

Safeguarding Mineral Resources

The continued supply of aggregates and other material, including recycled and secondary materials is required to meet current and future needs of the development and construction industry. Promoting the use of recycled and secondary materials will help to minimise both primary extraction and waste and so is reflected in Policy EM8.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to define Mineral Safeguarding Areas (or MSAs for short) in Local Plans in order that proven mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, although there is no presumption that resources defined in MSAs will be worked.

MSAs are required to identify what are considered to be economic deposits of mineral. The purpose of MSAs is to ensure that mineral resources are adequately taken into account in all spatial planning decisions. They do not automatically preclude other forms of development taking place but highlight the presence of economic minerals so that it is considered, and not unknowingly or needlessly sterilised.

In areas where extraction is permitted or is planned, Mineral Consultation Areas will be designated. None are proposed for Coventry during this plan period as there are no anticipated active mineral sites that are being brought forward during the plan period. This has been evidenced through the British Geological Society's Mineral Safeguarding Project, which has been undertaken for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire authorities.

Policy EM9: Safeguarding Mineral Resources

1. Mineral Safeguarding Areas are defined for mineral reserves that are of current or future economic importance. Where developments are proposed in these areas, the application needs to acknowledge the presence of these mineral reserves. The extent of Mineral Safeguarding Areas is defined on the Policies Map.

In Coventry, the predominant economic mineral resource is coal. MSAs for this mineral have been identified having had regard to advice in the 'Guide for Mineral Safeguarding in England' produced by the British Geological Society (BGS) in November 2007. The former coal mining site at Daw Mill (which lies outside Coventry's boundaries) previously had a direct impact on the extensive concealed coal reserves that extend across the southern coalfield. These areas lie in the north western areas of Coventry's administrative boundary. Following the closure of the site however, the mining of this area is now highly unlikely.

Local authorities are required to prepare a Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) to assess the capacity and outputs from existing sources, and to assess future supply options. The 2015 draft LAA has been prepared collaboratively by the seven West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities in order to address cross boundary mineral planning issues. The

Council will continue to proactively work with its neighbours through joint working and collaborative efforts via the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party.

The draft report identifies that the requirement from the West Midlands Sub-national apportionments were last undertaken in 2009. They suggested that 165 million tonnes of sand and gravel were required over the 16-year period from 2005 to 2020 along with 82 tonnes of crushed rock. The most recent (2011) annual apportionment to the West Midlands Metropolitan Area is for the production of 0.55 million tonnes of sand and gravel per year. There is no crushed rock apportionment. These apportionments have informed the most recent guidelines for the purposes of minerals planning in the area and are reflected in the Solihull Local Plan which, notwithstanding the legal challenge to its housing policies, was adopted in December 2013. This sets out a requirement for 7.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel production over the plan period.