

Minerals Local Plan Background Document

Worcestershire Local Aggregates Assessment

Statement - December 2015

Contact: Marianne Joynes, minerals@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 766374

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The National Planning Policy Framework requires Minerals Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by preparing a Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA).

The LAA is an assessment of the demand for and supply of aggregates in the county. It will inform the Minerals Local Plan and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

National policy requires the LAA to be updated annually. However, we propose not to produce an update for 2015, and instead to invest this time in conducting a full review of the LAA, taking into account:

- Ongoing discussions with the West Midlands and other Aggregate Working Parties on Worcestershire's limited ability to supply crushed rock
- Responses to a consultation held in 2015
- Additional guidance which has been produced by the Minerals Products Association and Planning Officers Society which should be taken into account
- Any regional and national data updates which are available.

We intend to publish the revised LAA alongside the Third Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan in 2016.

Until this is published, the December 2014 Local Aggregates Assessment will remain in place.

Disclosure of Local Data

Due to a hiatus in secretary contracts, the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2013 (the WM AMR 2013) has not yet been published. In previous years Worcestershire's data in the WM AMR has been combined with that of other authorities for commercial confidentiality reasons. We currently have no evidence to suggest that Worcestershire's data will be shown separately when the WM AMR 2013 is published, and this makes it difficult to use the data in Worcestershire's LAA to make robust assumptions.

In November 2015 we were advised by the Mineral Products Association and the British Aggregates Association that their members are likely to be less concerned about the commercial confidentiality of their data than they have been in the past, and suggested that we write to each operator to request that they allow their data to be disclosed. We would like to pursue this approach, but this requires writing to minerals operators both within and beyond Worcestershire, and this exercise was beyond the resources and time available to inform an update of the Local Aggregates Assessment for 2015.

However, officers have discussed this with the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party and will seek to request data disclosure when surveys for the next set of data are sent out early in 2016.