

LOCAL AGGREGATE ASSESSMENT

June 2016



Leicestershire County Council

Local Aggregate Assessment

June 2016

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Executive summary

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by preparing a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA). The LAA is required to:

- forecast the demand for aggregates based on average 10 year sales data and other relevant local information;
- analyse all aggregate supply options and;
- assess the balance between demand and supply.

This is the third LAA for Leicestershire which includes the most recent (2014) aggregate sales and reserves data for the County. The ten year period covered by this LAA is 2005 up to 2014. This LAA will form part of the evidence base to inform the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The main facts and figures from the report (by aggregate type) are set out below:

Sand and gravel

Leicestershire currently has five active sand and gravel quarries, which have a total potential production capacity of around 1.7 million tonnes.

The average sales for sand and gravel for the most recent ten year rolling period (2005 – 2014), and most recent three year rolling period (2012 – 2014), is 1.12 Mtpa and 1.15 Mtpa respectively.

Sales of sand and gravel within the County remained fairly constant over the period 2005 to 2007, before falling due to the effects of the economic recession. Sales for 2014 show signs of significant improvement, being some 31% higher than that experienced in 2013, and the highest since 2003.

Estimated permitted reserves as at 31st December 2014 were 8.09 million tonnes. Based on the ten year provision rate, there are currently sufficient permitted reserves for around 7 years. During 2015, planning permissions granted at 2 quarries have released a further 1.42 million tonnes of reserves.

The majority of sales in 2014 were within Leicestershire/Rutland (58%). The main destinations for material exported beyond the County were the West Midlands and Northamptonshire. All the material was transported by road.

Crushed rock

Leicestershire currently has four active igneous rock quarries, all of which are rail-linked, together with two active limestone quarries. These quarries have a total potential production capacity of around 15.5 million tonnes.

The average sales for crushed rock for the most recent ten year rolling period (2005 – 2014), and most recent three year rolling period (2012 – 2014), is 13.6 Mtpa and 12.7 Mtpa respectively.

Sales of crushed rock within the County remained fairly constant over the period 2005 to 2008, before falling due to the effects of the economic recession. Sales for 2013 and 2014 show signs of significant improvement, although they still remain below levels for the period 2005-08. Sales in 2014 were some 8% higher than that experienced in 2013.

Estimated permitted reserves as at 31st December 2014 were 412 million tonnes. Based on the ten year provision rate, there are currently sufficient permitted reserves for 30 years, more than sufficient to maintain the government's requirement for a landbank of at least ten years.

The majority of sales in 2014 were outside Leicestershire/Rutland (62%). The main destinations for material exported beyond the County were the East of England, London and the South East and the West Midlands. Around 4Mt (32.5%) was transported by rail, the main destinations being the East of England, London and the South East.

Secondary and recycled aggregate

There are 18 operational stand-alone permanent construction and demolition (C&D) recycling sites within Leicestershire. The total capacity of these sites is estimated to be around 430,000 tonnes. There are currently no industrial processes in Leicestershire which are known to produce 'secondary' aggregates.

Future provision

There will be a potential shortfall of sand and gravel reserves within Leicestershire over the period to 2031 of some 9.5 million tonnes based on average sales over the last 10 years. The Consultation Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2015) included proposals for the extraction of 4.3 million tonnes of potential reserves (some of which have now received planning permission). In response to the consultation on the plan, additional sites have been put forward for inclusion.

A new wash plant facility at Mountsorrel Quarry will produce material comparable with washed concrete sand produced at sand and gravel sites.

There are sufficient permitted crushed rock reserves to meet requirements up to 2031.

Local factors suggest that the demand for aggregates from Leicestershire operations could be higher than the average experienced over the last 10 years. The scale of any increase is however uncertain.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires an annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) to be produced by Mineral Planning Authorities in order to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. Aggregates are materials used in the construction industry for building purposes, including asphalt and concrete.
- 1.2 This document is the third Local Aggregate Assessment for the County of Leicestershire. The LAA sets out the current supply of and demand for aggregates in the County and indicates the provision that will be needed in order to ensure that Leicestershire continues to make an appropriate contribution to the steady and adequate supply of aggregates. Revised Local Aggregate Assessments will be produced annually as part of the Local Plan monitoring procedures.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that mineral planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by:
- preparing an annual Local Aggregate Assessment, either individually or jointly by agreement with another or other mineral planning authorities, based on a rolling average of 10 years sales data and other relevant local information, and an assessment of all supply options (including marine dredged, secondary and recycled sources);
 - participating in the operation of an Aggregate Working Party and taking the advice of that Party into account when preparing their Local Aggregate Assessment;
 - making provision for the land-won and other elements of their Local Aggregate Assessment in their mineral plans taking account of the advice of the Aggregate Working Parties and the National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group as appropriate. Such provision should take the form of specific sites, preferred areas and/or areas of search and locational criteria as appropriate;
 - taking account of published National and Sub National Guidelines on future provision which should be used as a guideline when planning for the future demand for and supply of aggregates;
 - using landbanks of aggregate minerals reserves principally as an indicator of the security of aggregate minerals supply, and to indicate the additional provision that needs to be made for new aggregate extraction and alternative supplies in mineral plans;
 - making provision for the maintenance of landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel and at least 10 years for crushed rock, whilst ensuring that the capacity of operations to supply a wide range of materials is not compromised. Longer periods may be

appropriate to take account of the need to supply a range of types of aggregates, locations of permitted reserves relative to markets, and productive capacity of permitted sites;

- ensuring that large landbanks bound up in very few sites do not stifle competition; and
- calculating and maintaining separate landbanks for any aggregate materials of a specific type or quality which have a distinct and separate market.

National and Regional Guidelines

- 1.4 Prior to the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the supply aggregates in England was based on national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision published by the Government. These set out guidelines for land won aggregates and assumptions for supplies of marine, alternative aggregates and those supplied from outside England. The latest guidelines were published in 2009 for the period 2005 to 2020.
- 1.5 At the meeting of the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party (EMAWP) in February 2013, doubts were expressed about the validity of the latest guidelines. It was considered that the figures were out of date, as they were only based on aggregate output from a period of economic growth, and that they should consequently not be taken into account in identifying future levels of provision. It was agreed that future levels of provision be based on a rolling average of 10 years sales data and other relevant local information, in accordance with the NPPF.

Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan

- 1.6 The Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) was adopted by Leicestershire County Council on 8th October 2009.
- 1.7 Policy MCS2 (strategy for aggregate minerals) of the Core Strategy indicates the level of provision to be made for aggregate minerals within Leicestershire over the period 2001 to 2021, namely 26.25 million tonnes of sand and gravel and 337.75 million tonnes of crushed rock, an annual requirement of 1.25 million tonnes for sand and gravel and 16.1 million tonnes for crushed rock.
- 1.8 The above figures are based on meeting the approved sub-regional apportionment between 2001 and 2016, as set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (2009), together with an additional 5 years based on the average annual apportionment figure. The County's requirement for crushed rock was adjusted to exclude the expected contribution from sites within Rutland.
- 1.9 The Core Strategy calculated that there would be a shortfall of sand and gravel amounting to 6 million tonnes over the period to 2021

and a surplus of 147 million tonnes of crushed rock. These calculations took account of the level of permitted reserves as at 1st January 2001 (adjusted for subsequent reassessments of reserves at certain quarries) together with reserves subsequently permitted up to 31st December 2007.

