Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities
Joint Minerals and Waste Plan

Statement of Common Ground

between

The Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities

and

Buckinghamshire Council

Hampshire County Council

Oxfordshire County Council

Surrey County Council

West Berkshire Council

Wiltshire Council

On

Sharp Sand & Gravel Supply

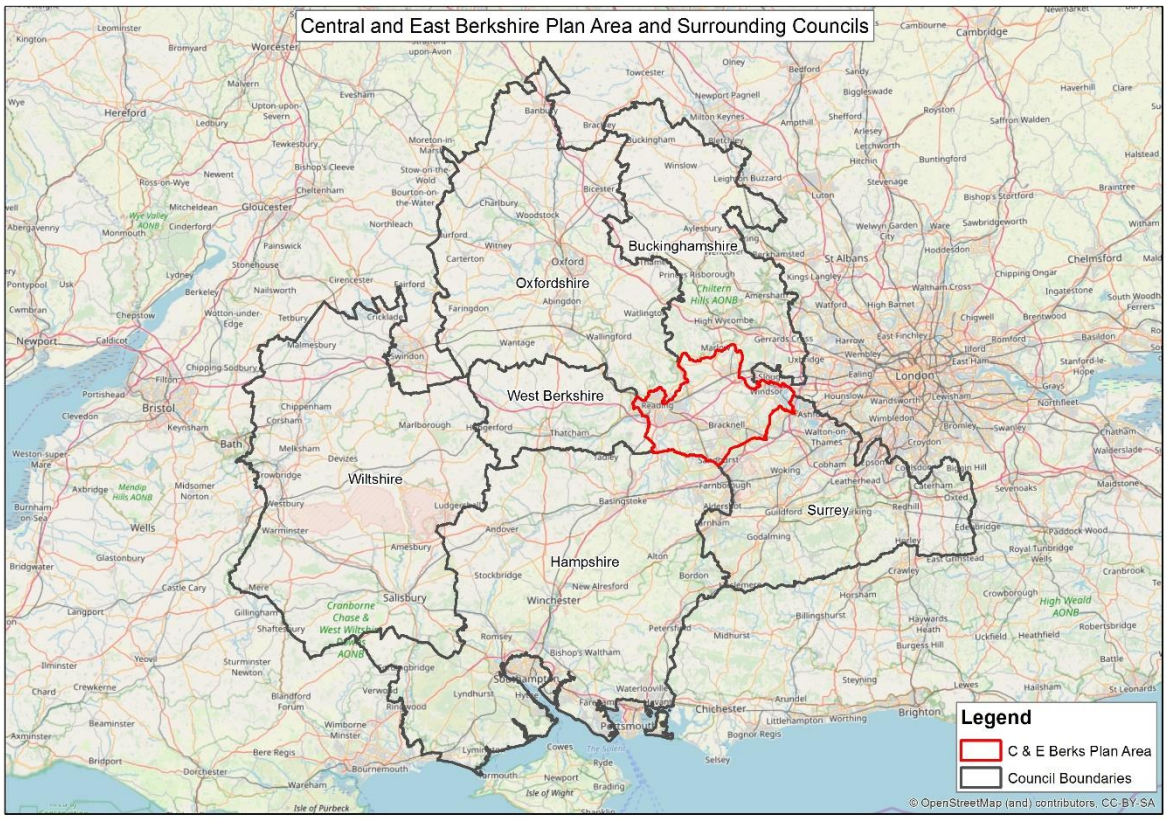
1. Introduction

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is made between Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council (collectively referred to as 'Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities') and relevant authorities (the parties) that have some common interests in sharp sand and gravel.

1.2 The SoCG is being prepared in line with plan-making guidance[1], in order to comply with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[2].

1.3 The SoCG includes the administrative areas for the parties shown in Figure 1. It is recognised that as newer data becomes available on sharp sand and gravel, the list of parties to this Statement may need to be reviewed.

Figure 1: Administrative areas of Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities



[1] Planning Practice Guidance, Guidance on Plan-making, 13 September 2018, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making

[2] NPPF, para 27, July 2018, MHCLG - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

1.4 The parties are entering into this SoCG to address strategic cross-boundary sharp sand and gravel supply issues that affect Central and Eastern Berkshire.

1.5 This SoCG is provided without prejudice to other matters of detail that the parties may wish to raise in the ongoing requirement to engage constructively and actively in plan preparation through the Duty to Cooperate, or in subsequent participation in the plan making process.

