The Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan

What is it?

The Minerals Local Plan establishes the land use strategy for all minerals development in Northamptonshire. The purpose of the Minerals Local Plan is to set out detailed land-use policies and proposals for mineral working in Northamptonshire. The Plan guides mineral development to particular locations and sets criteria against which applications for the extraction of minerals and related developments can be judged. The plan period is from 2003 to 2016.

What does it seek to do?

The key aim of the Minerals Local Plan is for a more efficient use of all minerals and an increased use of secondary and recycled materials. However this will not negate the need for new sites and where this will occur, the environmental impact of extraction will be minimised.

What are its main proposals?

- To have sufficient provision to meet national and regional guidance for aggregates.
- To reduce mineral extraction in the Nene Valley, protect other key river valleys and favour increased extraction of glacial deposits.
- To stimulate the production and use of locally sourced stone and ensure a high quality end use.
- To encourage production of secondary and recycled aggregates.
- To safeguard and avoid sterilisation of mineral resources.
- To restore extracted sites to their previous landform, unless alternative restoration would have no significant adverse impact on the landscape character.
- To minimise impact on local amenity and the environment.

How will it be kept up to date?

The Minerals Local Plan will be progressively reviewed and replaced by documents in the County Council’s new Minerals and Waste Development Framework. By 2009 there should be an adopted Core Strategy for Minerals and Waste which will update the strategy and related policies in this Plan; at the same time there also should be an adopted document called Locations for Minerals Development which will update sites and allocations for minerals-related development. Following on from this a document titled Policies for the Control of Development will be adopted, and this will update the remaining policies in this Plan and the Waste Local Plan concerned with controlling and managing development. The Minerals Local Plan will not be fully replaced until all three documents are adopted.

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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan (Adopted May 2006)
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1: Introduction</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Purpose of the Minerals Local Plan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Form and Content of the Minerals Local Plan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: The Policy Context</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Policy Framework</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Regional Policy Framework</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sub-Regional Policy Framework</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Context: Implications for the Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Minerals in Northamptonshire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire’s Mineral Resources</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Working in Northamptonshire – Past Levels and Patterns</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: The Land-Use Strategy for Minerals in Northamptonshire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aims and Objectives</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: Provision for Mineral Extraction in Northamptonshire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Minerals</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landbanks</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand and Gravel</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crushed Rock as Aggregate</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Aggregate Minerals</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary and Recycled Materials</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding Mineral Resources</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Transportation of Minerals</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensions and Applications outside Permitted and Allocated Sites</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrow Pits</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclamation</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6: Controlling the Impact of Mineral Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer Zones</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant, Machinery and Other Associated Development</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic and Access</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Natural and Built Environment</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Rights of Way</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources and Flood Risk</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Amenity</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable Land</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Impact</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7: The Approval Stage

- Pre-Application Discussions
- Information to be Submitted with Planning Applications
- The Determination of Planning Applications
- Monitoring and Enforcement
- Local Liaison Groups
- Modern Conditions
- Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPS)
- Prohibition Orders

8: Plan Monitoring and Review

- Monitoring
- Review

Proposals Map

Inset Maps

Inset Map 1: Dodford (Site A2)
Inset Map 2: Milton (Site C3)
Inset Map 3: Harlestone (Site C10) and Harlestone Extension (Site C11)
Inset Map 4: Pury End (Site C12) and Pury End Extension (Site C11)
Inset Map 5: Collingtree (Site A1)
Inset Map 6: Passenham (Site C4)
Inset Map 7: Earls Barton West (Site A3)
Inset Map 8: Earls Barton Extension (Site C2), Wollaston (Site C7) and Wollaston Extension (Site C8)
Inset Map 9: Rushton - Storefield Lodge (Site C14)
Inset Map 10: Bozeat (Site C1)
Inset Map 11: Stanwick (Site C5)
Inset Map 12: Duddington (Site C9) and Duddington Extension (Site A4), Kingscliffe (Site C22)
Inset Map 13: Oundle (Site C21)
Inset Map 14: Thrapston - Castle Manor Farm (Site C6)
Inset Map 15: Nassington (Site C23)