- 1.10 At its meeting on 12th June 2013, the County Council's Cabinet resolved to commence the roll forward of the adopted Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPDs as a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Consultation on a draft Plan took place between July 2015 and August 2015. The draft Plan contains draft policies and proposals related to the winning and working of minerals and waste management development in the County for the period to 2031. After consideration of representations received on the draft Plan, work has started on the preparation of the pre-submission draft plan. This will be published for public consultation before it is formally submitted to the Government for independent public examination.

2. Types of aggregate produced in Leicestershire

Sand and Gravel

- 2.1 In Leicestershire, sand and gravel for aggregate use has usually been obtained from two distinct types of deposit, namely sub-alluvial and river terrace; and glaciofluvial.
- 2.2 The main sources of sub-alluvial and river terrace deposits in Leicestershire are Quaternary and Recent age deposits in the valleys of the Rivers Trent, Soar and Wreake. Similar, but smaller areas, of sand and gravel are also associated with the River Sence and the Rivers Avon and Welland along the southern borders of Leicestershire.
- 2.3 A series of isolated Glaciofluvial deposits occurs in areas to the south and west of Leicester. The full extent of this resource is unknown, however, as areas of wholly concealed bodies of sand and gravel may occur under spreads of till and other drift deposits. The extensive boulder clay and other drift deposits which cover central and eastern parts of Leicestershire may conceal potential deposits.
- 2.4 Deposits of solid sand and gravel sources in the form of the Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds occur in two areas in the north-west of Leicestershire, around Measham and Castle Donington. Blown sand deposits resulting from aeolian reworking of river and glacial deposits and bare Triassic bedrock occur in the Vale of Belvoir.

Igneous Rock

- 2.5 A number of small outcrops of Precambrian/Cambrian igneous rocks occur in Charnwood Forest and in south Leicestershire. Within Charnwood Forest, the intrusions form two main groups: a southern group around Markfield, Bradgate and Groby; and a northern group, which extends towards Shepshed. Volcanic lavas of Precambrian origin occur in exposed masses around Bardon Hill, High Sharpley and Pedlar Tor. Igneous rock intrusions also occur around Mountsorrel, and at a number of locations to the south-west of Leicester, including Enderby, Earl Shilton, Huncote, Stoney Stanton and Sapcote.

Limestone

- 2.6 In north-west Leicestershire, Carboniferous limestones crop out in several small isolated inliers which locally form prominent hills above the surrounding Triassic rocks near to the Leicestershire/Derbyshire border. The inliers between Breedon and

Thringstone consist mainly of pinkish-yellow, bedded and massive dolomite (dolostone).

- 2.7 Lincolnshire Limestone of Jurassic age occurs in North East Leicestershire. The various limestone units making up the Lincolnshire Limestone form a relatively thick and persistent formation which is capable of lower quality aggregates, such as fill and sub-base roadstone.

3. Current Situation regarding Land won Aggregates in Leicestershire

Introduction

- 3.1 Production and Sales data for aggregate minerals is collected on an annual basis, through an aggregate survey undertaken on behalf of the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party (EMAWP). Annually published EMAWP reports present data on production and reserves for the County back to the early 1990s. The most recent Aggregates Monitoring (AM) survey provides data for 2014.
- 3.2 Every fourth year Aggregate Working Parties conduct a major in-depth survey. This includes the collection of data on the distribution of sales. Such data were collected as part of the latest survey for 2014.

Land-won sand and gravel

Production sites

- 3.3 There are 5 sites currently active in Leicestershire, at Brooksby, Cadeby, Husbands Bosworth, Lockington, and Shawell (see Table 1 below). Two of these sites involve the working of alluvial and river terrace deposits, while the remainder work glacial deposits. There is one further permitted site, at Slip Inn Quarry, Ashby Parva which is currently inactive.

Table 1: List of Current Sand & Gravel Sites, 2015

Site	District
Husbands Bosworth Quarry	Harborough
Shawell Quarry	Harborough
Cadeby Quarry	Hinckley
Brooksby Quarry	Melton
Lockington Quarry	North West Leicestershire

Sales

- 3.4 Sales of aggregate from sand and gravel operations within Leicestershire over the last 10 years are shown in Table 2 below. Sales of aggregate within the County have remained fairly constant over the period 2005 to 2007, a period generally accepted as one of sustained economic growth, with levels sand and gravel generally averaging around 1.32 million tonnes per annum. Sales for the period 2008 to 2013 show the effects of the economic recession as production slowed. During this period, sales of sand and gravel fell

to an average of 0.96 million tonnes per annum. Sales for 2014 show signs of significant improvement, being some 31% higher than that experienced in 2013, and the highest since 2003.

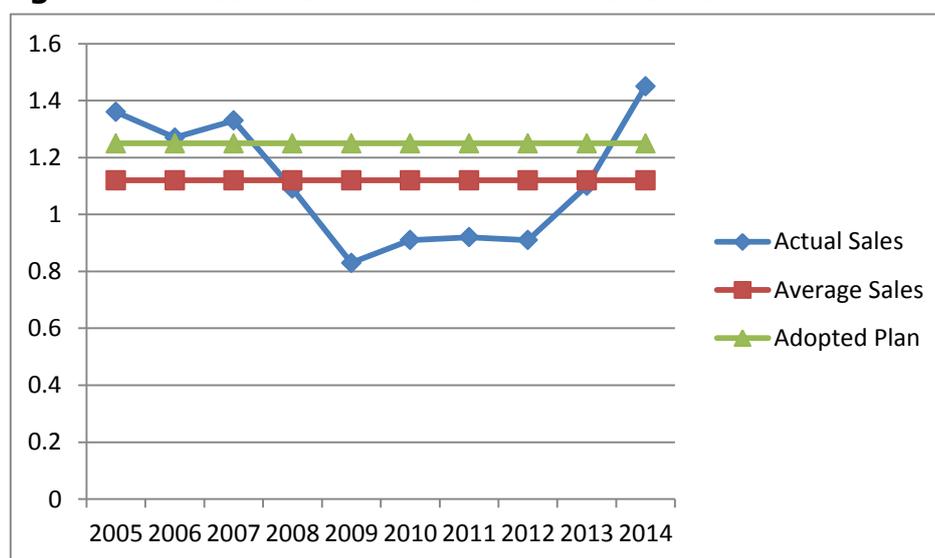
Table 2: Sales of Sand and Gravel 2005-2014