2. Background

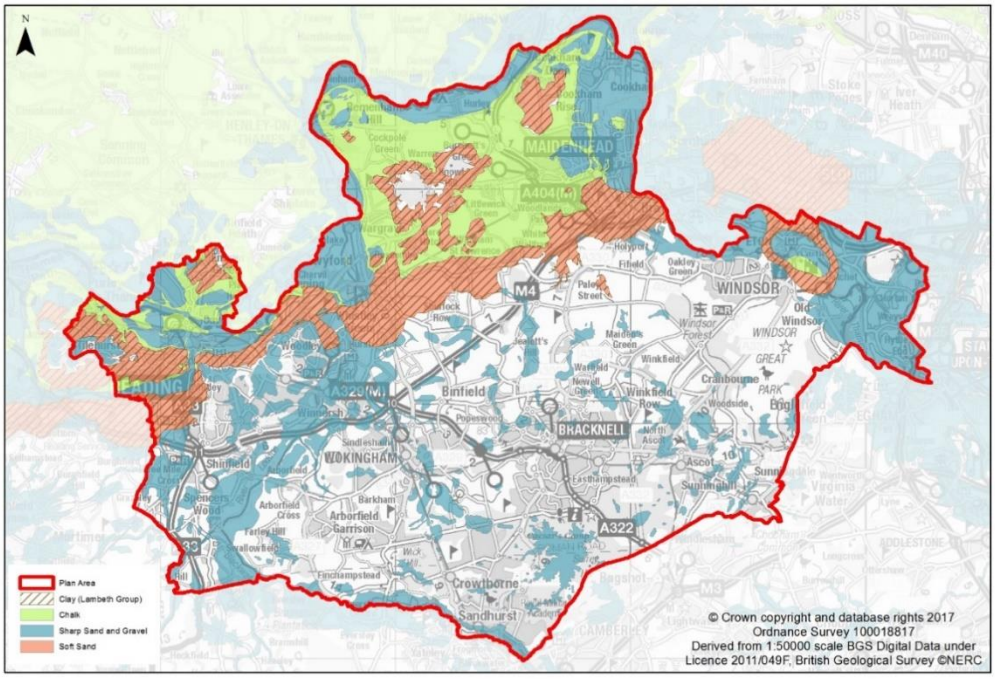
2.1 Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council (collectively referred to as 'Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities') are working in partnership to produce a Joint Minerals & Waste Plan (the 'Plan') for Central and Eastern Berkshire, sometimes referred to as the 'Area'.

2.2 Central and Eastern Berkshire's principal geological deposits, in economic terms, are the aggregate or construction minerals which comprise sharp sand and gravel, suitable for most types of concreting purposes.

2.3 Geologically, sharp sand and gravel is a very recent deposit, dating from the end of the last ice age (c. 111,700 years ago). As shown in Figure 2, sharp sand and gravel is predominately found along the river valleys, notably the Kennet (which runs from West Berkshire to Reading), Loddon and Thames. It is also found in the river terrace deposits (formerly called 'plateau gravels') which are the remnants of earlier abandoned floodplains raised by geological forces above the present course of the rivers.

2.4 The better-quality sharp sand and gravel is mainly used for making concrete and is referred to as 'concreting sand'. Where the deposit contains clay and silt, it is not suitable for concreting and instead is used as a sub-base in roads and hardstandings, or otherwise as a fill material. This poorer quality sharp sand and gravel is colloquially known as 'hoggin'.