Schedule of Policies

Glossary
List of Policies

Policy 1: Landbanks
Policy 2: Supply of Sand and Gravel
Policy 3: Allocated Sites for Sand and Gravel Extraction
Policy 4: Crushed Rock Supply
Policy 5: Allocated Site for Crushed Rock Aggregate
Policy 6: Building and Roofing Stone Quarries
Policy 7: Limestone for Agricultural Purposes
Policy 8: Refractory Minerals Proposals
Policy 9: Secondary and Recycled Materials
Policy 10: Safeguarding Mineral Resources
Policy 11: Sustainable Transportation of Minerals
Policy 12: Mineral Development Outside Permitted or Allocated Sites
Policy 13: Borrow Pits
Policy 14: Reclamation
Policy 15: Buffer Zones
Policy 16: Proposals for Plant and Machinery
Policy 17: Retention of Processing Plants
Policy 18: Traffic and Access
Policy 19: Landscape
Policy 20: Designated Biodiversity Sites
Policy 21: Protected Species
Policy 22: Habitats of Biodiversity and Geodiversity Importance
Policy 23: Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land
Policy 24: Cultural Heritage
Policy 25: Rights of Way
Policy 26: Water Resources
Policy 27: Flood Risk
Policy 28: Local Amenity
Policy 29: Unstable Land
Policy 30: Cumulative Impact
Policy 31: Planning Conditions
Policy 32: Planning Obligations
Policy 33: Monitoring and Enforcement
Policy 34: Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPS)
Policy 35: Prohibition Orders
1: Introduction

The Purpose of the Minerals Local Plan

1.1 This Plan sets out detailed policies and proposals for mineral working in Northamptonshire. Its aim is to ensure that an adequate and steady supply of minerals is achieved, whilst protecting the environment and safeguarding resources, and to put into practice the principles of sustainable development. The plan indicates those areas where provision will be made for mineral working and areas where working will be restricted. It sets out the detailed criteria against which applications for mineral working will be judged, and the requirements for restoration and aftercare. It is not the role of this Plan though to duplicate the statutory responsibilities of other bodies. In the context of mineral planning, pollution control and health and safety matters are not the statutory responsibility of the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) and are not within the scope of this Plan. However, the MPA works closely with the Environment Agency, the Health and Safety Executive and Environmental Health Authorities when preparing plans, considering planning applications and monitoring sites, and when necessary, taking enforcement action.

1.2 It is a statutory duty for Northamptonshire County Council, as a Mineral Planning Authority (MPA), to have development plan coverage relating to minerals. This Minerals Local Plan is needed to provide an up-to-date development plan framework for the control of mineral working, as required by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that planning proposals be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In Northamptonshire the development plan comprises the Northamptonshire Structure Plan, the Northamptonshire Waste Local Plan, the Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan (all prepared by the County Council) and the district-wide Local plans prepared by the Borough and District Councils. In September 2004 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into force. This Act abolishes Local Plans and replaces them with Local Development Frameworks (LDFs); Minerals and Waste Local Plans will be replaced by a combined Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF). The Act also abolishes Structure Plans and makes Regional Spatial strategies part of the development plan. However, as this Plan had already reached the First Deposit Draft stage and an Inspector had been appointed for the local plan inquiry the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act has allowed this Plan to continue to adoption under the former planning acts’ procedures.

1.3 Therefore within the broad policy context provided by European and national planning guidance and the Northamptonshire Structure Plan and Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands, the Minerals Local Plan provides the basis for the MPA to make decisions on planning applications. It also provides the minerals industry, other public bodies, interest groups and the public with a clear statement of the future scale and pattern of mineral working in Northamptonshire. Therefore the Plan needs to be up-to-date.
1.4 In accordance with the plan, monitor and manage approach, the Minerals Local Plan will be subject to continuous monitoring to ensure that its policies and proposals are being implemented as intended and to assess whether the Plan itself continues to be appropriate. By doing this the Plan will remain a relevant consideration in development control decisions and operators and the public can have confidence in its ability to deliver sensible planning decisions. Review of the Plan as a part of the new Minerals and Waste Development Framework will be necessary to take account of changed circumstances and in order to maintain a clear effective framework for decision making and control of mineral development. The Plan will be implemented using a variety of public and private sector resources.

