

DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Towards a Minerals Local Plan: Spring 2018 Consultation

CHAPTER 5

Spatial Strategy

December 2017

Introduction

- 5.1 The Minerals Local Plan must ensure that there will be a steady and adequate supply of minerals over the Plan period. It must show that there are sufficient landbanks of certain minerals to sustain production over and beyond the Plan period. This may mean that additional sites will have to be identified in the Plan which will be available to meet this demand. The strategy will show the broad location of these sites.

Consultations Undertaken and Comments Received

- 5.2 The development of the new Minerals Local Plan has included a series of consultations to ascertain the views of relevant local authorities, organisations and bodies with an interest in mineral development and the potential implications of mineral development and the people of Derbyshire and their representatives.
- 5.3 From discussions and comments that have been received as part of the on-going process of engagement on the MLP, people have told us broadly where and how they think future mineral extraction should take place in Derbyshire and Derby.

Stakeholder Workshops 2009

- 5.4 From the initial stages in the preparation of the MLP, people have told us where they think mineral development should take place.

Issues and Options 2010

- 5.5 Although there was not a specific section of this document which covered a spatial strategy, the comments referred to above were reinforced through general responses received to the issues and options paper, as well as at subsequent engagement events, discussions with stakeholders and drop-in events.

Towards a Minerals Local Plan – Rolling Consultation 2015/2016

- 5.6 Five comments were received to this part of the Plan during the Rolling Consultation. These were as follows:
- The policy should seek compensation for/ replacement of community facilities that are lost to minerals development.

- The policy should expect developers to demonstrate how their restoration proposal would seek a positive contribution to the strategic improvement of the river valleys.
- The policy should refer to net gains from restoration and reflect local landscape initiatives.
- The policy should not need to prove that secondary and recycled materials cannot meet the demand proposed by primary minerals.
- The wording of the policy is at odds with Policy SMP1.

5.7 These comments have been used to revise this part of the Plan and where applicable the restoration strategy. Taking account of these comments and other considerations including key issues and the evidence base, this section sets out firstly, in broad terms, where sites could be worked for minerals over the Plan period. Secondly, it sets out the key spatial principles that will guide mineral development in the Plan area, both allocations in the Plan and other proposals which come forward over the Plan period. This spatial element is an important aspect of the Plan, giving a geographic dimension to the vision.

5.8 Further information can be found in the following document:

**Towards a Minerals Local Plan: Spring 2018 Consultation
Report of Representations and Responses, December 2017**

Duty to Co-operate

5.9 In order to obtain as much relevant information as possible about this part of the Plan, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council engaged in meetings and discussions with relevant organisations. This has helped to develop the evidence base for the approach set out below.

Sustainability Appraisal

5.10 The Sustainability Appraisal process is a way of testing the impact of the Plan against a series of sustainability objectives. Where the process recommends improvements to the Plan, these will be incorporated. A sustainability appraisal has been undertaken on all the papers which constituted the Towards a Minerals Local Plan Rolling Consultation 2015-2017.

It can be assumed that there will be a focus on extensions to existing sites, secondary materials and a link to strategic transport networks. Although there could be some localised effects upon communities and amenity, landscape and heritage, it is possible that these could be mitigated and issues associated with existing sites should be well known. There are no significant constraints with regards to biodiversity and good links to the strategic road network which should help to minimise transport emissions. With regards to crushed rock and other minerals, there are concentrations of quarries in the area. Those close to the Peak District and Cromford are close to SSSIs, so there is potential for negative effects if expansion occurs here. However, this could be mitigated. The principles ought to have a positive effect on land resources and energy use by encouraging reuse of materials and focusing on extensions to sites. The effect on housing and employment should also be positive.

