



Cumbria and the Lake District National Park

Second Joint Annual Local Aggregates Assessment 2014 (incorporating figures for 2013)

1. The purpose of the annual Local Aggregates Assessment is for each mineral planning authority to assess the balance between the demand for and supply of aggregates. It should show whether there is a shortage or a surplus of supply. If there is a shortage, it should say how this is being addressed.
2. There are 14 working crushed rock quarries in Cumbria; two of these are partly within the Lake District National Park. There are 11 working sand and gravel quarries; none of these are within the National Park.
3. Cumbria is self-sufficient in aggregates and also supplies other markets in the North West, especially Lancashire, as well as other regions, especially the North East. Just under a third of Cumbrian quarries supply national markets, including Wales and Scotland.
4. The national policy criteria are that a minimum 7-year landbank should be maintained for land-won sand and gravel and a 10-year one for crushed rock. These should be based on the rolling average of 10 years annual sales data, whilst 3-year average annual sales should be used to identify trends.
5. In Cumbria, including the Lake District National Park, permitted reserves of **crushed rock** at the end of 2013, were 121.03 million tonnes (Mt), 10-year average annual sales had been 3.38 Mt, representing **a landbank of 35.78 years**. For land-won **sand and gravel**, permitted reserves were 9.89 Mt, 10-year annual average sales had been 0.64 Mt, representing **a landbank of 15.50 years**.
6. Those landbank calculations are based on annual sales levels that are significantly higher than the sales at present. This implies that the landbanks will last longer. On the basis of average annual sales 2011 to 2013, of 2.72 Mt for crushed rock and 0.47 Mt for sand and gravel, the landbanks would be 36.5 years and 21 years respectively. The 3-year average sales figures are used for planning purposes in the adopted Core Strategy and the draft Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

7. Although the landbanks comfortably exceed the minimum requirements, the County Council recognises that the figures may conceal two issues:-
 - the landbanks for high and very high specification roadstones need to be considered separately from those for crushed rock for general use. The landbank for those special aggregates alone, which supply national and regional markets, is around 18 years (*based on 9-year average sales, because 10-year ones are not yet available*).
 - there can be potential shortages in local supply areas within the county. This has already been identified as an issue for sand and gravel in the west and in the south of the county, and is addressed in the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy and in the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
8. There would appear to be potential for increased substitution of marine dredged aggregates, for primary land-won, sand and gravel. This is because the annual marine dredging rates off the Cumbria coast are substantially below those that are permitted. The draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan encourages facilities that would enable landings of marine dredged aggregates to be increased.
9. There are problems in obtaining figures for secondary and recycled aggregates in which confidence can be placed. There is nothing to suggest that availability of these alternatives is being constrained by lack of appropriate facilities.
10. The production and use of alternative aggregates, as a sustainable option to augment primary aggregates, will become an increasingly important element in the growth of Cumbria. The draft Local Plan identifies locations that would be appropriate for facilities producing alternative aggregates.
11. The Local Aggregates Assessment demonstrates that there is no shortage of supplies of aggregates on the basis of the landbanks for the county as a whole, but there is potential for shortages in local supply areas.
12. National policy requires that landbanks should, as far as practical, be maintained from outside National Parks and other landscape designations. This may constrain the supplies of crushed rock that Cumbria can make to other parts of the country in the future.
13. For more detail on the aggregates assessment than is contained in this 'headline' document, please see 'Cumbria and Lake District National Park Joint Annual Local Aggregates Assessment 2014: Supporting Information', dated September 2014 available from:
http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/MWLP/LAA.asp

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