Year	Sales (Million tonnes)
2005	1.36
2006	1.27
2007	1.33
2008	1.09
2009	0.83
2010	0.91
2011	0.92
2012	0.91
2013	1.1
2014	1.45
Average	1.12

Source: EMRAWP Surveys

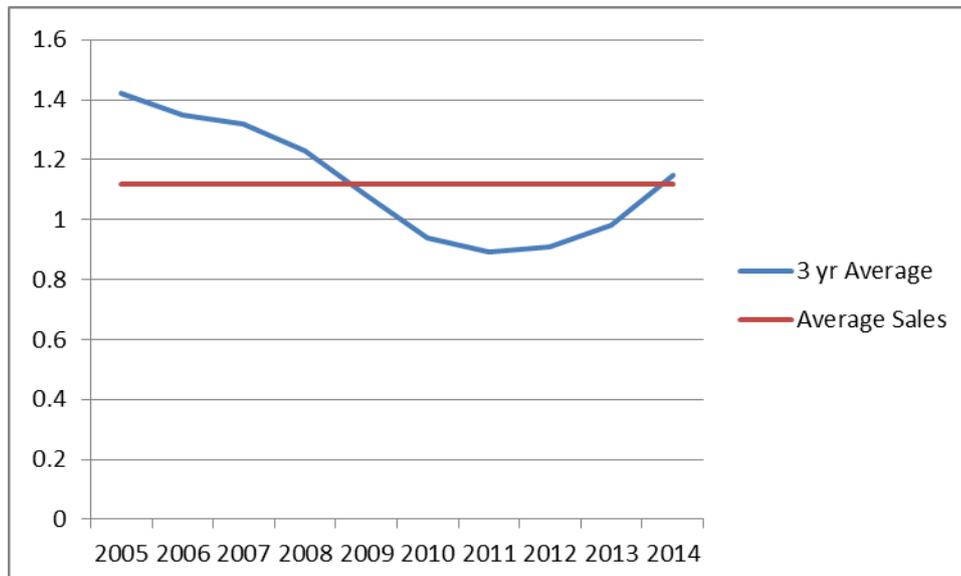
- 3.5 Average sand and gravel sales over the last 10 years were 1.12 million tonnes per annum. Sales for sand and gravel in 2014 exceeded the annual requirement set out in adopted Minerals Core Strategy (1.25Mtpa) for the first time since 2007 (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Sales of Sand and Gravel 2005-2014



- 3.6 Average sand and gravel sales over the last 3 years were 1.15 million tonnes per annum, slightly higher than the 10-year average. The trend in sales based on 3-year averages since 2005 is shown in Figure 2. This indicates falling sales from 2005 to 2011, since when sales have begun to rise although still below the levels attained between 2005 and 2008.

Figure 2: Trend in Sales of Sand and Gravel 2005-2014



Landbank

- 3.7 Estimated permitted reserves of sand and gravel in Leicestershire as at the end of 2014 were around 8.09 million tonnes. This is sufficient permitted material to last about 6.5 years based on the annual provision identified in the adopted Minerals Core Strategy, and just over 7 years based on the average rate of production over the last 10 years. During 2015, planning permission has been granted for extensions at Cadeby and Shawell Quarries, which will release a further 1.42 million tonnes of reserves.

Production Capacity

- 3.8 The existing active sites have a total potential production capacity of around 1.7 million tonnes, which means that they would be capable of producing sufficient material to satisfy the level of provision identified in the adopted Minerals Core Strategy. The sites would not however be able to meet the County's future requirements without the benefit of extensions to their currently permitted operations. Table 3 below provides information on the productive capacity, potential reserves and permission end dates for sand and gravel sites with Leicestershire.

Table 3: Production Capacity of Sand and Gravel Sites

Site	Operator	Status	Production Capacity (tonnes p.a.)	Reserves*#	Permission End Date
Husbands Bosworth	Tarmac	Active	180,000**	300,000 (2010) Additional reserves: 925,000 (2010)	31-07-2020
Shawell	Tarmac	Active	600,000**	Up to 1.8Mt (2015) Additional reserves: 1Mt (2015)	31-12-2044
Cadeby	Tarmac	Active	170,000*	Less than 170,000 (2015). Additional reserves: up to 420,000 (2015)	31-12-2021
Brooksby	Tarmac	Active	300,000*	3.14 Mt (2006)	24-04-2021
Lockington	Tarmac	Active	400,000**	1.29 Mt (2007). Additional reserves: 3.9 Mt (2008).	02-12-2025
Slip Inn	Cemex	Inactive	120,000*	756,000 (2004)	30-09-2019

* information from most recent planning applications

** Information provided by operator

date of reserves information given in brackets.

Exports and imports

- 3.9 Sand and gravel operations within Leicestershire tend to serve local markets. The distribution of sand and gravel from the County in 2014 is set out in Table 4 below. 57.8% of sales were within Leicestershire/Rutland. The remaining material generally travelled to neighbouring counties and regions from sites located close to the County boundary. The main destinations for material exported beyond the County were the West Midlands (12.8%), and Northamptonshire (8.7%), see Figure 3 below. All the material was transported by road.

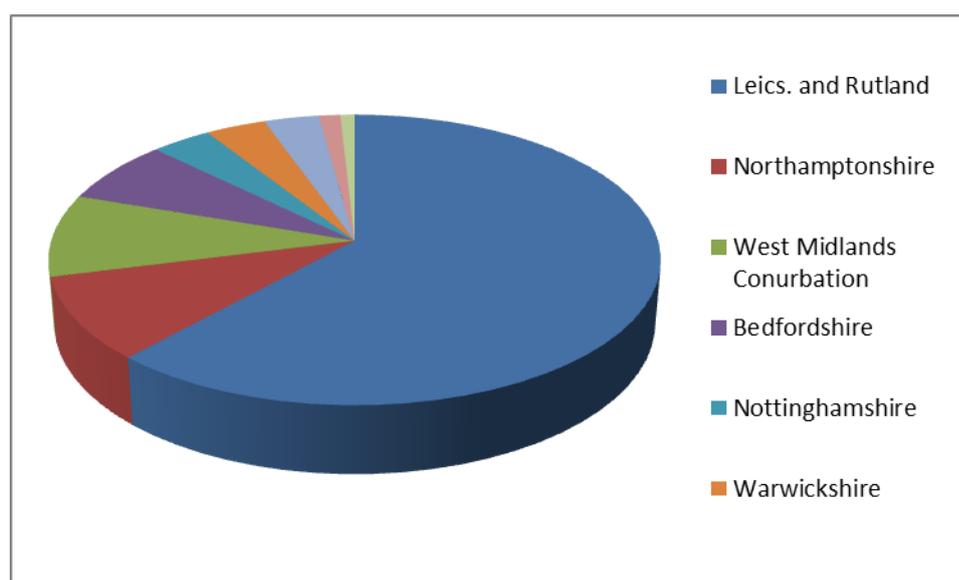
Table 4: Distribution of Sand and Gravel 2014
(Destinations receiving over 10,000 tonnes)

Destination	tonnes	%
Derbyshire & PDNP	44701	3.1
Nottinghamshire	50088	3.4
Leics. and Rutland	837440	57.8
Northamptonshire	126193	8.7
Staffordshire	11367	0.8
Warwickshire	48822	3.4
West Midlands Conurbation*	124597	8.6
Bedfordshire	95764	6.6
Oxfordshire	16697	1.2

*Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and Birmingham

Source: Aggregates Minerals Survey 2014

Figure 3: Distribution of Sand and Gravel 2014



- 3.10 According to the 'Collation of the results of the 2009 Aggregate Minerals Survey for England and Wales' (DCLG October 2011), imports of land won sand and gravel into Leicestershire and Rutland totalled 228,000 tonnes, making Leicestershire/Rutland a net exporter of some 304,000 tonnes of sand and gravel. (Separate figures for Leicestershire and Rutland are not provided.) Information on imports from the 2014 Survey is not yet available.

