

Minerals Core Strategy - Summary Paper and Request for Potential Strategic Sites, July 2008

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Introduction

1

1 Introduction

1.1 Warwickshire County Council is preparing a Minerals Core Strategy for the period until 2026. This will set out the spatial vision, strategy and objectives for minerals development in the county which will provide the development framework for identifying sites to be allocated for mineral working. We are now requesting that operators and landowners put sites forward for potential inclusion in the Minerals Development Framework.

1.2 This process started in February 2006 with the preliminary consultation and went through two further stages of development – the Issues and Options in July 2006 and the Preferred Options in January 2007. After two periods of the required formal consultation taking place (the Issues and Options paper in July 2006 and the Preferred Options paper in January 2007) work on the Core Strategy was halted before submission to the Secretary of State.

A change in direction towards Strategic Sites in the Core Strategy

1.3 In mid 2007 we received guidance from the Government Office for the West Midlands that appeared to be leading mineral authorities to include strategic sites within their Mineral Development Frameworks. Changes to Planning Policy Statement 12 were put forward which would enable more flexibility for plan preparation. A consultation document entitled "Streamlining Local Development Frameworks" was produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in November 2007 to address the inflexibility of the original system. In regard to the strategic sites issue the proposed changes stated,

1.4 *"Existing PPS12 paragraph 2.16 sets out that the Core Strategy is not the place to be making site allocations. However, it has become clear that there may well be areas where the options for determining the location of key **strategic sites that are critical to the overall delivery of the strategy are very limited, in which case it would be unhelpful to delay the point at which there could be certainty surrounding such sites. In these circumstances it would be desirable to carry out the appraisal of those sites and allocate them in the Core Strategy.** This has the added advantage of bringing forward the delivery of these key sites, as the Core Strategy will normally be the first DPD produced. This means that there will be far less delay in making key strategic sites available. Since these sites are often ones requiring a long lead time in terms of infrastructure planning, this is especially helpful. It will also assist in terms of being able to assess the ability of the core strategy to deliver the development required".*

1.5 Warwickshire County Council takes the view that in practice almost all minerals sites within the County are of strategic importance for the construction industry or for energy production. For this reason we intend to put forward these sites for submission within the Core Strategy document. As part of this process we will develop the Core Strategy further with new spatial options while at the same time considering new sites to be allocated. This document is the first stage in the request for the industry and landowners to bring forward new sites for allocation. We intend to look at the sites put forward for allocation over the late summer and autumn 2008 and prepare a Revised Spatial Options paper in January 2009 which will incorporate the sites put forward. There is a checklist of requirements at the rear of this document which is intended to guide those putting forward sites.

Introduction

Minerals Development Scheme

1.6 The revised Minerals Development Scheme, approved by the Cabinet in November 2007, is set out below.

MINERALS CORE STRATEGY TIMETABLE

STAGE	APPROVED DATES
Early Stakeholder and community engagement	December 2007 – December 2008
Consultation Stage: Issues and Options	Revised Spatial Options January 2009
Consultation Stage: Preferred Options and Proposals	November 2009
Date of Submission to the Secretary of State and public consultation on Core Strategy	July 2010
Pre-Examination Meeting	October 2010
Examination	January 2011
Receipt of Inspectors Report	July 2011
Estimated Date for Adoption (Full Council approval needed)	September 2011

2 Issues

Overview

2.1 The previous work we carried out has not been wasted. The revised timetable has allowed us time to analyse and reflect upon two sets of consultation responses (from the Issues and Options and Preferred Options) and we have refined the key issues further and added some new and emerging issues such as flooding and climate change, which were not given enough weight in the previous documents. In order to guide industry and landowners when coming forward with new sites we have developed the spatial strategy on from the Preferred Options. At this stage we are introducing the issues but will discuss them in greater detail when we consult on the Revised Spatial Options in January 2008.

2.2 In the Issues and Options Document we identified 19 Key Issues on which we consulted and formed options which were tested against a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Preferred Options were chosen and these were also consulted on and again tested through a SA. A brief overview of all the Key Issues follows in this section with the new emerging issues also outlined.

2.3 The emerging Spatial Strategy is set out in section 3. The Spatial Vision and Objectives which have been refined following our previous consultations, are set out again with amendments. The emerging strategy seeks to outline the desirable development principles whereby sustainable mineral development could take place. A more detailed assessment of potential development options based on these will be made in the Revised Options Paper in January 2009. The development principles are summarised on the maps in Appendix 4.

2.4 These describe the existing geology, local transport networks, physical constraints, existing mineral sites, existing built form and potential new development e.g. growth points, some of which may be outside the county boundary. It is intended that the maps along with the emerging strategy will help operators and landowners identify sites which are likely to fit in with the final spatial strategy which will be put forward for submission. These will be set in greater detail in the new Revised Spatial Options paper in January 2009 which will also contain the various sites put forward for consideration.

Issues

General Issues

2.5 The following section summarises the Key Issues. These were identified and consulted on, in the Issues and Options and Preferred Options documents. Following the analysis of the Preferred Options and the completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, some new important issues have come forward. These are: agricultural land, inert waste, flood risk management and on-site renewable energy. The key issues have been outlined once again and are intended to help focus thinking about where the strategic sites may fit in with the emerging strategy.

Key Issue : Development Criteria

All proposals and allocations for mineral development will have to be considered against certain development criteria. This will include likely impacts and mitigation measures relating to agricultural land, nationally and regionally important ecological sites, flood risk and the transport network

Sustainable Mineral Development

Key Issue : Extensions to Existing Workings

Extensions to existing mineral workings can often have less environmental impacts than new sites and therefore this approach has been taken by the Core Strategy. Extensions are defined as new areas permitted for development which is “contiguous with an existing, dormant or un-restored site”. The Core Strategy will look favourably on proposals to extend existing mineral sites provided their impacts are environmentally acceptable and in accordance with all other relevant planning policy

Key Issue : Borrow Pits

2.6 Large construction projects such as roads or airports require large amounts of aggregates and construction materials which, if sourced locally, can help reduce the environmental impacts of the overall development. Borrow Pits are often small quarries adjacent to the main construction project and can reduce the need for bulk transportation of materials and conserve reserves in existing quarries. They will be restored as part of the main construction project and therefore tied to this project.

