sea or inland waterways;
  - to protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased, through high standards of restoration, and to safeguard the long-term potential of land for a wide range of after-uses;
  - to secure closer integration of minerals planning policy with national policy on sustainable construction and waste management and other applicable environmental protection legislation; and
  - to encourage the use of high quality materials for the purposes for which they are most suitable.
- 13.5 Therefore emphasis has been placed on the importance of safeguarding mineral deposits in the region from sterilisation by other types of development, and provide for an adequate and steady supply of minerals. The use of secondary and recycled aggregates will be maximised in the region to reduce dependency on primary extraction, and Mineral Planning Authorities should provide appropriate sites. Landbanks for all nationally and regionally significant minerals will be maintained and safeguarded including aggregates (sand, gravel, limestone and sandstone), silica sand, clay, brickearth, and chalk.
- 13.6 National minerals policy guidance requires North Lincolnshire to contribute to the regional supply of aggregates and provide an adequate and steady supply of other minerals. The Core Strategy aims to deliver national and regional objectives and policies for minerals planning.

## Existing and Future Provision

- 13.7 North Lincolnshire has a wide variety of minerals. The most important are silica sand, chalk, limestone, clay and peat. There are also reserves of oil, gas, ironstone, sand and gravel, and the area is a contributor to regional aggregate provision of crushed rock, because of large reserves. North Lincolnshire is also a net importer of sand and gravel. Sub-regional apportionments based on the work of the Regional Aggregates Working Party were set out on the RSS and formed the basis of necessary landbanks of key nationally and regionally important minerals. Between 2001 and 2016, North Lincolnshire, the land-won sand and gravel landbank is 4.1m tonnes, and the land-won crushed rock landbank is 2.6m tonnes.
- 13.8 Numerous areas are safeguarded for minerals in the adopted North Lincolnshire Local Plan (May 2003). Silica sand resources are currently safeguarded adjacent to/west of North Moor Road, Messingham, east of Scallow Grove and adjacent to/east of Kirton Road, Messingham, adjacent to/west of the Lincoln edge to the north west of Manton and at Black Nook Wood. Sand and gravel resources are maintained west of Willow Holt in Flixborough and at Cove Farm in Haxey. Clay resources are safeguarded adjacent/east of Barrow Tileries in Barrow Haven, adjacent/north of Far Ings Road in Barton upon Humber, north of South Marsh Farm to the east of Falkland Way in Barton upon Humber, and west of Low Melwood Farm adjacent to the C204 between Epworth and Owston Ferry. Although ironstone mining has finished east of Yarborough Gullet, the resources should be protected in case the market may change in the future. These areas will continue to be safeguarded in the Core Strategy with the boundaries set out in the Minerals and Waste DPD.

## Approach

- 13.9 In support of national minerals policy, North Lincolnshire will continue to contribute to the national and regional supply of minerals, including aggregates. Mineral resources are a finite resource, consequently, an appropriate policy framework of protection to avoid sterilisation of the land by development and depletion of mineral supplies for the future will be adopted. Whilst defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA) carries no presumption that the mineral resource will be worked, they nevertheless indicate potential mineral resources and enable a choice of sites to help to ensure that the planning system retains the flexibility to identify sites that have the least environmental impacts.
- 13.10 The use of secondary and alternative aggregates will be encouraged to conserve the primary mineral resources which supports the aim of the strategy to reduce the area's dependence on non-renewable resources. Other policies in the strategy set out how resource demands from new development should be minimised.
- 13.11 The source of restoration material for mineral sites will follow the proximity principle with material sourced as close to the mineral site as possible to satisfy the issue of transport sustainability. This will help reduce transport distances and reduce carbon emissions. An Environmental Statement will be required for all but the most minor applications, such as provision of small and temporary buildings or machinery.
- 13.12 Mitigating the environmental impact of primary mineral extraction is important, and there are various ways this can be done including buffer zones, screening, and integrated mineral waste disposal. Buffer zones are appropriate to protect amenities, however it is expected operational mineral sites will be located sufficiently distant from sensitive receptors.

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The Council will safeguard mineral resources in North Lincolnshire from other development that would prejudice future mineral extraction. To achieve this Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be identified in the Minerals and Waste DPD.