Crushed Rock

Production sites

- 3.11 Igneous rock extraction within Leicestershire is currently taking place at 4 sites, namely Bardon; Cliffe Hill; Croft; and Mountsorrel (see Table 5 below). Whitwick and Groby quarries are currently inactive, although coating and concrete plants are maintained at Groby. Two carboniferous limestone quarries are operational within Leicestershire at Breedon on the Hill and Cloud Hill.

Table 5: List of Current Crushed Rock Sites, 2015

Site	District	Mineral
Croft Quarry	Blaby	Igneous Rock
Mountsorrel Quarry	Charnwood	Igneous Rock
Cliffe Hill Quarry	Hinckley	Igneous Rock
Bardon Quarry	North West Leicestershire	Igneous Rock
Breedon Quarry	North West Leicestershire	Limestone
Cloud Hill Quarry	North West Leicestershire	Limestone

Sales

- 3.12 Sales of aggregate from crushed rock quarries within Leicestershire over the last 10 years are shown in Table 6 below. Sales of rock aggregate within the County have remained fairly constant over the period 2005 to 2008, a period generally accepted as one of sustained economic growth, with crushed rock sales averaging 15.4 million tonnes per annum. Sales between 2009 and 2012 show the effects of the economic recession as production slowed. During this period, sales of crushed rock fell to an average of 11.8 million tonnes per annum. Sales for 2013 and 2014 show signs of improvement, although they still remain below levels for the period 2005-08. Sales in 2014 were some 8% higher than that experienced in 2013.

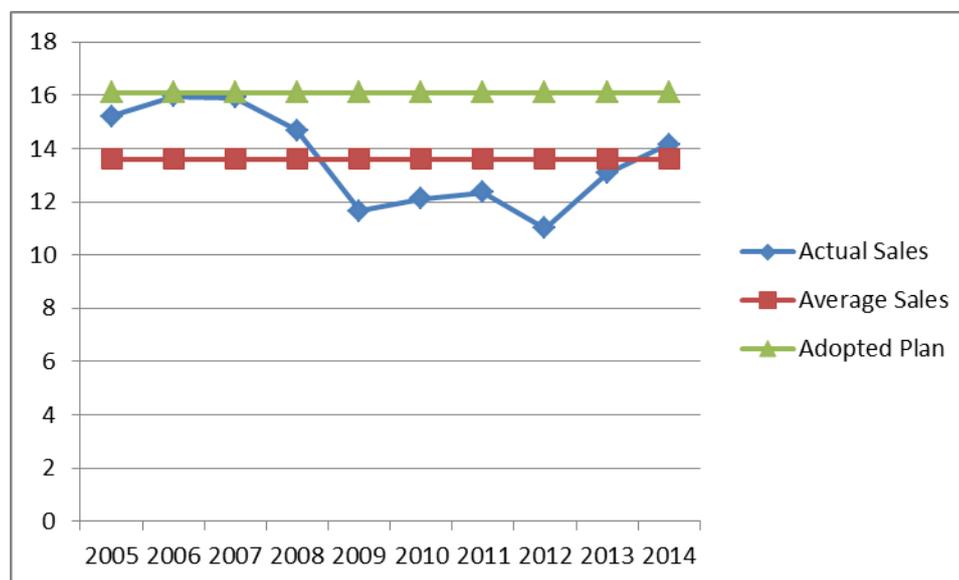
Table 6: Sales of Crushed Rock 2005-2014

Year	Sales (million tonnes)
2005	15.2
2006	15.96
2007	15.91
2008	14.68
2009	11.66
2010	12.12
2011	12.36
2012	11
2013	13.08
2014	14.15
Average	13.6

Source: EMRAWP Surveys

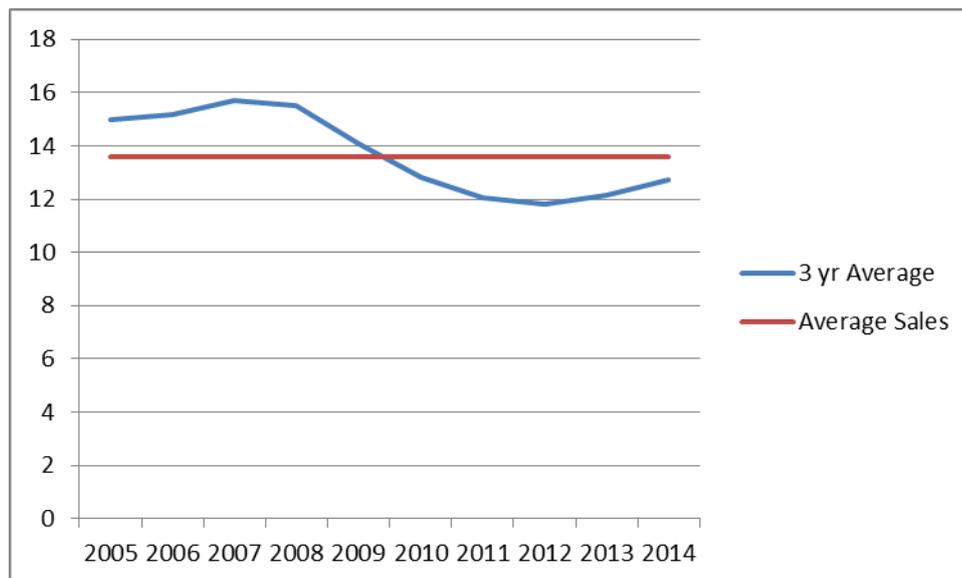
3.13 Average crushed rock sales were 13.6 million tonnes over the last 10 years. Crushed rock sales from Leicestershire have been lower than the annual requirement set out in the adopted Plan (16.1 million tonnes) throughout this period (see Figure 4 below).