Key Issue : Mineral Safeguarding Areas

2.7 Mineral Safeguarding is a major component of sustainable mineral resource management and Mineral Planning Authorities should ensure that proven mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development. Warwickshire is currently working with the British Geological Survey on creating new Minerals Safeguarding Areas for the county which will be a tool used by the local district planning authorities.

Key Issue : Buffer Zones

2.8 The Minerals Core Strategy should state no minimum distance around settlements, properties and other important sites but stand off zones around mineral developments should be decided at the application stage on a site by site basis. Blanket buffer zones can lead to the unnecessary sterilisation of viable resources.

Key Issue : Transport

2.9 The majority of mineral operations will involve the bulk movement of minerals and materials from the point of extraction to the site of use or processing. The most common, accessible and cost effective method of transporting aggregates and other bulk materials from quarries to where they are required is by road. However, the most environmentally sustainable method of bulk transportation would be by either rail or water although it must be accepted opportunities for these alternative modes of transportation are very limited in Warwickshire. It is proposed that all new developments should have to provide a detailed traffic impact assessment showing that where HGVs are the chosen transportation option they must avoid unacceptable impacts on local communities. This Assessment should also consider road and rail methods and clearly demonstrate they are unfeasible.

Construction Aggregates - Primary

Key Issue : Sand and Gravel

2.10 Current National and Regional guidelines state that Warwickshire should make available 1.043 million tonnes of sand and gravel a year to ensure that the construction industry has a secure supply of essential materials. The Minerals Core Strategy will cover the 15 year period between 2011 and 2026 and so the requirement is for Warwickshire to provide for an additional 15 million tonnes of sand and gravel. This will mean the Minerals Core Strategy will have to allocate additional sites and areas in the plan for future extraction

Key Issue : Crushed Rock

2.11 Like sand and gravel, crushed rock for the construction industry has national guidelines relating to the amount of this material required to maintain economic growth. The quarries around Mancetter and Nuneaton (Griff, Jeas and Boon) have large reserves of material but allocations for new sites for extraction will be contained in the core strategy if viable reserves exist.

Key Issue : Secondary and Recycled Aggregates

2.12 The Minerals Core Strategy has identified the importance of secondary and recycled aggregates in reducing the need for primary extraction. There is a clear distinction between recycled aggregates such as construction and demolition waste and secondary aggregates such as mining and quarrying waste and overburden.

Issues

Economic Minerals

Key Issue : Brick Clay

2.13 The brickworks at Kingsbury serves a national market and produced 67 million brick items in 2007 from 210,000 tonnes of locally extracted Etruria Marl. The plant has current reserves predicted to last 17 years and will require new permissions over the life time of the Minerals Core Strategy in order to maintain permitted reserves equivalent to 25 years of production. This allows for long term investment in the plant to be undertaken and ensure it can be operated within existing and emerging environmental legislation. The Core Strategy will contain site allocations adjacent to the existing brickworks if they are environmentally acceptable and economically viable.

Key Issue : Cement

2.14 The Cemex works in Rugby is now of national importance and produces around 1.2 million tonnes of cement from clay extracted at its quarry at Southam and chalk piped in from Bedfordshire. Clay reserves equate to around 30 years at current production rates but over the plan period it may be necessary to allocate future areas of extraction. This will be in order to maintain sufficient reserves of suitable material in order to allow for the long term management of the works and enable it to comply with government guidance and environmental legislation relating to cement works.

Key Issue : Coal

2.15 Recent developments in the government's Energy Strategy for the UK mean that coal could have a significant role in providing security in the energy sector. Warwickshire has one deep mine at Daw Mill and sites which could be exploited by opencast methods in the north of the county.

2.16 Viable sites for opencast will be encouraged to be assessed for allocated in the Core Strategy but there is no evidence that new deep mining operations will occur in Warwickshire during the lifespan of the plan.

Key Issue : Building Stone

2.17 Local stone has historically been used to varying degree in all parts of Warwickshire and has made a valuable contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of parts of the county. The castles of Warwick and Kenilworth, the stone villages in the south and most parish churches have all been constructed with stone and with no current extraction in the county new sites will be encouraged to be included in the Core Strategy.

2.18 The importance of the Cotswold AONB has been identified through consultation on the Core Strategy as there was no specific reference to this area. The Core Strategy will now include a policy which will seek to prevent aggregate extraction in the Cotswold AONB whilst making provision for the supply of local building stone where appropriate.

Key Issue : Onshore Oil and Gas

2.19 The core strategy will seek to provide policies for proposals for gas storage facilities and new coal gas extraction technologies but there is no evidence to allocate sites for such activities

Issues

Operational Issues

Key Issue : Restoration

2.20 Mineral developments are temporary land uses and all sites are required to have an approved restoration scheme. Typically, mineral sites offer opportunities for biodiversity benefits and public amenity schemes and the core strategy will continue to encourage such schemes. During the consultation phases of the emerging Core Strategy new priorities have been identified and will be given the appropriate high level of consideration.

Emerging Key Issues

2.21 As a result of the previous Preferred Options consultation the following issues have been identified as important areas which need to be addressed in the emerging Minerals Core Strategy.

Key Issue : Agricultural Land

2.22 Protecting areas of high quality agricultural land is becoming increasingly important in view of the current increases in world food production. The need to protect areas of both high grade and most versatile agricultural land in Warwickshire was identified in the recent Preferred Options consultation and is supported by Planning Policy Statement 7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas).

2.23 Therefore, where possible, extraction of minerals should be encouraged in areas of lower agricultural land quality. However, where higher grade agricultural land, classified as 1, 2 or 3a, will be disturbed there will be a requirement to restore this land to its original or enhanced classification. Therefore, the Minerals Development Framework will seek to maintain and where possible increase the agricultural land quality in the county.

Key Issue : Inert Waste

2.24 The increasing use of Construction and Demolition Waste as a construction aggregate will mean that there is less of this material available for landfilling as part of restoration schemes. It is also a more sustainable approach to use construction and demolition material in this way and so reduce the need for primary aggregate extraction. Therefore, the core strategy should look to prevent the disposal of inert waste in quarry restorations unless it is for the reinstatement of high grade agricultural land.

