



Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregates Assessment

Containing 2017 sales data

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Summary

The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) is a document that is to be produced under the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and covers the geographical area of Nottinghamshire, including the Nottingham City unitary authority area. It monitors annual sales data for aggregate minerals between 2008 and 2017 as well as identifying other relevant local information to enable the Mineral Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of minerals.

Aggregate minerals are made up of sand and gravel, Sherwood Sandstone and crushed rock and are used in the construction industry. Their main uses include concrete, mortar, asphalt, railway ballast and bulk fill.

The LAA sets out:

- Summaries of past aggregate sales, number of active quarries and the distribution of the extracted mineral;-
- The latest 10 and 3 year average sales data and a comparison to the previous average sales data; and,-
- The key issues that could affect the future demand for aggregates over the next plan period.

Key Findings

Nottinghamshire is an important producer of sand and gravel and Sherwood Sandstone and has a large export market, particularly to South Yorkshire and the wider East Midlands. Crushed rock production is minimal with most imported from Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

Whilst aggregate mineral resources are present in the Nottingham City area, the opportunities to work these minerals are limited due to the built-up nature of the area. As a result, the majority of aggregates consumed in the City are supplied from either Nottinghamshire or further afield.

The Nottingham City Land and Planning Policies document contains policies against which any proposal for minerals development within the City boundary would be assessed, including a Minerals Safeguarding Policy, however it does not include demand forecasts for aggregate minerals.

Sales of aggregate minerals fell significantly as a result of the recession in 2007 and since this time have remained subdued. This can be seen most dramatically in the sand and gravel sales and between 2008 -2009. In 2009 and 2016, sales of sand and gravel fell to their lowest level since records began in 1973.

The 2017 sales data shows a small increase in sand and gravel sales and a small fall for Sherwood Sandstone sales compared to the 2016 data. Crushed rock (limestone) output remains at zero.

The latest 10-year average sales figures show that sand and gravel has steadily fallen since the first LAA was published in 2013, whilst Sherwood Sandstone sales have remained broadly stable and sales of crushed rock (limestone) has continued to decline. This is due to the greater

influence of the subdued sales on the monitoring period for sand and gravel and the lack of replacement quarries coming forward to replace worked out quarries.

The 3-year average sales figure shows a similar pattern, with sand and gravel sales steadily falling and Sherwood Sandstone remaining broadly stable and crushed rock (limestone) remaining at zero (see table 1).

Table 1: Sales and landbank figures as of December 2017

	2017 sales (million tonnes)	10 year sales average 2008-2017 (million tonnes)	3 year sales average 2015-2017 (million tonnes)	Permitted reserves (million tonnes)	Landbank (years)
Sand and gravel	1.3	1.53	1.36	17.92	11.69
Sherwood Sandstone	0.38	0.37	0.36	3.8	10.27
Crushed rock (limestone)	0.00	0.002	0.00	3.34	1670*

*The landbank figure should be used with caution as sales have been at zero for a number of years.

Introduction

- 1.1 The requirement to prepare a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) was introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 and is a continued requirement within the 2018 NPPF. The LAA should include the latest 10 years average sales data taking into account any important local considerations, sub national and national guidelines on aggregate provision. The data contained in the LAA will then enable the Minerals Planning Authorities (MPAs) to make provision for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals in their area over the life of the Minerals Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Planning Practice Guidance also sets out an additional requirement to identify the 3 year average sales figure in particular to identify the general trend of demand as part of the consideration of whether it might be appropriate to increase supply.
- 1.3 This LAA sets out the aggregate minerals found in the geographical area of Nottinghamshire including Nottingham City, the current situation in terms of annual sales, the number of active quarries and the amount of aggregate that will need to be provided over the plan period.
- 1.4 It is important to note that whilst aggregate mineral resources are present in the Nottingham City boundary, the opportunities to work these minerals are limited due to the built up nature of the area. As a result the majority of aggregates consumed in the City are supplied from either Nottinghamshire or further afield.
- 1.5 The Nottingham City Land and Planning Policies document contains policies against which any proposal for minerals development within the city boundary would be assessed against, including a Minerals Safeguarding Policy, however it does not include demand forecasts for aggregate minerals.
- 1.6 The information used in this LAA is supplied by the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party and relates to the period 1st January to 31st December 2017.
- 1.7 The Aggregates Working Party is made up of MPAs from across the region and industry representatives. Its role is to provide technical advice about the supply and demand for aggregates and undertake annual monitoring of aggregate production and levels of permitted reserves across the East Midlands. This information is supplied to MPAs and to the National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group to inform national aggregate provision.
- 1.8 The LAA is required to be updated on an annual basis and will enable the County and City Councils to monitor ongoing patterns and trends in aggregate sales and ensure that adequate reserves are maintained over the plan period.

Aggregates in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

- 2.1 Aggregates account for around 90% of minerals used in construction and are essential in maintaining the physical framework of buildings and infrastructure on which our society depends. Aggregates are usually defined as hard granular materials and include sand and gravel, Sherwood Sandstone and limestone. Their main uses include concrete, mortar, Roadstone, asphalt, railway ballast, drainage courses and bulk fill. Alternative aggregates are also used within Nottinghamshire, which include secondary and recycled materials.

Primary aggregates

- 2.2 Plan 1 illustrates the following primary aggregates that are found in the geographical area of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

Sand and gravel

- 2.3 Important alluvial (river) sand and gravel deposits are found in the Trent and the Idle Valleys which have made Nottinghamshire an important producer of sand and gravel in the East Midlands. Limited extraction also occurs in glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits near East Leake, south of Nottingham. Sand and gravel is mainly used in ready mixed concrete production, although Nottinghamshire's reserves are particularly valuable because they meet high strength concrete specifications as the gravel is made up of quartzite.