Figure 4: Sales of Crushed Rock 2005-2014



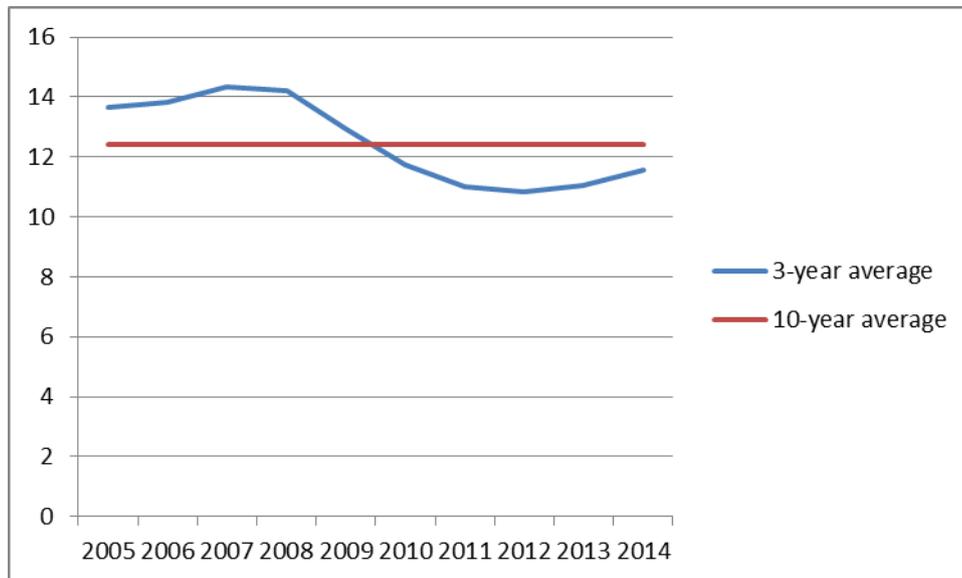
3.14 Average crushed rock sales over the last 3 years were lower than the 10-year average at 12.74 million tonnes. The trend in sales based on 3-year averages since 2005 is shown in Figure 5. This indicates falling sales from 2009 to 2012, since when sales have begun to rise slightly although still well below the levels attained between 2005 and 2008.

Figure 5: Trend in Sales of Crushed Rock 2005-2014



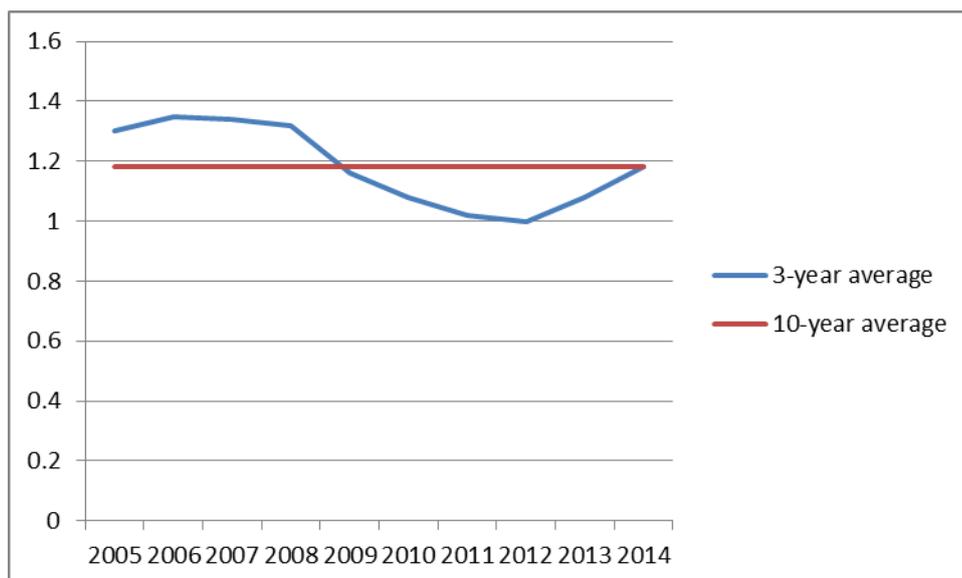
- 3.15 The four active **igneous rock** quarries together account for around 65% of the igneous rock output in England. These quarries supply crushed rock aggregate of varying types, ranging from general purpose aggregate suitable for a wide range of end-uses including concrete production, to higher specification end-uses such as rail ballast and high PSV (Polished Stone Value) aggregate that is capable of being used in skid-resistant road surfacing applications. There are relatively few alternative sources of such High Specification Aggregate in England.
- 3.16 Average igneous rock sales from Leicestershire were 12.43 million tonnes per annum over the last 3 years, and 11.6 million tonnes per annum over the last 10 years. Figure 6 below shows the general trend of sales of igneous rock within Leicestershire based on 3-year averages over the period 2005 to 2014. Sales fell between 2009 and 2012 but have subsequently risen, although they are still below levels achieved during the period 2005-08.

Figure 6: Trend in Sales of Igneous Rock 2005-2014



3.17 Average limestone sales within Leicestershire for both the last 10 year period (2005-2014) and the last three-year period (2012-2014) were 1.18 million tonnes per annum. Figure 7 below shows the general trend of sales of limestone aggregate within Leicestershire based on 3-year averages over the period 2005 to 2014. Sales fell between 2009 and 2012 but have subsequently risen although they are still below levels achieved during the period 2005-08.

Figure 7: Trend in Sales of Limestone 2005-2014



Landbank

- 3.18 Estimated permitted reserves of crushed rock in Leicestershire as at the end of 2014 were around 412 million tonnes. This is sufficient permitted material to last about 25 years based on the annual provision identified in the adopted Plan (16.1Mtpa), and about 30 years based the average rate of production over the last 10 years.
- 3.19 Arithmetically, the level of permitted reserves for crushed rock in Leicestershire is therefore well in excess of the 10 year minimum landbank for rock required by the NPPF. A significant proportion of the permitted reserves, however, are at inactive sites (21.5%), all for igneous rock.
- 3.20 Estimated permitted reserves of igneous rock in Leicestershire as at the end of 2014 were around 367 million tonnes. This is sufficient permitted material to last about 30 years based the average rate of production over the last 10 years.
- 3.21 As at the end of 2014, the four active igneous rock quarries (which are all rail connected) had total reserves of some 278 million tonnes, a collective life of some 22 years based on the average rate of production over the last 10 years.
- 3.22 Estimated permitted reserves of limestone in Leicestershire as at the end of 2014 were around 45 million tonnes. This is sufficient permitted material to last about 38 years based the average rate of production over the last 10 years.

Production Capacity

- 3.23 The existing active sites have the potential to produce around 15.5 million tonnes per annum, based on information contained in recent planning applications. Existing rail-linked quarries have a capacity of around 13.5 million tonnes per annum. This suggests that existing sites would be capable of producing sufficient material to satisfy the average rate of production over the last 10 years, but this would be just below the level of provision identified in the adopted Minerals Core Strategy. Not all of the sites would however be able to continue contributing to future requirements without the benefit of extensions to their currently permitted operations. Table 7 below provides information on the productive capacity, potential reserves and permission end dates for crushed rock sites within Leicestershire.