Key Issue : Flood Risk Management

2.25 The Core Strategy should seek to encourage restoration schemes which will support the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Strategies and River Catchment Management Plans. With legislation moving waste treatment away from landfilling there may be more opportunities to restore quarries as flood attenuation and storage areas. Such restoration schemes may also have biodiversity and agricultural benefits.

2.26 The Core Strategy should also seek to encourage mineral development where the primary purpose should be the creation of flood management schemes, providing they have no adverse impacts on local communities.

Key Issue : Renewable Energy

2.27 Warwickshire as an authority is signed up to a Local Area Agreement (LAA) which commits the County and its Local Authorities to the following strategy

2.28 *"To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Warwickshire to at least the level set out by Government policy. These levels are a 15%-18% reduction by 2010 and a 60% reduction by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). We will achieve this whilst maintaining and improving the quality of life of Warwickshire residents through the implementation of a policy of sustainable development."* This LAA agreement was adopted in July this year and replaces the previous requirement for new developments to provide 15% of their energy requirements from renewable energy sources.

2.29 Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy, clearly states that *"Local Planning Authorities may include policies in local development documents that require a percentage of the energy to be used in new residential, commercial or industrial developments to come from on-site renewable energy developments"* This Merton style approach to renewable energy is one way in which the Minerals Development Framework Core Strategy could approach the issue of renewable energy in its policies. A Merton style approach is also advocated in Planning Policy Statement 1: Planning and Climate Change, which states that planning authorities should *"set out a target percentage of the energy to be used in new development to come from decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy sources where it is viable"*.

2.30 By applying a Merton type policy to minerals developments it may be possible to help achieve the overall carbon reduction targets stated in the current LAA. The Minerals Core Strategy would however recognise that allowances would be made to minerals developments, that due to their nature and operational characteristics, on site production of energy may not be easily accommodated.

Closed Key Issues

2.31 The following key issues have been thoroughly assessed over several consultation documents and it has been determined that there is no specific requirement to create planning policies covering these issues.

Key Issue : Monitoring and Enforcement

2.32 As the Minerals Planning Authority, Warwickshire already has a responsibility to monitor its policies in its planning document through the Annual Monitoring Report and regularly review the performance.

2.33 It was evident in the previous consultation responses that "Monitoring and Enforcement of Planning" of permissions and conditions are a statutory requirement of the planning process and already undertaken by the county council. Therefore there does not appear to be any need for the core strategy to address these issues with the inclusion of any specific policies.

Issues

Key Issue : Liaison Meeting

2.34 Following our previous consultation there was general agreement that Liaison meetings were beneficial. Discussion centred around whether they should be set up by the industry or on an ad hoc basis when the community required to meet. It is considered that regular liaison meetings should be set up and held at regular intervals. Accordingly a policy should be set in place in the plans to ensure that liaison meetings are a condition of any planning approval. This will not appear in the list of issues at the next consultation.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

3 The Emerging Spatial Strategy

3.1 In outlining the emerging spatial strategy it is important to define the spatial vision and spatial objectives which have been refined following our previous consultation work.

Spatial Vision

3.2 The Spatial Vision is a portrait of what the county may look like at the end of the plan period (2021) in terms of how the MDF will be implemented. The plan will encompass our aspirations for the future direction of growth in line with the development strategy of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and especially focusing on the objectives of the county council and district community strategies. We have refined the Vision through two sets of consultations. The Vision has now been changed to the following:

3.3 “*To secure and manage the long term sustainable supply of Warwickshire’s primary and secondary minerals serving local, regional and national needs whilst conserving the environment and promoting long term social and economic benefits.*”

Objectives for the MDF

3.4 The MDF objectives which have been consulted on previously within the plan process have now been developed further. The objectives have now have been scrutinised twice and refined following stakeholder comments. Having also assessed the national mineral objectives and taken in to account these consultation comments, we have prepared a revised set of objectives to achieve the Spatial Vision.

3.5 Wording in **bold type** refers to changes made following consideration of comments made during the Preferred Options Consultation. These are as follows:

- *To help deliver sustainable mineral **development** by promoting the prudent use and **safeguarding** of Warwickshire’s mineral **resources** and help prevent **sterilisation of land**.*
- *To promote the use of recycled or secondary materials and promote waste minimisation **to** reduce the overall demand for primary mineral extraction.*
- *To **secure** the supply of minerals required to support **sustainable** economic growth at the national, **regional** and local level.*
- *To **conserve and enhance** the natural and historic environment and mitigate potential adverse effects associated with mineral developments.*
- *To have **full** regard for the concerns and interests of local communities and protect them from unacceptable environmental effects resulting from mineral developments;*
- *To minimise the impact of the movement of bulk materials by road on local communities and where possible encourage the use of alternative modes of transport.*
- *To ensure mineral sites are restored to a high standard once extraction has ceased and that each site is restored to the most beneficial use(s).*

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

- ***To promote the use of locally extracted materials to encourage local distinctiveness and reduce transportation.***
- ***To secure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the working and transport of minerals and to look for opportunities where mineral extraction can help mitigate the predicted impacts of climate change.***
- To ensure that the 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is protected and restored to its original or enhanced state if affected by mineral development.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

Spatial Strategy - New Approach

Spatial Strategy - New Approach

3.6 It is clear that a new approach for the allocation of mineral sites, especially those for sand and gravel extraction, is required than previously used in the Minerals Local Plan (1995). The role of the quarry industry is crucial to providing sites which are deliverable over the plan period and promoted sites should also be assessed for their environmental impacts and other sustainable development benefits.

3.7 The current Warwickshire Minerals Plan identified sites through a process of using all available geological data on sand and gravel resources in Warwickshire and highlighting areas likely to contain workable deposits. A sieve mapping exercise was then undertaken to remove areas which were subject to environmental and other restraints such as developed land. This broad sieve mapping process resulted in the allocation of 20 sites (Preferred and Areas of Search) which were contained in the Minerals Local Plan.