The Form and Content of the Minerals Local Plan

1.5 Northamptonshire County Council is the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) for the whole of the County of Northamptonshire as shown on the Proposals Map.

1.6 The plan covers the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2016.

1.7 The plan sets out detailed policies for the control of mineral working which apply throughout the county and specific proposals for the development or protection of particular areas of land. These policies and proposals are set out in bold type. They are accompanied by a proposals map, which includes inset maps showing proposals for particular areas in greater detail.

1.8 This plan is divided into eight chapters. The first three chapters, including this one, set the scene. This chapter introduces the plan, chapter 2 then sets out the policy context in which the plan has been prepared and chapter 3 describes the county’s mineral resources and past levels and patterns of mineral working in the county.

1.9 Chapter 4 sets out the aims and objectives that establish the land-use strategy for all mineral planning in the county. The scale, location and type of mineral development that will take place in the county in the period to 2016 and post 2016 is covered in chapter 5.

1.10 The next two chapters address the implementation of the plan. Chapter 6 identifies the criteria against which minerals proposals will be assessed. Chapter 7 then sets out the MPA’s requirements in terms of the preparation and submission of planning applications, including the circumstances in which planning conditions and legal agreements may be sought, as well as the nature of development monitoring and enforcement.

1.11 The plan’s final chapter, chapter 8, outlines the approach that will be taken to the monitoring and review of the plan, including the indicators and targets against which the plan’s effectiveness will be measured. The indicators and targets are set out under paragraph 8.4 of this chapter.
To give a complete picture of the policies and proposals affecting any one area or
type of operation, the plan must be read as a whole, because all policies will
apply so far as they are relevant. Proposals for mineral development may
therefore be affect by policies in different chapters of this plan and the MPA will
have regard to all relevant policies and related considerations when determining
planning applications. It should also be noted that development proposals may be
affected by the policies of other plans including the Northamptonshire Waste
Local Plan, the district-wide Local Plans and the emerging Local Development
Frameworks prepared by the seven Northamptonshire Borough and District
Councils.
2: The Policy Context

Introduction

2.1 In preparing the Minerals Local Plan the County Council does not start with a blank piece of paper. It must take account of national and regional policies that affect mineral planning, as well as the strategic framework for land-use planning (including mineral planning) set out at the county level in the form of the Northamptonshire Structure Plan.

The National Policy Framework

2.2 Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. The government has set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy: A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK. The four aims are:
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment; and
- The prudent use of natural resources.

2.3 Planning for sustainable development should ensure that these four aims are tackled in an integrated way, in line with the principles for sustainable development set out in the strategy.

2.4 The national policy framework for minerals planning is set out in a number of documents. Most notable are the series of Mineral Planning Guidance notes (MPGs), a number of Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs), ministerial statements, White Papers and secondary legislation.

2.5 Currently, the principal guidance note for minerals planning is MPG1 General Considerations and the Development Plan System (June 1996). MPG1 sets out the government’s policy on minerals planning matters and provides advice to MPAs and the minerals industry on policies and the operation of the planning system with regard to minerals. It also highlights specific policy considerations for minerals planning and provides signposts to other guidance on various matters. MPG 1 sets out the objectives for sustainable development for minerals planning as:
- To conserve minerals as far as possible, whilst ensuring an adequate supply to meet needs;
- To ensure that the environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are kept, as far as possible, to an acceptable minimum;
- To minimise production of waste and to encourage efficient use of materials, including appropriate use of high quality materials, and recycling of wastes;
- To encourage sensitive working, restoration and aftercare practices so as to preserve or enhance the overall quality of the environment;
- To protect areas of designated landscape or nature conservation value from development, other than in exceptional circumstances and where it has been demonstrated that development is in the public interest, and
- To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources.
2.6 MPG1 advises that mineral local plans should be comprehensive, covering the whole of the MPA’s area and including policies for any relevant deposit in the area. The MPG notes that whilst it may be that a number of policies will be applicable to all minerals there will be cases where there should be separate policies, e.g. dealing with the supply of aggregates, etc.