Table 7: Production Capacity of Crushed Rock Sites

Site	Mineral	Operator	Status	Production* (tonnes p.a.)	Reserves**	Permission End Date
Croft	Igneous Rock	Aggregate Industries	Active	2 million	33 Mt (2008)	31-12-2029
Mountsorrel	Igneous Rock	Tarmac	Active	4.5 million	87 Mt (2014) Additional reserves: 20Mt (2015)	31-12-2040
Cliffe Hill	Igneous Rock	Midland Quarry Products	Active	4 million	60 Mt (2007)	31-12-2032
Bardon	Igneous Rock	Aggregate Industries	Active	3 million	45 Mt (2009). Additional reserves: 132 Mt (2011).	31-12-2051
Groby	Igneous Rock	Midland Quarry Products	Inactive	up to 3 million	90 Mt (1995)	31-12-2038
Whitwick	Igneous Rock	Midland Quarry Products	Inactive	up to 1 million	8 Mt (2010)	21-02-2042
Breedon	Limestone	Breedon Aggregates	Active	up to 0.5 million	3.1 Mt (2003). Additional reserves: 17Mt (2006)	31-12-2042
Cloud Hill	Limestone	Breedon Aggregates	Active	1.5 million	12 Mt (2009). Additional reserves: 4.3 Mt (2010)	31-12-2025

* information from most recent planning applications

date of reserves information given in brackets

Exports and imports

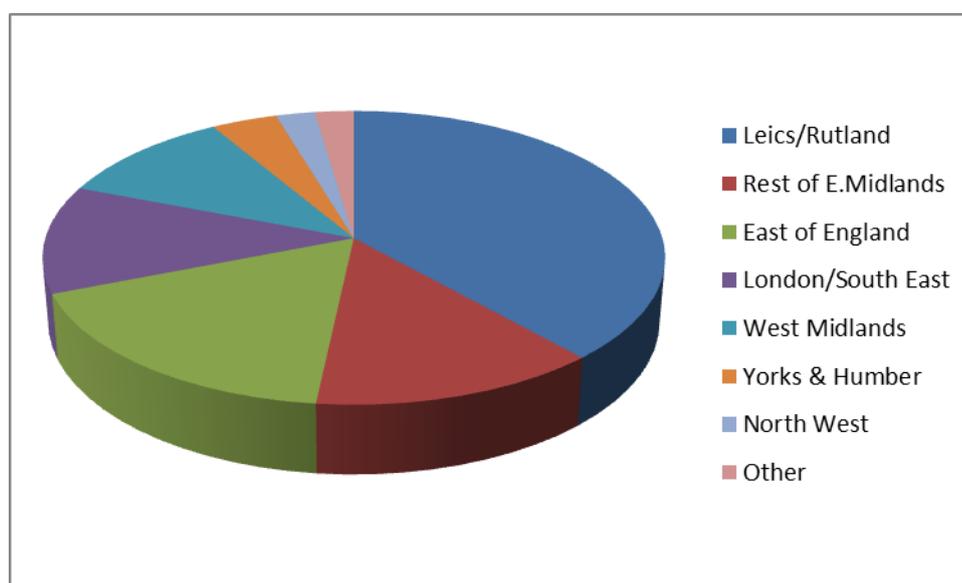
3.24 The distribution of crushed rock from Leicestershire in 2014 is set out in Table 8 below. A significant quantity (61.6%) of crushed rock was exported from the county. Thirteen per cent of material was distributed to other authorities within the East Midlands. The main destinations for material exported beyond the East Midlands were the East of England (17.3% of total sales); London and the South East (11.9%); and the West Midlands (10.6%) – see Figure 8.

Table 8: Distribution of Crushed Rock 2014

Destination	All		By Rail	
	tonnes	%	tonnes	%
Derbyshire & PDNP	316694	2.2		
Nottinghamshire	772556	5.5	150279	3.6
Lincolnshire	158225	1.1		
Leics. and Rutland	5428259	38.4	14180	0.3
Northants	631452	4.5		
North West	324776	2.3	292129	7.0
Yorkshire & Humberside	551888	3.9	454330	10.9
West Midlands	1493265	10.6	140800	3.4
East of England	2447314	17.3	1673253	40.3
London	889583	6.3	605872	14.6
South East	792355	5.6	558007	13.5
South West	159231	1.1	140800	3.4
North East	153451	1.1	121511	2.9
Wales	24838	0.2		
Total Rock	14145069		4149161	

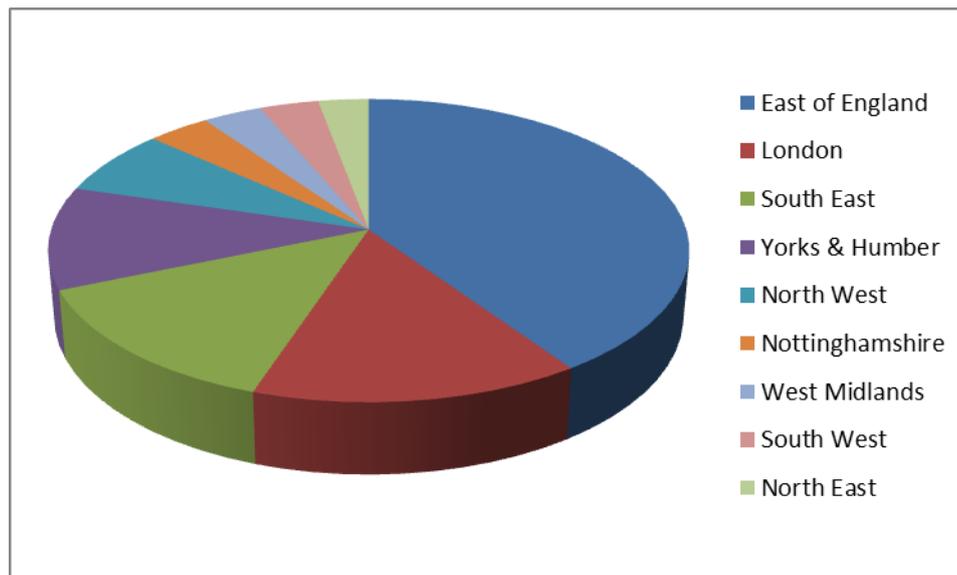
Source: Aggregates Minerals Survey 2014

Figure 8: Distribution of Crushed Rock 2014



3.25 In 2014, the amount of crushed rock transported by rail was 32.5%, around 4.1Mt. The main destinations for material exported by rail were the East of England (40% of rail-borne sales) and London and the South East (28%) – see Table 8 and Figure 9. All the material exported by rail came from the four active igneous rock quarries.

Figure 9: Distribution of Crushed Rock by rail 2014



3.26 According to the 'Collation of the results of the 2009 Aggregate Minerals Survey for England and Wales' (DCLG October 2011), imports of crushed rock into Leicestershire and Rutland totalled 200,000 tonnes, making Leicestershire/Rutland a significant net exporter of some 7.7 million tonnes of crushed rock. (Separate figures for Leicestershire and Rutland are not provided.) Information on imports from the 2014 Survey is not yet available.