Figure 2: Geological map of Central and Eastern Berkshire

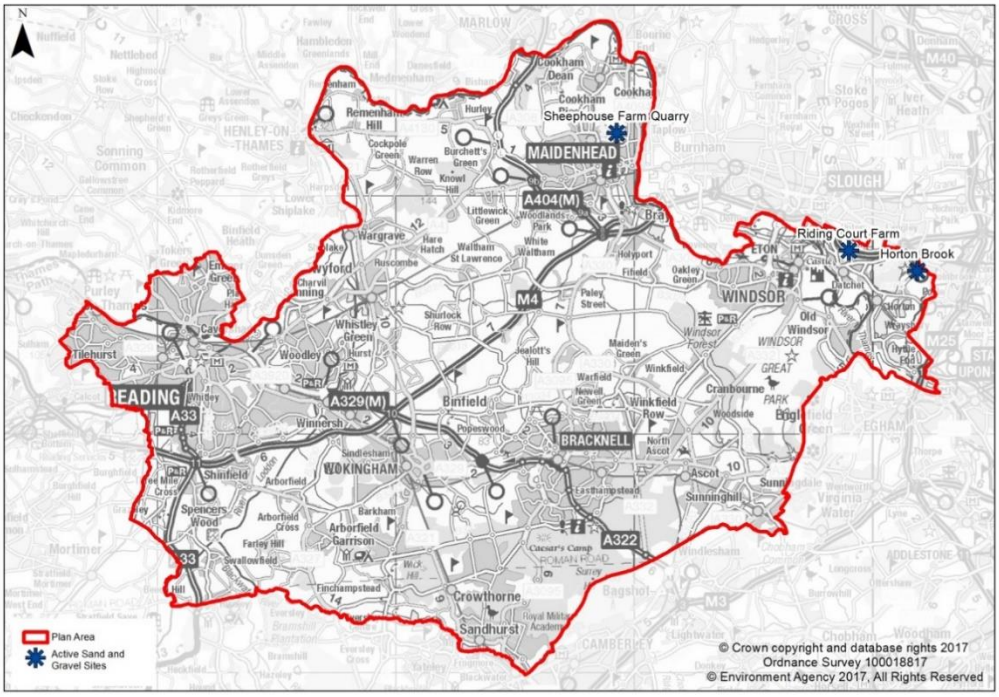


3. Sharp sand and gravel supply

Supply in Central & Eastern Berkshire

3.1 In 2018, there were three active sand and gravel quarries (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Active sand and gravel sites in Central and Eastern Berkshire, 2018



3.2 An application was granted for an extension at Horton Brook Quarry[3] in 2018 due to greater reserves being identified. Poyle Quarry was granted permission in January 2019[4] and as such has not been included in Figure 3.

3.3 In 2017, an application was submitted for extraction at Bridge Farm, Wokingham[5] but this was subsequently refused in 2019. Permission was granted at Water Oakley (known also as 'Land south of Windsor Road'), Windsor & Maidenhead[6] in 2019 (subject to legal agreements).

3.4 The permitted reserves in Central and Eastern Berkshire at 31 December 2018 were 5.857 Mt[7].

3.5 Table 1 outlines the last 10-years of sand and gravel sales. There have been no active soft sand sites within the Area during this period but there has been some limited incidental soft sand extraction.

Table 1: Sand and gravel sales in Central and Eastern Berkshire 2009-2018 (Thousand tonnes)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-yr Av.	3-yr Av.
Central & Eastern Berkshire	450	611	852	631	590	920	748	469	491	511	628	490

Source: Central & Eastern Berkshire LAA, 2019

3.6 The increase in the 10-year average (in comparison to the 3-year average) reflects the increase in sales between 2013 and 2014 in Central and Eastern Berkshire (from 590 Thousand tonnes per annum (Ttpa) to 920 Ttpa respectively) but with a drop in 2015 and 2016 to 469 Ttpa. The increase in sales in 2014 can largely be attributed to the re-opening of a quarry during that year. The drop in sales in 2016 is likely to be due to the closure of Eversley Quarry and Kingsmead Quarry. However there has been some recovery in sales since 2017.

[3] Horton Brook Quarry Application: http://publicaccess.rbwm.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=P0UNO2NIKKC00&activeTab=summary
[4] Poyle Quarry Application: http://publicaccess.rbwm.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OYZQ75NI0QY00&activeTab=summary
[5] Bridge Farm Application: http://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/detail.asp?AltRef=170433&ApplicationNumber=&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&KeywordSearch=bridge+farm&Submit=Search
[6] Water Oakley (Known as Land South of Windsor Road) 18/03167/MINW: http://publicaccess.rbwm.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=PHF8GVNI0CV00
[7] Aggregate Monitoring (AM) 2018 survey results

Supply in the South East

3.7 Central and Eastern Berkshire is within the South East region and is part of the South East England Aggregate Working Party (SEEAWP). Each year, aggregates data is monitored by each mineral planning authority and collated on a regional basis to assess whether a full contribution is being made to aggregates requirements.

3.8 The 2018 South East Monitoring Report[8] states that sharp sand and gravel sales are the highest since 2009 and higher than the 10-year and 3-year averages. The reserves are below the 10-year average but well above the 3-year averages. The landbank is 10 years but the replenishment rate has declined during the last 3 years.