2.7 In relation to ensuring supply MPG1 emphasises that plans should make appropriate provision for the supply of minerals and provide an effective framework within which the industry may make applications. It notes that minerals can be worked only where they occur and MPAs should make an appropriate contribution to meeting local, regional and national needs which reflects the nature and extent of minerals in its area and other relevant planning considerations.

2.8 In relation to landbanks and continuity of supply MPG1 advises that it is desirable to ensure continuity of production for mineral extraction and that this will be achieved through the provision of landbanks, a stock of planning permissions, for non-energy minerals in minerals local plans. MPG1 advises that mineral local plans should make sufficient provision to meet the anticipated need for minerals by delineating areas for future working. These may be in the form of specific sites, preferred areas or areas of search, although the guidance indicates that specific sites and preferred areas will generally constitute the core provision with areas of search meeting any shortfall in supply.

2.9 In Northamptonshire’s case, where aggregates such as sand and gravel and limestone are the principal minerals worked, MPG 6 Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England (April 1994) is also particularly important. MPG6 describes the process by which national forecasts of demand for aggregates are translated into agreed figures for each region by regional aggregates working parties (RAWPs) and published as regional commentaries. MPG6 advises mineral planning authorities and the industry on what needs to be done to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals at the best balance of social, environmental and economic costs. It also explains national policy in terms of the need to maintain the supply of aggregates, whilst emphasising the constraints. The overall aim of the guidance set out in MPG6 is to provide for the release of land to maintain a stock of planning permissions sufficient for at least 7 years of mineral extraction unless exceptional circumstances prevail in an area, with MPAs maintaining such a landbank of mineral reserves. The current MPG6 covers the period from 1994 to 2006 and incorporates national forecasts of aggregate consumption to 2011. However, MPG6 is currently subject to review and in June 2003, ahead of the publication of a new MPG6 the government published new national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision for the period 2001-2016, these replace the guidelines set out in the current MPG6.

2.10 The new national and regional guidelines are, at the national level, 19% below the previous ones. They are based on the assumption that recycled and other alternative materials will meet nationally 23% of total demand for aggregates over the period 2001-2016. This reduction in the national guidelines of primary aggregates compared to those issued in 1994 should lead to less additional land being allocated for aggregates extraction in mineral local plans. In the case of Northamptonshire it is the role of the East Midlands Regional Assembly to apportion the regional guidelines to the MPAs, as described below.

2.11 There are no specific MPGs for building stone, clay or recycled aggregates, although much of the guidance in the various MPGs and PPGs is relevant.
The Regional Policy Framework

Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands

2.12 The regional context for mineral land use planning is provided by the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8) which was issued by the Government in March 2005. RSS8 only contains one policy relating to minerals, Policy 37, and this effectively reflects current national policy towards minerals but does include a criterion that provision should be made for a progressive reduction in the proportions and amounts of aggregates from the Peak District National Park and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy

2.13 Northamptonshire is part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth area, along with Bedfordshire and northern Buckinghamshire. To strategically plan this growth a Sub-Regional Strategy (SRS) has been adopted for the area. The Sub-Regional Strategy is formally a part of the respective Regional Spatial Strategies of the East Midlands, East of England and the South-East; it has an overarching Part A element covering the whole sub-region along with three Part B elements covering the respective parts of the area within the three different wider regions. There is therefore a separate Part B covering the East Midlands part of the sub-region, ie Northamptonshire.

2.14 The SRS proposes long term growth across the Sub-Region, concentrating on housing provision, economic growth and infrastructure requirements. It only deals with matters that require a strategic sub-regional amplification linked to the growth agenda and therefore, the SRS does not deal with mineral planning matters which are considered to be adequately covered in, for Northamptonshire, RSS8 and this Minerals Local Plan.

Regional Apportionment

2.15 New national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England for the period 2001 to 2016 inclusive were issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in June 2003. Before the regional guidelines can be used in the preparation of development plans they need to be broken down, as far as possible, to MPA level, this is known as the sub-regional apportionment. This apportionment is the responsibility of the Regional Planning Body (the Regional Housing, Planning and Transport Joint Board of the East Midlands Regional Assembly), in the case of Northamptonshire, taking into account advice from the MPAs and the Regional Aggregates Working Party (the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party, or EMAWP, in this region).