4. Recycled/Secondary Aggregate

- 4.1 Despite difficulties in obtaining reliable data (even for a single year, let alone an historic series), the National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision have set figures for "Alternative Aggregates" (aggregate materials other than land or marine won) which regions should aim to achieve. The latest Guidelines propose that the East Midlands provide some 110 million tonnes of alternative aggregates for the period 2005–2020.
- 4.2 A number of national surveys have been conducted to measure and gain an understanding of the extent to which recycled and secondary materials have been used. The most recent study, undertaken by Capita Symonds for 2005 arisings, was published in February 2007. The survey methodology was very similar to that used in earlier surveys undertaken for 2001 and 2003.
- 4.3 Lessons learned during the earlier surveys mean that the findings of the 2005 survey were considerably more robust at regional level. However, at sub-regional level they remained unreliable. The estimate for production of recycled aggregate in Leicestershire and Rutland in 2005 was 697,252 tonnes. In addition, 60,194 tonnes of recycled soil (excluding topsoil) was produced and re-used.
- 4.4 There is currently no audited data available to the Council with regards to tonnages of construction demolition and excavation (CD&E) waste arising in the Leicestershire. A large proportion of construction and demolition waste is recycled on construction sites using mobile processing plant. Operational stand-alone permanent construction and demolition (C&D) recycling sites within Leicestershire are set out in Table 9 below. Existing recycling capacity for C&D waste in Leicestershire is estimated to be around 430,000 tonnes. There are currently no industrial processes in Leicestershire which are known to produce 'secondary' aggregates.

Table 9: List of Operational C&D Recycling Sites

Site	District
Granite Close, Enderby	Blaby
Enderby Road, Whetstone	Blaby
Huncote Quarry	Blaby
Granite Way, Mountsorrel	Charnwood
Ingleberry Road, Shepshed	Charnwood
Mountsorrel Quarry	Charnwood
Wanlip Plant Site, A46, Syston	Charnwood
Gilmorton Lodge Farm	Harborough
Shawell Quarry	Harborough
Glebe Farm, Sibson	Hinckley & Bosworth
Groby Quarry	Hinckley & Bosworth
Lynden Lea, Hinckley	Hinckley & Bosworth
Orston Lane, Bottesford	Melton
Harrison Close, Wigston	Oadby & Wigston
Beveridge Lane, Ellistown	North West Leics.
Ellistown Quarry	North West Leics.
Lockington Quarry	North West Leics.
Wood Road, Battram	North West Leics.

- 4.5 Whilst the data currently available are not considered to be suitably robust to enable a recycling target to be set for Leicestershire, the adopted development plan demonstrates a strong support by the Councils for aggregate recycling. Thus, the adopted Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD includes the following policies:

Policy MCS10: the strategy for resource management is to reduce the demand for primary minerals by encouraging the use of mineral waste, power station ash and construction and demolition wastes before primary minerals and supporting recycling initiatives.

Policy MDC22: Planning permission will be granted for aggregate recycling facilities and for development involving production of secondary and recycled aggregates at existing mineral sites provided that they are located close to the source of materials, have good infrastructure links and will not cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities.

- 4.6 The general trend in respect of inert recovery is for decreasing disposals of CD&E waste to landfills, quarries and exempt facilities and an increasing diversion of waste, especially through recycling. This will lead to a greater provision of CD&E waste as recycled aggregate assisting the Councils in working towards future recycled aggregate production requirements, and achieving a reduction in the demand for primary aggregate.

5. Future Provision

Sand and Gravel

- 5.1 The Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy (adopted in 2009) provided an indication of the likely future provision for the period 2001 – 2021 (see paragraph 1.7 above). A number of years have elapsed since the submission and subsequent adoption of the Minerals Core Strategy. It is therefore appropriate to look at the most up to date information.
- 5.2 Table 10 below provide revised calculations of potential future requirements for sand and gravel within Leicestershire based on average sales over the last 10 years. The calculations are based on making provision for the period up to 2031. The calculations take account of the level of permitted reserves as at 31st December 2014 together with additional reserves permitted in 2015.

Table 10: Calculation of Sand and Gravel Provision 2015 – 2031

Calculation		Million Tonnes
A	Annual Requirement	1.12
B	Total Requirement 2014-2031	19.04
C	Total permitted reserves at 31/12/2014	8.09
D	Additional reserves permitted in 2015	1.42
E(B-C+D)	Shortfall 2014 – 2031	9.53

- 5.3 The table indicates that there will be a shortfall of sand and gravel reserves over the period to 2031 of some 9.5 million tonnes. The Consultation Draft Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan included proposals for the extension of four of the active sand and gravel operations in the County, which would release some 4.3 million tonnes of potential reserves (1.4 million tonnes of which have now received planning permission). The plan however provides for planning permission to be granted for sand and gravel outside unallocated areas.
- 5.4 In conjunction with the consultation on the draft Plan in July 2015, operators were invited to put forward additional sites for sand and gravel within Leicestershire over the period to 2031. As a result, an additional 6 sites have been put forward for extraction containing in the order of 14.8 million tonnes of reserves. These sites are currently being assessed and selected sites will be included in the Pre-Submission draft Plan.

- 5.5 Planning permission was granted in 2015 for a new wash plant facility at Mountsorrel Quarry. It is estimated that the plant will produce around 310,000 tonnes of washed quarry fines, which will be comparable with washed concrete sand produced at sand and gravel sites elsewhere. This product will reduce the need to import equivalent materials to supply ancillary production at the quarry (i.e. ready-mix and precast concrete plant).

Crushed Rock

- 5.6 The Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy indicated there would be more than sufficient crushed rock reserves to meet requirements over the period to 2021 (see paragraph 1.10 above). It was not therefore considered necessary to make specific provision for future rock extraction.
- 5.7 Table 11 below provides updated calculations of potential future requirements for crushed rock from Leicestershire based on average sales over the last 10 years. The calculations are based on making provision for the period up to 2031. The calculations take account of the level of permitted reserves as at 31st December 2014 together with additional reserves permitted in 2015.

Table 11: Calculation of Crushed Rock (Aggregate) Provision 2015-2031

Calculation		Million Tonnes
A	Annual Requirement	13.6
B	Total Requirement 2015-2031	231.2
C	Total permitted reserves, excluding reserves in dormant sites, at 31/12/2014	412
D	Additional reserves permitted in 2015	20
E(B-C+D)	Surplus 2015 – 2031	200.8

- 5.8 The table indicates that there will be more than sufficient crushed rock reserves to meet requirements up to 2031. The current level of permitted reserves is also sufficient to maintain a landbank of 10 years throughout the period to 2031.
- 5.9 Whilst the theoretical permitted reserves of igneous rock appear to be adequate (see paragraph 3.18 above), technical considerations led the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party (EMAWP) to express concern in 2010 regarding the medium to long term ability of Leicestershire to supply crushed rock, at existing levels, particularly to areas like the South East and London. The EMAWP advocated that action be taken to address concerns over medium to long term future supplies of igneous rock from Leicestershire, bearing in mind the nationally strategic and uncertain nature of the Leicestershire resources beyond the existing permissions.