Imports

3.9 The market dictates that sand and gravel will be obtained from the cheapest location for that particular material, and mineral planning authority boundaries do not influence the flow of minerals. Where the demand in Central and Eastern Berkshire can be satisfied most efficiently and cost effectively from locations in other areas, such as West Berkshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire or Buckinghamshire, then it will. This may be due to the specific type or quality that is required only being available in a neighbouring mineral planning authority area, or simply due to the fact that the point of demand is closer to the point of supply somewhere other than in Central and Eastern Berkshire.

3.10 The most recent data available on the movement of sand and gravel is the 2014 Aggregate Monitoring survey which was carried out nationally by the British Geological Survey on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. However, the Central and Eastern Berkshire authorities were included within the wider Berkshire area and therefore, it is not possible to determine specific movements associated with the Plan Area.

3.11 A future national Aggregate Monitoring survey is planned by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in 2020 for the period 2015-2019. Whilst the results are not currently available to inform the Plan or the Statement of Common Ground, should they in due course indicate a different picture the Statement will be revised to include any additional relevant parties.

3.12 The Aggregate Monitoring surveys shows that in 2009 and potentially to a greater extent in 2014, just over half of the sand and gravel consumed in

[8] South East Annual Monitoring Report 2018 (South East England Aggregate Working Party, 2019): https://documents.hants.gov.uk/see-awp/SEEAWP-annual-report-2018.pdf

Berkshire originated from Berkshire and the rest was imported from a range of sources (see Table 2). The largest proportion was from Hampshire which has supplied an increasing amount and in 2014 supplied between 10% to 20% of the land-won sand and gravel consumed.

Table 2: Sources of Sand and Gravel Consumed in Berkshire in 2009 and 2014 (thousand tonnes)

Source	**2009**		**2014**	
	Proportion	*Tonnage**	*Proportion*	*Tonnage**
Berkshire	56%	507	40-60%**	240-360
Hampshire	10-15%	9.05-13.5	10-20%	60-120
Wiltshire, Oxfordshire	Between 1% and 5% from each area	n/a	10-20%	60-120
And the rest	Between 10% and Less than 1% from each area	n/a	Between 10% and Less than 1% from each area	n/a
*Where known or proportion of known total **Combined percentage of two Berkshire Unitary Authorities both supplying 20-30% each				

Source: BGS

4. Future aggregate supply

Demand

4.1 Economic and construction aggregate forecasts are considered to be useful for providing an overall contextual picture and an indication of anticipated aggregate demand. In summary, the findings are as follows:

- The Mineral Products Association produces a regular medium-term (three-year) market forecast for construction materials. In 2018, the Mineral Products Association suggested only a 4% increase in primary aggregates between 2018 and 2020 but an 8% increase from 2017 in building sand due to mortar sales[9].
- The Office for National Statistics Construction Output bulletin for February 2020[10] indicated that there had been a decline of 1.7% in construction output which could be partly attributed to adverse weather conditions (the wettest since records began).

[9] The Mineral Products Association – Facts at a Glance (2018): https://mineralproducts.org/documents/Facts-at-a-Glance-2018.pdf

[10] Construction output in Great Britain: February 2020: https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/constructionindustry/bulletins/constructionoutputingreatbritain/february2020

- The Office for Budgetary Responsibility (OBR)[11] forecasts for 2020 and 2021 are 1.1% and 1.8% respectively. These figures are below previous estimates due to the 'deterioration in the global outlook and the slowdown in UK growth at the end of 2019, which was likely partly due to ongoing Brexit-related uncertainty'.
- A review of GVA[12] as an economic indicator forecasts the South East to have the greatest growth between 2019 and 2029 at 1.6% (compared to London's 1.0%).
- The Berkshire Economic Strategy[13] predicts an increase in GVA in the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area of 2.6% between 2020-2025.

4.2 The forecasts indicate a variety of trends but, overall, one of slow growth. The forecasts have outlined that there is uncertainty over the impact of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union ('Brexit') on the economy and the effect on growth. More recently, there has been concern over the impact of the international emergency response to the Corona Virus (COV-19) pandemic on the minerals industry. As a result, relevant forecasts will be regularly monitored and kept under review.

4.3 In relation to local infrastructure projects, there are both housing and transport projects that are likely to place an additional demand on future aggregate demand in Central and Eastern Berkshire.

4.4 There are in the region of 55,000 remaining new homes projected within the area over the plan period, up to 2036[14]. Using the updated 'Standard Method for Housing Need'[15] published in February 2019, the requirement for Central and Eastern Berkshire over the plan period is in the region of 46,000 new homes.