3.8 The methodology of this allocation process has proved insufficient to provide sites likely to come forward for sand and gravel production in Warwickshire as it resulted in only three applications for new sites since its adoption, all of which were withdrawn. The plan did allocate 5 areas for sand and gravel extraction which were extensions to existing workings, two of which have now been worked out.

3.9 Therefore, for the new plan we have identified "geology, sustainable development principles and need for the mineral" as the main factors which will determine the location, size and extent of mineral sites in the new Minerals Development Framework to ensure the plan is deliverable.

Geology

3.10 Minerals can only be worked where they are naturally found in the ground. A basic geology map for Warwickshire is contained in the Appendix to this document. It clearly identifies the main geological units and the areas which may contain sand and gravel resources.

3.11 Sand and Gravel resources are the most widespread across the county and follow the existing river network with older glacial deposits located broadly around Rugby, the A5 and Coventry. The occurrence of other economic mineral resources in Warwickshire is much more restricted and localised. The Etruria Marl can only feasibly be extracted adjacent to the Kingsbury Brickworks and the crushed rock reserves are confined to the Nuneaton area. With regards to shallow coal reserves, only deposits in the north of the county could be worked by opencast methods. Building stone in Warwickshire has only been extracted on a small scale in recent years and restricted to the Ironstone near the Oxfordshire border. The Jurassic clays used for the manufacture of cement at the Rugby cement works are widespread over the east of the county although most of the available rock has not been assessed for its suitability for use in cement manufacture.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

Sustainability Development Principles

3.12 Sustainable development can be simply defined as *"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations"*. Although it is accepted that minerals are in the main a finite resource, their development and management must be made as sustainable as possible. The demand for minerals must therefore be met with the minimum cost to the environment. The importance of protecting mineral resources to ensure they are available for future generations is also a key part of sustainable resource management.

- Economic, and Social factors will all be considered in planning for future mineral development and in Warwickshire these main issues are;
 - i. Proximity to markets i.e. areas of major new development and "Growth Areas" - to minimise travel distances.
 - ii. Capacity for rail or water transport to be utilised
 - iii. Good access to major road routes/ avoiding villages and minor roads - access on to the main Heavy Goods Vehicle routes in the county.
 - iv. Impacts on communities and residential areas should be kept to a minimum and opportunities for long term benefits through restoration should be achieved.
- Quarry extensions can make use of existing infrastructure and may offer less environmental impacts than new sites.
- Development should avoid, adequately mitigate and enhance the natural environment with respect to:
 - i. Biodiversity, the Historic Environment and Geodiversity
 - ii. Statutory Designated Areas - e.g. Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Archaeology, Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
 - iii. The best quality and most versatile Agricultural Land.

3.13 Maps have been included in the Appendix identifying the main areas of economic and housing growth, environmental constraints, resource geology, environmental constraints and approved HGV routes across the county, all of which will help to shape the overall spatial strategy.

The Need for Minerals

3.14 The Spatial Strategy needs to provide the framework which will ensure the mineral demands in the county are met. The Core Strategy should run for 15 years from adoption and the plan, estimated to be adopted in 2011, should plan for mineral extraction in Warwickshire

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

up until 2026. The number of new sites required to be allocated in the plan will therefore be determined by the estimated need for that mineral until 2026. These new sites should be deliverable within the plan period and consultation from the minerals industry is crucial in achieving the allocation of realistic sites for future extraction.

Primary Construction Aggregates

3.15 The provision of land won Primary Aggregates comes from the published National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England. The national figures for aggregates are predictions based on current economic and housing growth and are published by the UK government. The latest figures run from 2003 to 2016 but a revision to these predictions is currently on going and would cover the period 2005 to 2020. These national figures are broken down into regional targets which are then apportioned between the Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) of that region via the Regional Aggregate Working Parties (RAWP). The West Midlands RAWP draws its members from the officers of the various MPAs and representatives from the industry through its trade associations the Quarry Products Association (QPA) and British Aggregates Association (BAA). Other members of this RAWP group include representatives from Government (Communities and Local Government), the National Federation of Demolition Contractors (NFDC) and Government Office for the West Midlands.

Brick Clay

3.16 The supply of brick clay is addressed in Mineral Planning Statement 1: Annex on Brick Clay. Planning authorities with brickworks or reserves of clay which supply facilities in other authorities should look to provide a stock of permitted reserves sufficient to allow 25 years of production. The Annex also suggests that reserves of strategically important Etruria Marl and Fireclay (from opencast coal extraction) should be safeguarded as they are specialist brick making materials and may be required to serve a number of brickworks nationwide.

Cement

3.17 Government Planning Guidance relating to the provision of cement states that "*Mineral planning authorities should normally aim to maintain cement plant with a stock of permitted reserves of at least 15 years. Where significant new investment (such as a new kiln) is agreed with the mineral planning authority, the plant should be provided with a stock of permitted reserves to provide for at least 25 years.*" Therefore, with current reserves for the Rugby Works currently at around 30 years it will be necessary to allocate future areas of extraction at or around the quarry at Southam. This requirement for allocation of new areas for extraction is given extra weight by the fact that hydrological and geological variables may reduce the amount of suitable reserves at the Southam Quarry.

Coal

3.18 Government Policy on indigenous coal extraction, the UK's evolving Energy Strategy and the increase in the world price of coal mean that future deep mining will continue in Warwickshire and new opencast operations will also be seriously considered by energy and mining companies.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

Building Stone

3.19 There are no stated targets or specific guidance for the production of building stone and its extraction in Warwickshire has almost completely ceased. However, Planning Policy Statement 1 contains an Annex dedicated to the supply of natural building stone. Its importance in the restoration of local heritage buildings and preserving and contributing to the local distinctiveness of Warwickshire should be fully recognised.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

Request for New Sites

3.20 This document is a summary of all previous consultation documents as the structure of the Core Strategy has changed to now include strategic sites in accordance with the recently amended PPS12. We would therefore now invite mineral companies and landowners to submit their applications for sites to be assessed for inclusion in the Core Strategy. A checklist has been provided in this document outlining the level of detail required at this stage of the submission process. This checklist will also be available as a separate document on the Minerals Core Strategy section of the Warwickshire County Council web site.