- 5.10 This situation has also been recognised in a report from the British Geological Survey ('An evidence based approach to predicting the future supply of aggregate resources in England' 2011) which concluded that "by far the most important foreseeable shortfall in the medium- to long-term is amongst the four rail-connected igneous quarries in Leicestershire."
- 5.11 The current strategy for aggregate minerals, as set out in Policy MCS2 of the existing Minerals Core Strategy (and reiterated in the Consultation Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan), is to release reserves of crushed rock to be worked as extensions to existing extraction sites where they are required to ensure sustainable supply. Options for the potential extension of existing sites are however limited by geology, depth of overburden, bio-conservation, local amenity and other factors.
- 5.12 In August 2011, Leicestershire County Council granted planning permission for the extraction of 132 million tonnes of mineral from an area adjacent to Bardon Hill Quarry. This has extended the life of this site by around 40 years. The stone quarried at the quarry has a high PSV (60), enabling the aggregates to be used more extensively in road surfacing applications, as well as in other asphalt products, concrete and other uses.
- 5.13 Planning permission was granted in October 2015 for the extraction of an additional 20 million tonnes of mineral from an extension to Mountsorrel Quarry. This has extended the life of the quarry to 2040.
- 5.14 Planning permission at the two other rail-linked sites at Croft and Cliffe Hill currently expire at the end of 2029 and 2032 respectively. Some 10 million tonnes of permitted reserves at Croft Quarry is constrained by structures/buildings, whilst not all of the permitted reserves at Old Cliffe Hill Quarry are under the control of the operator.
- 5.15 The nature of working is such that the costs of extraction rise considerably as these active quarries approach their planned maximum working depths. Other future constraints might include changing safe slope criteria or unforeseen geological factors which could reduce recovery of reserves.
- 5.16 If production at any of the existing active sites cannot be maintained, it may be possible to increase production capacity at other sites in order maintain the level of provision from quarries within Leicestershire. None of the inactive sites in the County however are rail-connected nor have they any realistic prospect of being linked by rail.

Local Factors

- 5.17 The NPPF states that the annual Local Aggregate Assessment should be based on a rolling average of 10 years sales data and *other relevant local information*. In respect of this latter point, the following issues have been addressed: population forecasts; household projections; future house building; local economic objectives; and major infrastructure projects.
- 5.18 A slow and steady increase in population is expected to take place within Leicestershire and Leicester rising to 1,044,000 in 2021 (a rise of 5.6% from 2011) and 1,103,000 in 2031 (a further rise of 5.7% from 2021).
- 5.19 The number of households in Leicestershire and Leicester has increased from 359,000 in 2001 to 391,000 in 2011, an increase of 9.5%. The Government's 2012-based household projections indicate an increase in the number of households to 425,000 in 2021 (an 8.7% increase over 2012), 461,000 in 2031 (an 8.5% increase over 2021) and 477,000 in 2037. This percentage change between 2012 and 2037 for Leicestershire and Leicester is 21%, which is slightly below the average growth expected in England (24%), and slightly higher than for the East Midlands (20.4%).
- 5.20 The Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), published in June 2014, provides an assessment of future housing need. The SHMA covers the seven local authority districts within the County together with Leicester City Council. The SHMA identifies a need for between 3,630 – 4,060 homes per annum to 2036 across Leicester and Leicestershire (3,775 – 4,215 homes per annum to 2031).
- 5.21 Based on the findings of the SHMA, future housing requirements are forecast to be between 9-21% higher over the period to 2031 than housing completions achieved over the 5 year period between April 2006 and March 2010 (see Table 12 below). The achievement of the level of housing completions will, however, be largely dependent on future circumstances related to the national and local economy.

Table 12: Housing Completions/Need per annum
(Number of dwellings)

District	Average completions (April 2006- March 2010)	Housing Need to 2031	
		Lower	Upper
Blaby	226	360	420
Charnwood	762	810	820
Harborough	428	415	475
Hinckley & Bosworth	378	375	450

Leicester	1097	1250	1350
Melton	223	200	250
NW Leicestershire	269	285	350
Oadby & Wigston	91	80	100
Leicestershire & Leicester	3474	3775	4215

Source: Local Planning Annual Monitoring Reports/SHMA (June 2014)

- 5.22 Econometric forecasts prepared by Experian in 2013 provide an indication of the expected job growth for Leicestershire and Leicester. The percentage increase in the number of jobs expected between 2011 and 2036 is 13.2%, with particularly strong growth expected in Harborough and North West Leicestershire (25% and 21% respectively) with more moderate figures being seen in Oadby & Wigston, Leicester and Melton (6%, 8.5% and 9% respectively).
- 5.23 The Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) Strategic Economic Plan sets out strategic objectives, priorities and actions for the period 2014 to 2020. The LLEP's ambition is that, by 2020, 45,000 additional jobs will have been created, £2.5b of private sector investment will have been attracted to the area, and that the Gross Value Added (GVA) will have increased by £4b to £23b. The Economic Plan identifies five growth areas within which there are four transformational priorities, namely Leicester Launchpad (6,000 jobs), East Midlands Gateway Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (7,000 jobs), Loughborough University Science & Enterprise Parks (4,000 jobs) and MIRA Technology Park (2,000 jobs).
- 5.24 The latest *National Infrastructure Plan* was published by the Government in December 2014. The plan sets out investment for energy, transport, flood defence, waste, water and communications infrastructure up to 2020 and beyond. The Top 40 priority infrastructure investments include the following major transport projects within Leicestershire:
- M1 / M6 Junction 19 project with construction due to finish in 2016
 - A453 widening project between Nottingham, the M1 and East Midlands Airport, with completion due in 2015/16
- 5.25 In January 2012, the Government announced its decision to proceed with a £32.7 billion national High Speed Rail network (High Speed Two) from London to Birmingham, continuing onto Manchester and Leeds. The preferred route for HS2 phase two published in January 2013 lies partly within Leicestershire. Construction on Phase 1 between London and the West Midlands is programmed to start in 2017. Construction of Phase 2 could start in the middle of the next decade.
- 5.26 The importance and current distribution of Leicestershire's igneous rock means that it is likely that the County's quarries will continue

to supply major infrastructure both in the East Midlands and elsewhere in England.

- 5.27 The local factors referred to above will not necessarily lead to a significant change in the demand for aggregates from Leicestershire operations over and above the average experienced during the last 10 year period (2005 to 2014). The level of demand experienced during this period has been influenced by the economic recession. Whilst the economy has shown significant signs of recovery from the recession, the scale of any increase in demand will depend on the rate of future economic growth, which remains uncertain.