Sherwood Sandstone





- 2.4 Although defined as sandstone, this rock formation rapidly breaks down to sand when extracted. The sandstone occurs as a broad north-south belt stretching from the border with South Yorkshire, southwards to Nottingham. The mineral is mainly used to produce asphalt and mortar sand. There is relatively little overlap with the uses for which alluvial and glacial sand and gravels are suitable. Sherwood Sandstone is also used for non-aggregate industrial and other specialist end-uses.

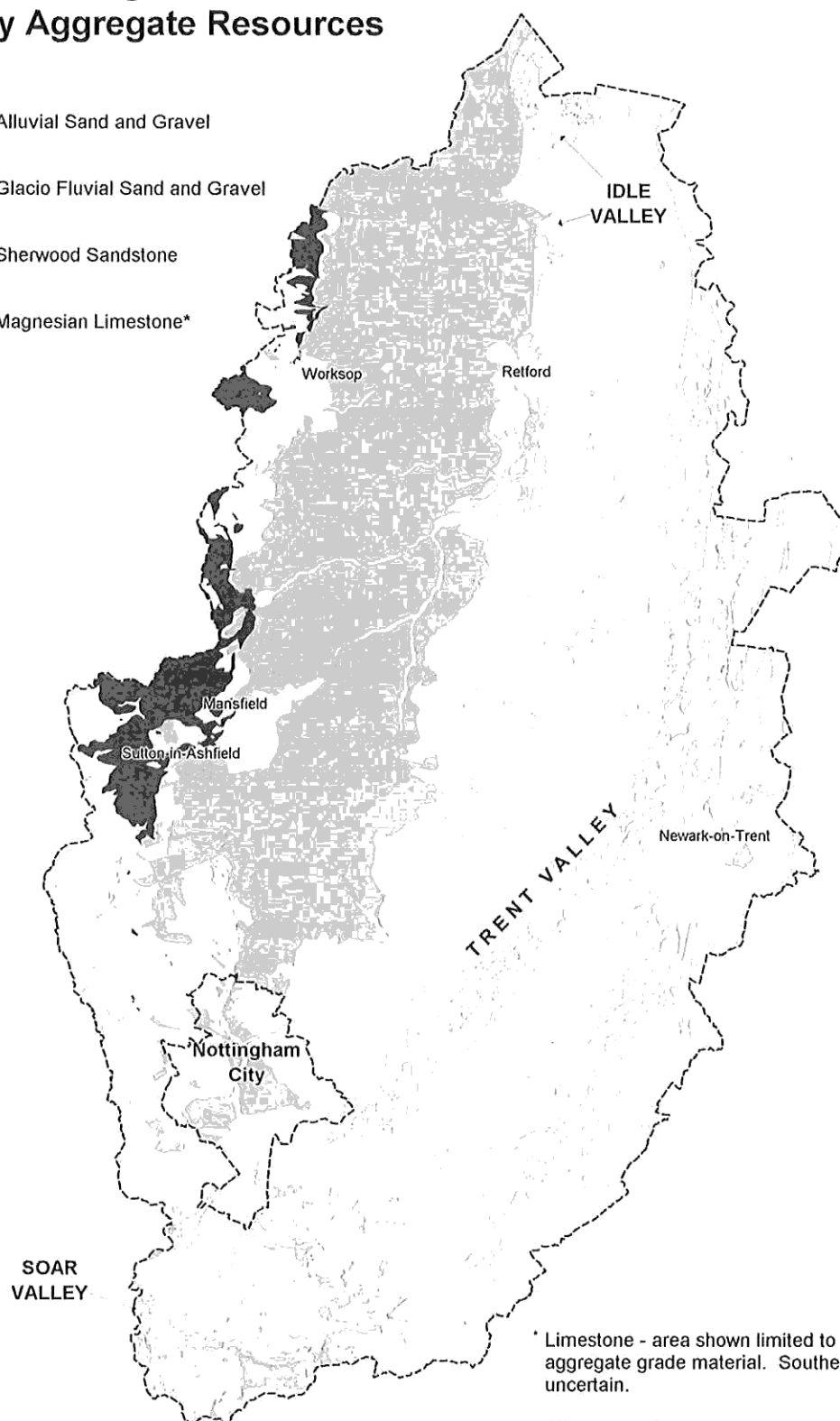
Magnesian Limestone

- 2.5 This resource occurs as a relatively narrow belt to the west of the Sherwood Sandstone. This outcrop comprises the southernmost limits of the UK's second largest limestone resource that extends from the Durham coast through Yorkshire into Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Limestone suitable for use as an aggregate is only found in the Mansfield area and to the north where the mineral is used mainly as a road sub-base material although some mineral is of industrial grade quality. Production is relatively small scale and the lowest in the East Midlands. Around Linby the limestone is suitable for building and ornamental purposes, although aggregates can be produced as a by-product of utilising reject building stone.

Plan 1 - Nottinghamshire - Primary Aggregate Resources

Key

	Alluvial Sand and Gravel
	Glacio Fluvial Sand and Gravel
	Sherwood Sandstone
	Magnesian Limestone*



* Limestone - area shown limited to aggregate grade material. Southern limit uncertain.

* Alluvial Sand and Gravel - minor tributaries and glaciofluvial - economic potential limited.

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Superficial Deposits data [CD-Rom] Version 1.10. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.
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