3.21 Sites submitted to the council will be initially assessed over summer and autumn 2008 and the first public consultation on these sites will be in January 2009. This document will incorporate the sites which we feel fit best with Warwickshire's emerging vision and spatial strategy for the Minerals Core Strategy.

3.22 It would be helpful if all parties seeking to promote specific sites for future mineral extraction in Warwickshire submit their initial applications by October 1st 2008.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

Criteria Checklist - New Site Allocation Proposals

General Details	
Mineral Type(s) (sand and gravel, crushed rock, brick clay, coal etc)	
Address	
Grid Reference	
Parish	
Area (hectares)	
Developer	
Landowner	
Mode of Transport for Mineral	
Extension to existing works? ^{*1}	
Site Plan Included	
Location of Site Access indicated	
Route to Preferred Lorry Network ^{*2}	
Settlements and Constraints ^{*3}	
Flood Zone Map	
Location of processing plant	
Ancillary Developments required?	
National and regional designations – (AONB, SSSI, SAC, RIGS etc) ^{*4}	
Archaeological Features and historic buildings ^{*5}	
Local ecological and geological features ^{*6}	
Operational Details	
Geological Formation and details	
End Uses of Mineral	
Estimated Resource (tonnes)	
Overburden Thickness and Details	
Estimated Annual Output (tonnes)	
Estimated Duration of Operations	
Estimated Daily Vehicle Movements	

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

General Details	
Destination of mineral, market or further processing facility.	
Will extraction occur around or below the water table?	
Environmental Information	
Does the site effect Agricultural Grades 1,2 and 3a “best and most versatile”?	
Estimated Impact on local Ecology and Biodiversity	
Groundwater Protection Zones	
Estimated Impact on overall Hydrology of the area.	
Restoration Options	
Please provided outline details of the restoration scheme including:	
What are the proposed site after-uses?	
If Agricultural Grade 1,2, 3a and 3b is affected, can it be restored to its original or enhanced state?	
Will the site require the importation of inert and other waste steams?	
Will the site offer opportunities for biodiversity and habitat enhancement? Can it make a contribution to the Warwickshire Local Biodiveristy Action Plan (LBAPs)?	
Can the site offer opportunities for schemes for flood risk management?	

*¹ Extension refers to development which would be ‘contiguous with an existing, dormant or unrestored site’

*² Warwickshire Advisory Lorry Route Map (2005), produced by the County Council.

*³ The location of urban areas, settlements and residential and other land uses.

The Emerging Spatial Strategy

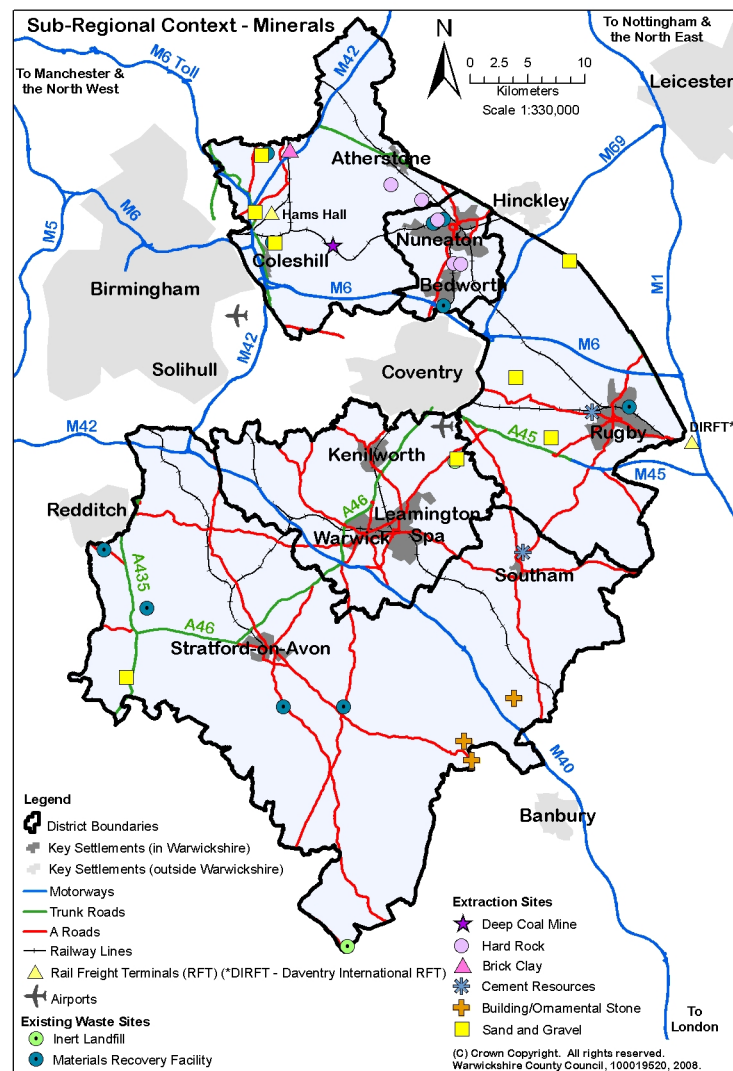
*⁴ Sites designated International, National, Regional, and Local Importance –

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSI)
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- National Trust Properties
- Conservation Areas
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Special Landscape Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation

*⁵ Archaeological Sites include those recorded on the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record

*⁶ Regional Important Geological Sites (RIGS) and areas identified as being important ecological sites, such as Sites of Interest tot Nature Conservation (SINCs).