2.15 The baseline sub-regional apportionment for Northamptonshire, as agreed by the Regional Planning Body and supported by the County Council, for the period 2001-2016 is set out in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Baseline Northamptonshire Sub-Regional Apportionment 2001-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sand and Gravel</th>
<th>Crushed Rock</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.5 Million tonnes</td>
<td>6.3 Million tonnes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Sub-Regional Policy Framework

2.16 The Northamptonshire Structure Plan 1996-2016 (adopted March 2001) sets out the strategic land-use planning framework for mineral development in the county. The plan contains six policies that guide the Minerals Local Plan. These policies are, in summary:

*Policy M1*
This policy sets out the key elements of the strategy for minerals extraction up to 2016: provide a supply and landbank in line with national and regional guidelines, support re-use and recycling, shift minerals extraction away from the River Nene to the glacial deposits, protect unexploited river valleys and protect special landscape areas.

*Policy M2*
This policy sets out locational criteria for the handling and processing of secondary and recycling materials.

*Policy M3*
This policy seeks to safeguard the sterilisation of economically workable mineral deposits.

*Policy M4*
This policy covers alternative transportation of aggregates to minimise the impact of vehicles on the highway.

*Policy M5*
This policy sets out the key criteria for considering proposals for mineral extraction: impact on the environment, natural resources, local amenity, traffic, suitability of restoration and the proposed after use.

*Policy M6*
This policy sets out the criteria for granting planning permission for borrow pits.

There are other policies in the Structure Plan that also help guide the Local Plan, for example Policies AR1 and AR2 on landscape.

2.17 Although the Minerals Local Plan is guided by the Structure Plan it is the Minerals Local Plan that sets out the specific scale, location and type of mineral development that will take place over the period to 2016.

2.18 Structure Plans will no longer be prepared; when the Minerals Local Plan is reviewed as part of the new Minerals and Waste Development Framework, the Regional Spatial Strategy will take on its role.

Policy Context: Implications for the Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan

2.19 Clearly the new national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England 2001-2016 issued by the government in June 2003 and the subsequent sub-regional apportionment for Northamptonshire have significant implications for the county.
2.20 The baseline sub-regional apportionment for both sand and gravel and limestone is significantly less than previously reflecting both the reduced demand in Northamptonshire and the likelihood, as acknowledged by the EMAWP, that Northamptonshire’s sand and gravel resources are diminishing. However, in the life of this plan it is clear that although the demand for minerals is not as great as in the past it will nevertheless still be significant.

2.21 Whilst there have been some changes in national and regional mineral planning policy since the existing Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan was adopted in December 1996 the key strategic changes have largely been reflected in the sub-regional policy framework, the Structure Plan. The Structure Plan, therefore continues to provide an up to date and relevant framework for this minerals local plan. The more detailed changes that have been made to national and regional mineral planning policy, as well as the developments in mineral planning good practice, since 1996 will be reflected as appropriate throughout this plan.

Regional Apportionment and MKSM Growth

2.22 Forecasts of future growth in construction that were used to forecast future demand for aggregates to inform the national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England 2001-2016 do not explicitly take account of the Sustainable Communities Plan growth proposals at the regional level. In other words they are accounted for nationally and therefore apportioned to a region but not necessarily the one where the growth will actually now take place.

2.23 The national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England only cover the period 2001-2016, so in any event no account can be taken of the Sustainable Communities Plan proposals for growth post-2016, as for example included the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy and which goes to 2021.

2.24 The national forecast of demand will be monitored by the ODPM. This will involve producing new national estimates as new construction forecasts are produced and assessing whether the key assumptions need to be changed as more up to date information becomes available. A review will be undertaken if there is significant divergence from the forecast guideline figures. The national and regional guidelines will then be formally revised as necessary.
3: Minerals in Northamptonshire

Introduction

3.1 Based on the best information currently available this chapter describes the county’s mineral resources and past levels and patterns of mineral working in the county.

Northamptonshire’s Mineral Resources

3.2 Northamptonshire is a county rich in a variety of mineral resources. Mineral resources are natural concentrations of minerals, or bodies of rock, which are or may become of potential economic interest as the basis for the extraction of a commodity. They will exhibit physical and/or chemical properties and be present in sufficient quantity to be of intrinsic economic interest. Minerals are used for building almost everything, including houses, schools, offices and roads. Industry and agriculture can also use these resources. Minerals can, however, only be worked where they occur.