4.5 The Heathrow Expansion is a major future infrastructure scheme in the area. The latest Construction Proposals[16] suggest that a surplus of sharp sand and gravel may be available to feed into the local supply chain. However, the recent High Court challenge and subsequent permission to appeal to Supreme Court

[11] Office for Budget Responsibility – Economic and Fiscal Outlook (March 2020): https://cdn.obr.uk/EFO_March-2020_Accessible.pdf
[12] Regional and County Indicators – UK Parliament (April 2020)
[13] Thames Valley Berkshire: Delivering national growth, locally – Strategic Economic Plan, 2015/16 – 2010/21(see Figure 4): www.lepnetwork.net/modules/downloads/download.php?file_name=38
[14] Berkshire (including South Bucks) Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2016)
[15] Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2019) – National Planning Practice Guidance: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments
[16] Construction Proposals – building an expanded Heathrow (June 2019): https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/06/Construction-Proposals.pdf

by Heathrow Airport Ltd and Arora Holdings mean the future of the proposal and its impact on the Plan Area is unclear.

4.6 Other National Infrastructure projects within 30-50 miles of Central and Eastern Berkshire include Crossrail (Elizabeth Line), improvements to the M25, M3 and M4, as well as the Datchet to Teddington flood defences. A distance of 30-50 miles is the estimated distance over which the majority of sand and gravel produced is transported.

4.7 All these projects are of significant scale and require the future demand to be accounted for in future aggregate supplies, over and above the annual infrastructure delivery programme. The emerging Infrastructure Delivery Plans contain more information on the level of future development planned for the area, which cumulatively will place additional pressure on aggregate supplies.

4.8 The indication, therefore, is of an increase in future infrastructure delivery in the Central and Eastern Berkshire area, leading to an increase in future aggregate demand. However, short-term demand may be subject to uncertainty due to recent national events.

Landbank

4.9 The Local Aggregate Assessment for the period 2018, determined the LAA Rate as 0.628 million tonnes[17]. Based on the 2018 LAA rate the landbank for sand and gravel is 9.3 years (see Table 3).

Table 3: Central and Eastern Berkshire sand and gravel landbanks

	Permitted Reserve (Tt)	Landbank based upon 10yr average sales between 2009-2018 (years)	Landbank based upon 3yr average sale between 2016-2018 (years)	Landbank based on 2018 LAA Rate
Total Sand & Gravel	5,857	9.3	12.0	9.3

Source: Aggregate Monitoring survey data.

Future provision

4.10 The proposed Plan period is up to 2036. If the LAA rate is projected forward from 2018 to 2036 a total of 11.304 million tonnes (Mt) of sharp sand and gravel would be required over the course of the Plan. Current permitted

[17] Central and Eastern Berkshire – Local Aggregate Assessment 2018: www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult

reserves for Central and Eastern Berkshire are 5.857 Mt (not including Star Works Quarry[18]). This means that there is a total remaining requirement of 5.447 Mt of sharp sand and gravel (0.628 Mt per annum).

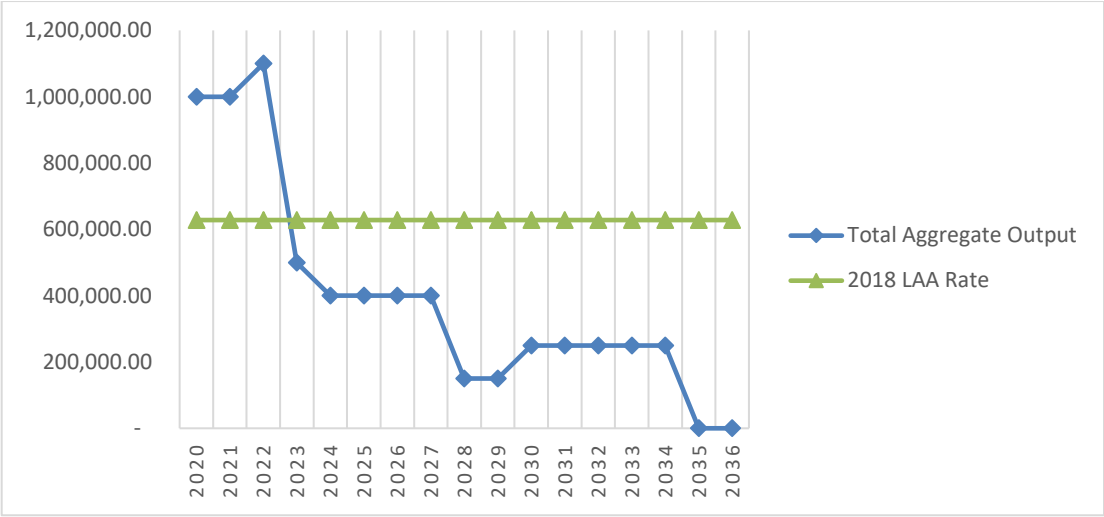
4.11 A number of Preferred Areas remain undeveloped from the *Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire*[19]. There is no certainty that these sites will ever be worked. A number of these are located within West Berkshire, but others are located within Central and Eastern Berkshire and Slough.