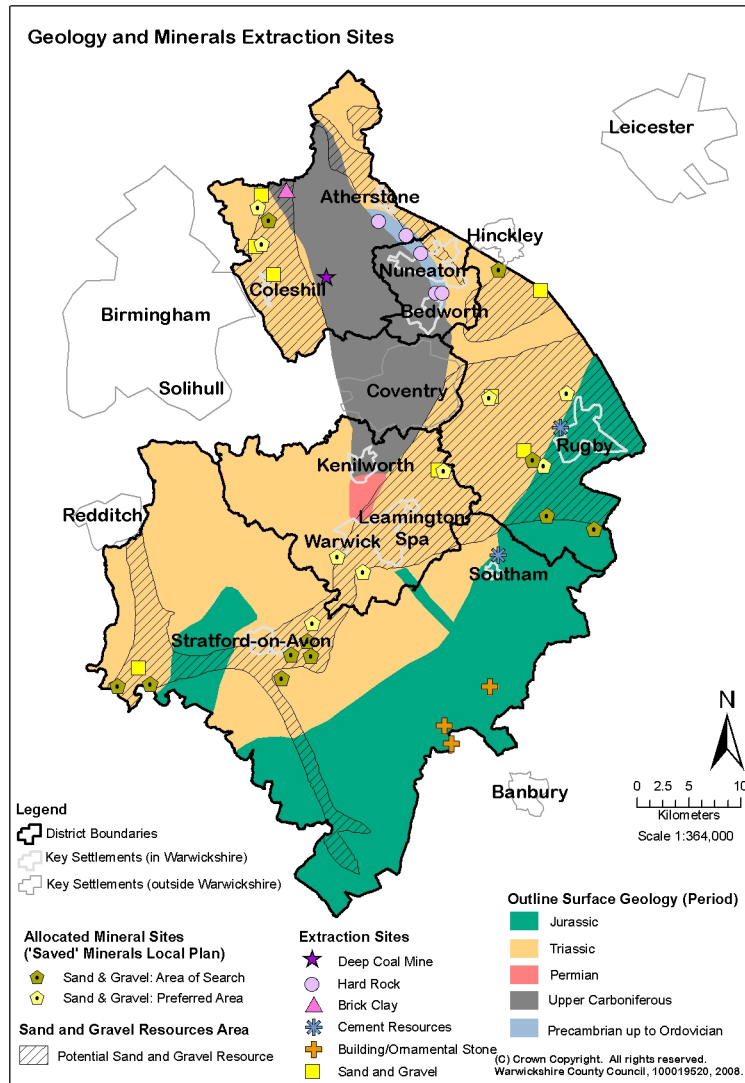
4 Appendix Maps



Importance to Emerging Spatial Strategy

- Location of main urban areas and Infrastructure in and around Warwickshire.

4 Appendix Maps

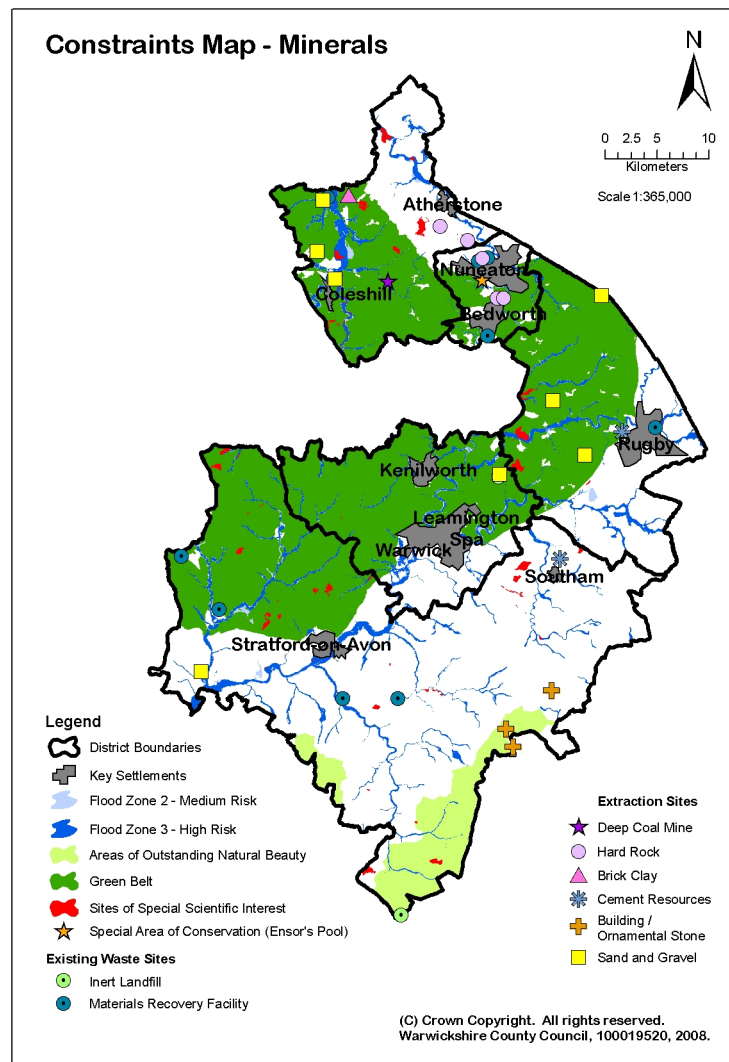


Importance to Emerging Spatial Strategy

- Active Mineral Sites
- Allocated sites for Sand and Gravel extraction in current plan
- Broad Sand and Gravel resources areas in Warwickshire
- Restricted outcrop of Crushed Rock reserve in north of county
- (not shown - very restricted and localised mineral resources for Brick Clay and near surface Coal)