The full appraisal is set out in the following document:

**Towards a Minerals Local Plan: Spring 2018 Consultation
Interim Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report, December 2017**

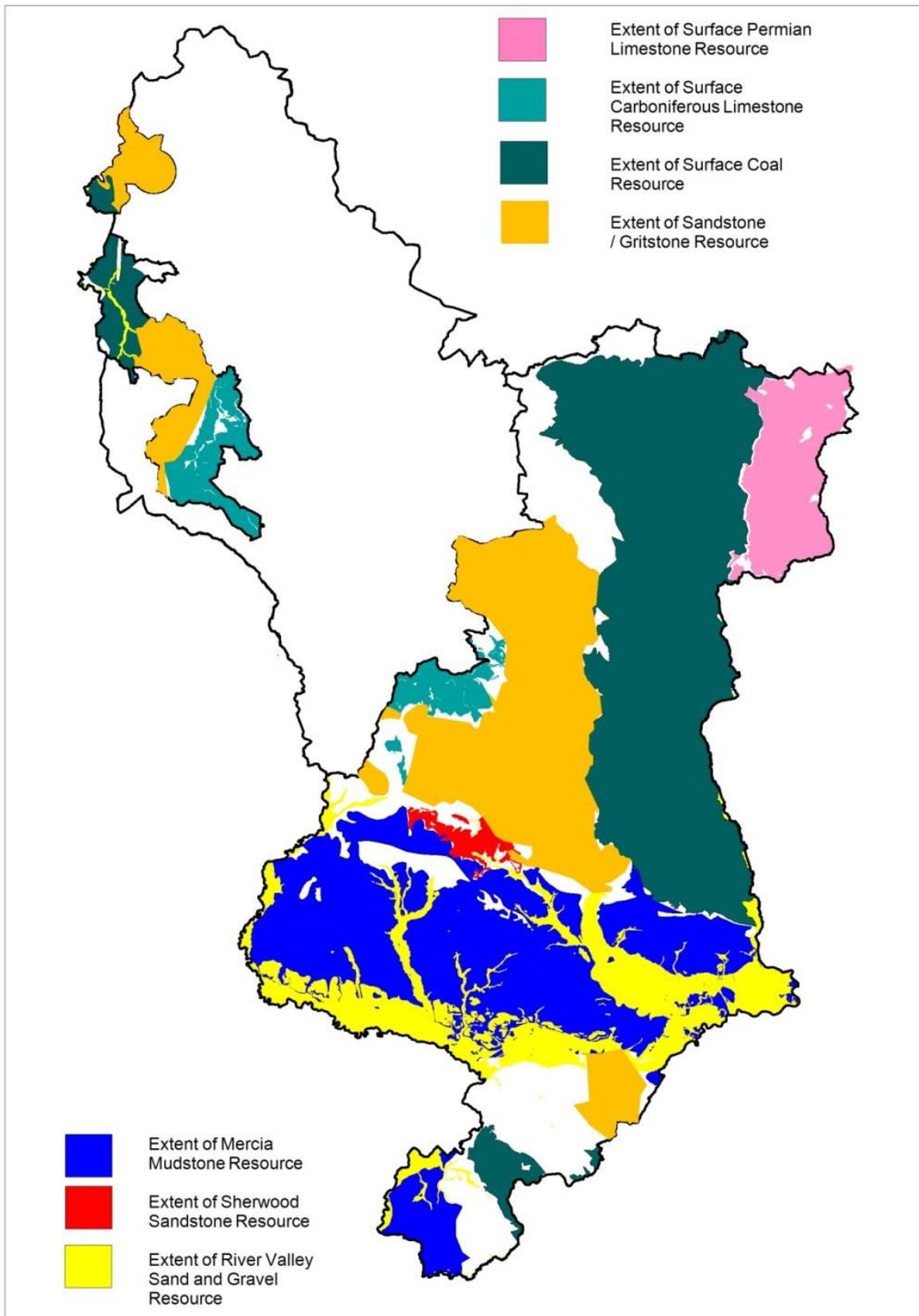
Spatial Principles

Broad Location of New Mineral Workings

5.11 People have recognised throughout the engagement process that any strategy for minerals planning is constrained by the geographic distribution of mineral resources in the Plan area. These are shown on the map below. This means that minerals can only be extracted where they occur naturally. In broad terms, therefore, this means that sand and gravel will be extracted in the south of the Plan area and limestone (Carboniferous and Permian) in the more central, north-western and north-eastern parts of the Plan area. Coal and other hydrocarbons are found in the more eastern parts of the Plan area.