4.12 The Proposed Submission - Joint Minerals & Waste Plan includes sand and gravel allocations which total a provision of 0.4 Mt (subject to approval by the Berkshire Authorities). In addition, Poyle Quarry was granted permission in January 2019 which will provide 0.8 Mt. Water Oakley (Land south of Windsor Road) was permitted in December 2019 (subject to legal agreements) which includes 1.7 Mt. Neither of these permissions are included in the Reserves at 31st December 2018. This means there is a shortfall of 2.5 Mt in total provision.

4.13 Each of the existing operations and allocations include an annual throughput which outlines the rate at which the site will deplete. Figure 5 shows the rate of depletion (Total Aggregate Output) of the allocations based on the estimated commencement date of the proposals as well as the remaining reserves of the existing operations. This is plotted against the planned provision rate of 0.628 Mt (Target Aggregate Output). Figure 5 demonstrates that despite the allocations, the Plan will experience a shortfall in overall provision from 2023.

[18] The reserves at this site are not considered to be viable and there are no known plans for extraction.
[19] Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire. 2001: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/replacement-minerals-local-plan-for-berkshire-2001.pdf

Figure 4: Predicted depletion rate of sand and gravel in Central and Eastern Berkshire



4.14 The Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities are therefore seeking to demonstrate the potential for provision within the Plan area by outlining a sand and gravel 'Area of Search'.

4.15 The 2014 Aggregate Monitoring survey suggests that Hampshire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire were the main sources of sand and gravel used in Berkshire.

4.16 Monitoring undertaken by the Mineral Products Association indicates that the average road delivery distance for aggregates has varied between 26 and 35 miles in recent years[20]. As such, neighbouring mineral planning authorities have been identified as potential future sources of sharp and gravel should suitable proposal not be forthcoming within the Area of Search to meet demand.

4.17 Wiltshire is also included as a potential source of supply based on the 2014 Aggregate Monitoring survey. Although, it is recognised that both Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, may have been supplying West Berkshire rather than Central and Eastern Berkshire due to proximity.

5. Local Plans

5.1 Mineral Planning Authorities are required to prepare Plans for providing a steady and adequate supply of minerals. National policy also states that these Plans need to be reviewed at least every five years to determine whether they are effective.

[20] Mineral Products Association - Sustainable Development Report (2018) https://mineralproducts.org/documents/MPA_SD_Report_2018.pdf

5.2 Table 2 outlines the Local Plan status for the Authorities that have been considered as part of the Soft Sand Study and the current landbank for sharp sand and gravel.

5.3 Only Buckinghamshire has a recently updated adopted Plan. West Berkshire is preparing a new Plan. Hampshire, Surrey, and Wiltshire (and Swindon) are currently reviewing or plan to review their Plans.

5.4 Whilst it is not possible to determine Buckinghamshire's or Wiltshire's landbank, the only mineral planning authority area which has a landbank below the minimum 7-year requirement is Surrey. However, as noted, the Plan is shortly to be subject to a review.