Appendix Maps

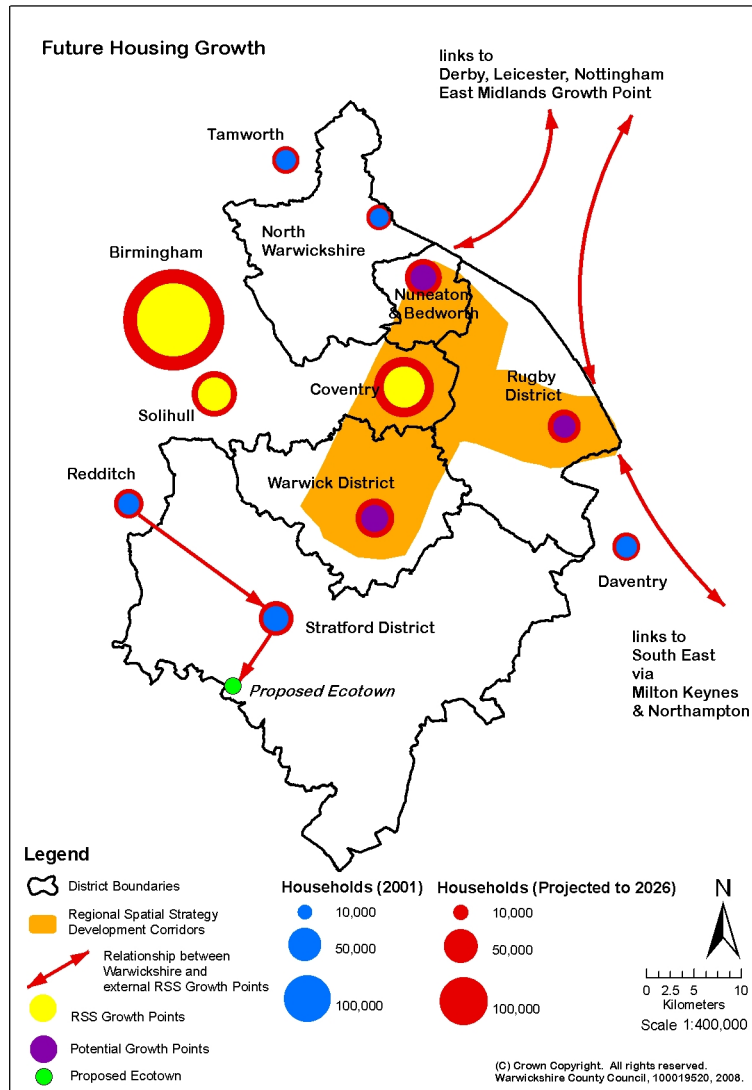
4



Importance to Emerging Spatial Strategy

- Areas of Flood Risk
- Location of Green Belt
- Location of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (National Designation) and Special Area of Conservation (European Designation)
- Extent of urbanised areas in Warwickshire

4 Appendix Maps

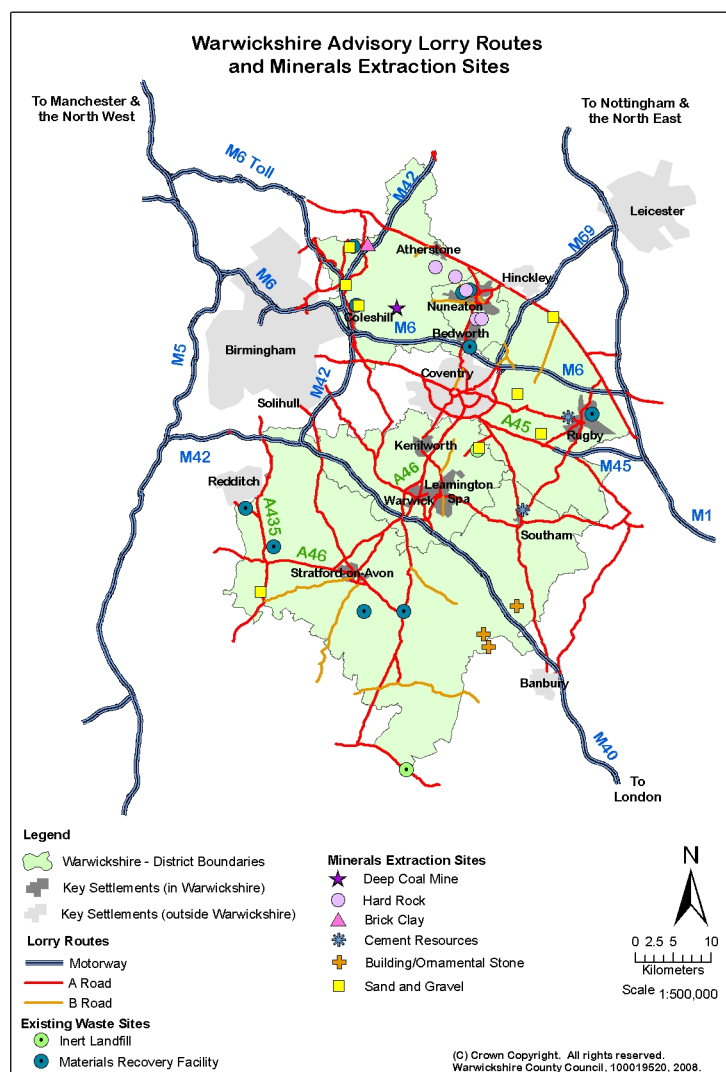


Importance to Emerging Spatial Strategy

- Areas of future Housing and Employment Growth in Warwickshire
- Proximity of other major Growth Areas to Warwickshire
- Proposed Eco-Town site

Appendix Maps

4



Importance to Emerging Spatial Strategy

- Routes where the bulk transportation of minerals will be encouraged to use in Warwickshire

Glossary

5 Glossary

Aftercare

The management and treatment of land for a set period of time immediately following the completed restoration of a mineral workings to ensure the land is returned to the required environmental standard.

After-use

The long term use that land formerly used for mineral workings is restored to. This use can be agricultural, forestry or public amenity such as country parks.

Aggregates

A term defined by the British Geological Survey to describe “granular or particulate material which is suitable for use, on its own or with a binder such as cement, lime or bitumen, in construction as concrete, mortar, roadstone, asphalt or drainage courses, or for use as constructional fill or railway ballast”.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

These are statutory designations under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The primary objective is the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape.

Apportionment

The proportional split of the regional guidelines for the supply of aggregates for the West Midlands which is shared between the Mineral Planning Authorities.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

The report prepared by the County Council to assess the implementation of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and to what extent to which the policies in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework are being successfully implemented.

Ancillary Operations

Those activities associated with the winning and working of minerals such as processing.

Areas of Search

Areas of Search are designated sites which have mineral potential but for which there hasn't been the detailed investigation to prove the quality of the deposit. Therefore industry is encouraged to assess their economic viability. These areas have been examined against environmental constraints and their identification confers a general presumption in favour of proposals for extraction within them.

Borrow Pit

A temporary and usually small scale mineral extraction operation specifically to supply mineral to a major construction project nearby.

Buffer Zones

These are areas drawn around settlements or properties in which mineral development is prohibited. The purpose of these zones is to protect settlements from disruption caused by the working of minerals or prevent sterilisation on mineral resources by the encroachment of other developments.