Extensions to Sites

- 5.12 Throughout the engagement process on the MLP, people have highlighted issues which are appropriate to include within the spatial strategy. These include a preference for extensions to existing sites rather than wholly new sites because they make best use of existing resources and infrastructure, and for these sites to be in locations which minimise disruption to local communities and the local environment.
- 5.13 In response to what people have told us through the engagement process and taking account of national minerals policy and guidance, the Plan will give preference to extensions to existing mineral workings because they make the best and most efficient use of resources and existing infrastructure. These extensions to sites will be allocated in locations that will minimise transportation distances, and that seek, as far as is possible, to use more sustainable modes of transport.



Map 1: Derbyshire and Derby's Mineral Resources

5.14 This will represent the most sustainable approach to site selection in overall terms, making best use of resources and infrastructure, helping to reduce harmful emissions, minimising the impacts of mineral development on the causes of climate change, including reducing the incidence of flooding (See the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment). In accordance with what people have told us, the Plan will also help to ensure that sites for all types of mineral working are developed in a way which respects the social and environmental sensitivities of the area.

Provision of Aggregates

5.15 In terms of aggregate, further provision will be achieved to some extent by ensuring the availability of sufficient sites that produce secondary and recycled aggregates. Not all primary minerals can be replaced by these alternatives. Industry often requires primary minerals because of their specific qualities, and also the availability of alternative materials can be less reliable. It will be necessary, therefore, to allocate some sites for the extraction of primary aggregates where existing reserves would not be sufficient for the Plan period. The 2017 Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) shows that there are sufficient supplies of crushed rock for aggregate use. There may still be cases however, where sites will be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

5.16 The 2017 LAA indicates that further reserves of sand and gravel will have to be identified to maintain production over the Plan period. The site selection process has included criteria that reflect the principles in the spatial strategy and any other sites that come forward during the Plan period will be judged against the same principles.

Provision of Non-Aggregates

5.17 In terms of non-aggregate minerals, there is a requirement to allocate sites in the Plan to maintain supplies of industrial limestone. Proposals may also come forward for other minerals, such as building stone, coal and other hydrocarbons, and these will first be considered against the strategic principles set out in this spatial strategy.

Restoration of Sites

5.18 The strategic restoration of mineral workings will be an important consideration from the initial stages in planning for new quarries or for proposals for extensions to existing ones. Operators will be required to show that restored quarries will provide real and substantial benefits to the local community and to the environment and that the restoration scheme is not planned in isolation i.e. it has taken account of the wider area.

Policy SS1: Spatial Strategy

Proposals for mineral development in Derbyshire and Derby which embrace the following spatial principles will be supported:

- **Where sites are proposed for primary mineral production, it can be shown that it provides overall gains across the three sustainability themes, giving priority to the extension of existing sites.**
- **Where, so far as is practicable, proposals take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled material can make as an alternative to primary minerals.**
- **Where the site is in a location where the use of sustainable modes of transport can be maximised, thus helping to ensure that the development minimises its impact on the causes of climate change.**
- **The development will be located in areas where there would be no unacceptable adverse impacts on the local environment and the amenity and quality of life of local communities and any benefits are maximised, including where maximum use will be made of the primary road network to reduce the need for transport through villages.**
- **Where the strategic restoration of mineral workings has been considered from the outset in their planning and development and that the sites will be restored at the earliest opportunity and in the most appropriate manner for the area, resulting in after-uses which provide benefits to the environment and local communities and compensating for the loss of any community facilities that may occur as a result of the development taking place.**
- **Proposals for restoration in the river valleys should demonstrate how they contribute to the comprehensive restoration strategy and lead to a more coherent ecological network alongside community and economic benefits within and beyond the boundaries of Derby and Derbyshire.**

Do you have any comments on the Spatial Strategy?