Table 4 – Mineral Local Plan Status

Planning Authority	Plan Status	Sharp sand & Gravel provision	Current Landbank (2018)[21]	Current focus
Buckinghamshire County Council	The Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016-2036 was adopted in 2019[22].	0.81 mtpa of sand and gravel from the Thames and Colne Valleys (primary focus area) and 0.12 mtpa of sand and gravel from the Great Ouse Valley (secondary focus area).	10 years* *MK and Bucks reported jointly	Became a Unitary - Buckinghamshire Council on 1st April 2020.
Hampshire County Council	Minerals and Waste Plan adopted in 2013[23].	1.28mtpa to 2030	9 years	Currently undertaking a 2020 Review of the Plan.
Oxfordshire County Council	Minerals & Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy was adopted 2017[24]	1.015 mtpa to 2031 / 18.270 mt total reserve	13 years	Currently preparing the Sites Allocation Plan. Preferred Options completed in 2020.
Surrey County Council	Core Strategy and Primary Aggregates Plan adopted in 2011[25].	24mt of aggregate between 2009 and 2026 (included soft sand)	5 years	LDS (2019)[26]: A review of the conformity of the Surrey Minerals Plan with the NPPF was carried out in 2014. The current anticipated programme for future review (or partial review) and adoption of the Surrey Minerals Plan is: • Issues and options – Spring 2020 Adoption – Summer 2023

[21] South East Annual Monitoring Report (SEEAWP, 2019): https://documents.hants.gov.uk/see-awp/SEEAWP-annual-report-2018.pdf
[22] https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4514370/buckinghamshire-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2016-2036.pdf
[23] https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf
[24] https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/planning/mineralsandwaste/September2017/AdoptedMineralsWasteCoreStrategySept2017.pdf
[25] https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/81439/Adopted-Core-Strategy-Development-Plan-Document.pdf
[26] https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/185121/2018-12-18-MWDS-2018-FINAL.pdf

West Berkshire Council	Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire adopted 2001[27] Emerging new Minerals and Waste Local Plan.	Preferred Option[28]: 4 million tonnes of construction aggregate (includes soft sand)	14 years[29]	*Local Plan Newsletter (Feb 2020)[30]:* Submission version consultation (scheduled Jan-Feb 2020) has been cancelled due to removal of two significant sites at the request of the landowner.
Wiltshire Council	Minerals Core Strategy[31] and Minerals Development Control Policies DPD adopted 2009[32]. Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocation Local Plan was adopted in 2013[33]	1.85 million tonnes per annum	Not available.	LDS (2018): A review will be undertaken in 2019/20 in co-operation with Swindon Borough Council. If it is considered necessary to programme a review, this will be set out in the next update to the LDS.

[27] https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/replacement-minerals-local-plan-for-berkshire-2001.pdf
[28] https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=43657&p=0
[29] https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=47201&p=0
[30] https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=48523&p=0
[31] http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/minerals-core-strategy-june-2009.pdf
[32] http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/adopted-minerals-development-control-policies-dpd-2009-september.pdf
[33] http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/minerals-adopted-sites-local-plan-may-13.pdf

6. Alternative Supplies

Crushed rock

6.1 Crushed rock can be used as a substitute for sharp sand and gravel. The geology of Central and Eastern Berkshire means that it does not have its own source of crushed and hard rock minerals such as limestone. Therefore, those minerals that cannot be derived from within the Plan area have to be imported by rail and road in order meet local needs.

6.2 The dominant source of crushed rock for Berkshire is Somerset which has some 400 million tonnes of approved reserves (equivalent to 29.9 years) [34.] While not all the quarries in Somerset have rail connections, those that do form a significant proportion. Provided Somerset maintain its productive capacity, it is estimated that there are sufficient reserves available to supply on-going market demand.

6.3 There is currently no rail depot to receive crushed rock imports within Central and Eastern Berkshire. As such, it is assumed that the area is served predominately by the rail depots in West Berkshire. The West Berkshire Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA)[35] identifies that a large proportion of the aggregate sold from the rail depots at Theale is then exported out of West Berkshire by road. The LAA also states that there is sufficient capacity at the rail depots for an increase in demand should this occur in the future.

6.4 The safeguarding of the rail depots at Theale, West Berkshire will be important for Central and Eastern Berkshire to ensure a supply of crushed rock, unless a suitable rail depot is located within the Plan area.

Marine sand and gravel

6.5 The 2014 Aggregate Monitoring Survey records marine aggregate as being received in Berkshire from Hampshire and London via rail. The 2014 import figures are a significant increase from 2009 (152 Tt from 98 Tt) which suggests this could be an increasing source of supply. Whilst neighbouring West Berkshire and Slough have rail depots, there are none within Central and Eastern Berkshire.

6.6 The safeguarding of wharves will be critical to any future increase of marine sand and gravel as a source of supply. Hampshire's wharves are safeguarded

[34] Somerset LAA 2016: www.somerset.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alId=112822
[35] West Berkshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2018 (April 2019): https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=46310&p=0

through the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (adopted 2013)[36]. London's wharves are safeguarded through the London Plan (2016)[37].