Based on the geologically mapped resources that are considered to be of current and future economic importance; specifically including all unsterilised deposits of aggregates (sand, gravel, limestone and sandstone), ironstone, silica sand, clay, brickearth, and chalk. Major developments in the Mineral Safeguarding Areas will only be permitted where it has been demonstrated that:

- a) the mineral is no longer of any value, or
- b) the mineral can be extracted prior to the development taking place, or
- c) the development will not inhibit extraction if required in the future, or
- d) there is an overriding need for the development and prior extraction cannot be reasonably undertaken, or
- e) the development is allocated in a local development plan document, or
- f) the development is not incompatible

Mineral Safeguarding Areas along with Specific Sites, Preferred Areas, and Areas of Search will be identified as appropriate in the Minerals and Waste DPD, through formal consultation with operators, land owners and others.

The council will provide for a steady and adequate supply of minerals to be maintained in accordance with national and regional guidance.

Therefore, the council will maintain landbanks of at least:

- a) 10 years at each individual site for silica sand or in the case of significant new capital investment 15 years or substantially longer for Greenfield sites.
- b) 7 years for sand gravel
- c) 10 years for crushed rock

The sustainable extraction of minerals will be managed by:

- a) Reducing the consumption of non-renewable mineral resources by encouraging reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste, particularly from land reclamation schemes, and the by-products of industrial processes, especially power generation and steel manufacture.
- b) Requiring phased development and progressive restoration of mineral sites
- c) The use of restoration materials to progressively restore mineral sites.
- d) Safeguarding natural watercourses.
- e) Planning applications for mineral extraction to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement where required by guidelines.
- f) Where appropriate, site restoration will contribute to the attainment of local biodiversity targets.

- 13.13 This policy will be implemented through the consideration of planning applications and pre-application advice to applicants, and if planning permission is given, by conditions or if appropriate, a Section 106 Agreement. The Minerals and Waste DPD will refine the Core Strategy minerals policy further. The planning system has an important role to play in safeguarding proven deposits of minerals which are, or may become, of economic importance within the Plan period, from unnecessary sterilisation by surface development. It is therefore important that mineral safeguarding areas (MSA's) are identified and that appropriate safeguarding policies are incorporated. This policy identifies some safeguarding areas but further discussion will take place with the industry and other stakeholders to comprehensively identify Mineral Safeguarding Areas for inclusion in the future Minerals and Waste DPD. The policies and areas to be included in the Minerals and Waste DPD will also show how the council propose to provide for the adequate and steady supply of minerals to accord with national minerals policy. It will provide a clear guide to mineral operators and others the places where mineral extraction is most likely to take place. These will take the form of 'specific sites', 'preferred areas' or 'areas of search.
- 13.14 The impact of planning permissions for mineral extraction will be scrutinised in the Annual Monitoring Report. If this indicates that North Lincolnshire cannot supply its share of regional requirement for aggregates, the Council may proactively encourage its key partners to bring forward economically and environmentally appropriate mineral extraction.
- 13.15 Reports prepared by the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Aggregates Working Party, based on returns from operators, set out monitoring data for primary and secondary mineral production and reserves. This information will help to show whether sub-regional targets for aggregate production are being achieved and to evaluate the need for new mineral workings.

## Monitoring

- 13.16 The responsibility for mineral extraction lies chiefly with private operators exercising planning permissions, which will be examined in the Annual Monitoring Report. Regional Aggregates Working Party Reports process returns from mineral operators to allow monitoring of primary and secondary mineral output. Such information can show if sub-regional targets for aggregates extraction are being achieved, and to consider whether new mineral workings are required.
- 13.17 The following indicators and targets will be used to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the policies contained in this chapter:

Indicator	Target
Annual production of primary land-won aggregates.	For primary aggregates, 4.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel and 2.6 million tonnes of land-won crushed rock by 2016
Annual Production of secondary/recycled aggregates.	Annual amount (tonnes) of secondary/ recycled aggregates produced

## Key Documents

- Minerals Planning Guidance (MPG) 7: Reclamation of Mineral Workings (DOE, 1989)
- Minerals Planning Guidance (MPG) 13: Guidelines for Peat Provision in England (DoE, 1995)
- Minerals Planning Guidance (MPG) 15: Provision of Silica Sand in England (DoE, 1996)
- Minerals Planning Statement (MPS) 1: Planning and Minerals (DCLG, 2006)
- Minerals Planning Statement (MPS) 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England (ODPM, 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS)1: Delivering Sustainable Development, Supplement – Planning and Climate Change (DCLG, 2007)
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM, 2005)
- Planning for Sustainable Waste Management - A Companion Guide to PPS 10 (DCLG, 2006)
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 23: Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM, 2006)
- The Yorkshire & Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 (GOYH, 2008)

## Link to Key Objectives

### Spatial Objectives:

6, 7, 10

### SA Objectives:

SA9; SA11; SA12; SA13; SA15; SA18; SA19; SA20; SA22; SA27