Crushed Rock

Naturally occurring rock which is crushed into a series of required sizes to produce an aggregate.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

DPD's outline the key development goals of the Local Development Framework. These are documents that have been subject to rigorous community involvement, consultation and independent examination. Once adopted, development control decisions must be made in accordance with the DPDs, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Core Strategy is a DPD.

Inert Waste

Waste which will not easily decompose e.g. uncontaminated top soil; subsoil; clay; sand; brickwork; stone; silica and glass. Construction and Demolition waste is a common source of inert material.

Landbank

The total amount of permitted reserves of a mineral within the County.

Landfill

Landfill is the controlled deposit of waste into or onto land. Minerals workings and extraction sites can be used as landfills providing a means to restore the land. Where excavations for landfill are not available it may be possible to deposit waste onto the ground surface and create a waste disposal site – this is known as land-raising.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

At the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, over 150 countries pledged to conserve their dwindling biodiversity. Britain has already published a UK Biodiversity Action Plan. It is now encouraging local people and local organisations to form partnerships that can produce and deliver Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). The LBAP will provide a local response to the UK Government's National Action Plans for threatened habitats and species. It will contribute to national targets wherever these are relevant to Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull but will also set local targets. It will also contain action plans for all our local habitats and many of our threatened and declining local species. Warwickshire LBAP is due to be fully launched in 2006.

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Local Development Document (LDD)

The generic name given to all documents that make up the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

Local Development Scheme

The Local Development Scheme is a public “project plan” identifying which local development plan is to be produced and when.

Local Geodiversity Action Plan (LGAP)

Are a mechanism for co-ordinating and delivering local geological conservation adapted from the strategic approach for Biological conservation, (Local Biodiversity Action Plans)

Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs): *(to be replaced by **Mineral Safeguard Areas** in Minerals Core Strategy)*

MCA's are broad areas in which the presence of minerals resources has been identified but not assessed in detail. Currently Warwickshire County Councils MCA's define areas where there is a presence of **aggregate resources**. This has been supplied to all five District Councils within the County. As Mineral Planning Authority Warwickshire requires to be consulted on all planning applications falling within the Mineral Consultation Areas with the following exceptions.

- Development in accordance with the allocations of an adopted or deposited local plan
- Householder applications such as extensions to houses
- Reserved Matter applications unless the Mineral Planning Authorities specifically requested consultation at the Outline stage
- Minor Developments, such as fences, walls, bus shelters
- Applications for listed buildings unless specifically requested
- Advertisement applications
- Extensions or alterations to an existing use/building which do not fundamentally change the scale and character of the use/building, but **sub-division of a dwelling will require consultation**
- Developments requiring permission by virtue of a Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995

District Councils may be required to ensure that applicants provide evidence that for developments within MCA's the mineral potential of the area has been properly investigated and where sterilisation of reserves would occur, then planning permission should be refused unless overriding considerations exist.

Mineral Development

Any activity related to the exploration for the extraction and working of minerals, including tipping of spoil and ancillary operations such as the construction and use of processing plant.

Mineral Reserves:

Mineral deposits which have been investigated and are proven to be of economic importance due the quality, quantity and nature of the deposit.

Mineral Resource:

A potential source of a mineral where the deposits nature, quality and quantity has yet to be assessed or is not yet economic.

Mineral Safeguard Areas

These are clearly identified sites where mineral reserves are known, assessed and are very likely to be subject to a planning application for extraction in the near future. Warwickshire would expect to be consulted in the event of any planning application or proposed development within these sites and where sterilisation of the reserves would occur permission should be refused unless overriding conditions exist or the mineral could be extracted prior to development.

Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF)

A 'folder' containing all the Local Development Documents produced by Warwickshire for Minerals and Waste and therefore contains all the planning policies.

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS)

The project plan and timetable for the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks and all its constituent documents.

Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document

A document which sets out the long term vision, objectives and strategy for mineral development across Warwickshire up to 2026, and provides the framework for mineral development control.

Minerals Local Plan for Warwickshire

Detailed statutory land use plan adopted by Warwickshire in 1995 which sets out the specific policies and proposals to be applied to planning applications for the working of minerals in Warwickshire. The Minerals Local Plan is saved until September 2007. The Minerals Development Framework will replace this document.

Permitted Reserves

The quantity of mineral which is still in the ground but there exist a planning permission for its extraction. (*see Landbank*)

Preferred Areas

Areas which have known economic deposits of minerals and have been examined both against environmental constraints and mineral content. Their identification confers a general presumption in favour of proposals for extraction within them.

Glossary

Primary Aggregates

Material extracted or produced from naturally occurring mineral deposits used as an aggregate.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

The strategic plan setting out the region's policies relation to the development and use of land. This is a statutory plan and will form the basis for preparing Local Development Documents. The West Midlands RSS It is prepared by the West Midlands Regional Assembly acting in their role as the Regional Planning Body for the West Midlands.

Restoration

Once mineral developments have ceased sites are required to be returned to an acceptable environmental state whether this be a continuation of the existing land use or the creation of a new one.

Secondary Aggregates

These are materials which originate as waste products from quarrying and mining activities or as a by-product from an industrial process which can be processed and used as an aggregate in the construction industry. Examples include power station ash and colliery spoil.

Statement of Community Involvement

A document which outlines the standards and approach that the County will undertake in engaging stakeholders and the local community in producing its Minerals and Waste plans.

Special Area of Conservation

(SAC) - These are strictly protected sites of international importance designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

Sterilisation

This occurs when developments such as housing, roads or industrial parks are built over potential mineral reserves.

Sustainability Appraisal

This is a statutory requirement of the 2004 Planning Act. Sustainability Appraisal is an evaluative process for assessing the environmental, social and economic effects of all plans and programmes and appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives.

Waste Core Strategy

This sets out the long term vision, objectives and strategy for waste development across the County up to 2021 and provides the framework for waste development control.

Waste Allocations Development Plan Document

This will provide detailed land allocations for waste related developments and criteria based policies where this is not possible.

West Midlands Regional Aggregates Working Party

A working group which draws its members from the Mineral Planning Authorities of the West Midlands, representatives of the aggregates industry and central government established to consider and help plan for the supply of aggregates.