Recycled and secondary aggregate

6.7 Secondary and recycled aggregate do not currently substitute for primary aggregates in structural uses, only in lower specification construction uses, such as the sub-base in roads and car parks. The main use is to provide a fill that substitutes for the lower quality sand and gravel produced within Central and Eastern Berkshire.

6.8 There is no secondary aggregate produced within Central and Eastern Berkshire. There is no reliable or comprehensive data on production or use of recycled aggregates. Data on sales of recycled aggregate have historically been recorded on a Berkshire-wide level. Sales specifically attributed to Central and Eastern Berkshire have been recorded for five years and this shows a steady increase from 85 Tt in 2014 to 135 Tt in 2018. It is estimated that the capacity for recycled aggregate production in Central and Eastern Berkshire is in the region of 280 Tt but that the permanent capacity is as little as 40-45 Tt.

6.9 The Mineral Products Association undertook aggregate scenarios to determine potential future growth[38]. The study concluded that recycled and secondary materials are likely to continue to make a significant contribution to supply (30%) but that the figure is not expected to continue to grow significantly.

7. Common Ground

7.1 The Emerging Central and Eastern Berkshire - Joint Minerals & Waste Plan outlines in Policy M3 a requirement of 0.628 Mtpa of sharp sand and gravel throughout the Plan period. However, it also recognises that there is a need for flexibility and therefore, local circumstances will need to be monitored and the provision figure will be adjusted, should this be required.

7.2 Policy M2 (Safeguarding sand and gravel resources) states that sharp sand and gravel resources will be safeguarded within the Minerals and Waste

[36] Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2013): https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf
[37] London Plan (Mayor of London, 20186): https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/current-london-plan/london-plan-2016-pdf
[38] Long term aggregates demand supply scenarios (2016-30) (MPA, 2017): https://mineralproducts.org/documents/MPA_Long_term_aggregates_demand_supply_scenariors_2016-30.pdf

Safeguarding Area. Policy M2 seeks to maximise prior extraction opportunities in the Plan Area to bolster supply.

7.3 Policy M4 seeks to facilitate the extraction of sharp sand gravel reserves at the identified allocations and resources in appropriate locations. An appropriate location is situated within the Area of Search (as shown on the Policies Maps) and one that meets all planning policy requirements of the Plan as a whole.

7.4 Whilst it is recognised that recycled aggregate can only form a limited substitute to meet the total demand of sand and gravel, Policy M5 seeks to maintain existing aggregate recycling facilities and encourage new facilities in appropriate locations.

7.5 Marine sand and gravel and crushed rock currently form part of the aggregate supply to the Area, but these sources are not within the administrative boundaries of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities.

7.6 In order to maintain a steady and adequate supply of sharp sand and gravel, and its substitutes sources, to Central and Eastern Berkshire, it will be necessary to monitor current and future supply sources under the Duty to Cooperate obligations. It is intended that this should be used to inform and update this Statement of Common Ground.

7.7 Given the shortfall of provision in the Central and Eastern Berkshire area, the parties agree that there is a need to recognise existing movements and take into consideration the sharp sand and gravel needs of Central and Eastern Berkshire in their plan-making, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

7.8 It is recognised that suitable resources are located within the Plan area as sought to be demonstrated through the Area of Search outlined within the Plan. It is envisaged that during the Plan period (up to 2036) suitable proposals will be forthcoming within the Area of Search and it is hoped that the reliance on external sources will be reduced.

7.9 The South East England Aggregate Working Party – Annual Report 2018 highlights that sharp sand and gravel sales have increased since 2009 and there is a regional landbank of 10-years. There is variation in quarry capacity across South East England, although it is only Hampshire that has a capacity margin lower than 25%. However, the report also recognises there has been a decline in the replenishment rate over the last three years.

7.10 There is no commitment by any one party to supply the shortfall in sharp sand and gravel to Central and Eastern Berkshire but for parties to plan positively in

order to continue existing supply sources, where sustainable and in compliance with national policy. In the event current supply patterns cannot be maintained alternatives will be explored under the Duty to Cooperate in the preparation of Plans.

7.11 As more data on the movement of sharp sand and gravel becomes available, the parties to this Statement will be reviewed subject to the outcome of Duty to Cooperate discussions.

8. Additional Strategic Matters

8.1 A Statement of Common Ground has also been prepared regarding the strategic movement and supply of Soft Sand to Central and Eastern Berkshire.