3.3 The majority of Northamptonshire’s surface rocks were deposited 195 to 225 million years ago during a period of time known as the Jurassic period. These rocks are sedimentary in origin, i.e. they originated as sediments that were deposited on land or in water over many millions of years, and consist of a series of limestones, sandstones, ironstone and clays. The county lies astride a broad band of Jurassic rocks that extend from the Yorkshire coast in the east to the Dorset coast in the south west; an area known as the English Scarplands. In Northamptonshire, the general dip of the rocks is to the south east with the older rock, therefore, appearing in the north and west of the county.

3.4 The drift geology of the county comprises irregular glacial deposits and, in the river valleys, fluvial deposits, both of which overlie the older Jurassic rocks that constitute the solid geology of the county. The main glacial sequence, with the exception of some local variations, resulted from a single glacial period during which the ice advanced from the north east. In retreat, the ice left behind a thick cover of boulder clay and associated sand and gravels. Modern drainage patterns have been established on this surface, and it is the rivers’ own power to erode, transport and deposit material that has produced the river gravels and alluvium found in river valleys today.

Sand and Gravel

3.5 Economically sand and gravel is by far the most important mineral resource that is found in Northamptonshire. It is an aggregate used for a variety of building purposes, including asphalt, concrete and mortar. Within the county there are three main types of sand and gravel:
Post-Glacial (River) Sand and Gravel

3.6 Post-glacial river terraces of sand and gravel are found in the valleys of the Nene, Ouse, Welland, Cherwell, Avon, Ise and Tove. Small patches of terrace gravel are also found associated with tributaries of these rivers and minor streams within the County. Generally, River Terrace Deposits contain a substantially greater proportion of gravel than the other Drift deposits, and are accordingly classified as gravels and sandy gravels. The gravels consist predominantly of ironstone, flint, limestone and quartzite in varying proportions.

3.7 Fluvial deposits of sand and gravel are generally of a higher quality than glacial gravels because they are better washed and sorted. Their distribution as broad spreads of material deposited evenly along a valley floor also increases their commercial attractiveness. The Nene Valley gravels are of particularly good quality, giving a high yield per hectare, and rank together with the gravels of the Thames Valley as second only to those of the Trent Valley and its tributaries.

Glacial Sand and Gravel

3.8 Glacial sand and gravel comprises poorly sorted clayey sands and gravels containing angular pebbles of flint, quartzite, limestone, ironstone and chalk. It may be found to lie beneath, within and upon the boulder clay with which it is intimately associated. Glacial sand and gravel deposits are found mainly in the north and west of the County, particularly in the “M1 Corridor” between Northampton and Kilsby. Although normally of uneven and irregular composition, the glacial deposits in this area show a remarkable uniformity in both the size and type of their constituent materials suggesting a common origin. The deposits typically consist of 50% sand and 30% gravel, in which flint, ironstone and limestone pebbles predominate, and 20% fines or waste.

3.9 Isolated patches of glacial sand and gravel also occur throughout the rest of the County. These deposits are irregular in composition, but tend to have a high sand content (up to 60%) with the gravel content (approximately 20%) comprising angular fragments of flint, limestone, ironstone, quartzite and occasionally chalk. These isolated deposits probably originated as outwash from the ice sheet in its various stages of advance and retreat.

Pre-Glacial Sand and Gravel (Milton Sand)

3.10 Pre-glacial sand and gravel, known locally as Milton Sand, occurs in a belt running to the south and west of Northampton between Nether Heyford and Preston Deanery. These deposits comprise a sequence of well-bedded, pale brown fine and medium grained quartz sands, which in places are heavily iron stained. Milton Sand deposits typically have a composition of 80% sand and less than 10% gravel, the gravel pebbles deriving mainly from local ironstone. Milton Sands are physically distinct from the sand content of the River Terrace and Glacial sand and gravels. These latter have a high coarse sand content, and are also known as “sharp sand” or concreting sand. The Milton Sands, consisting of fine and medium-grained sand, are often referred to as “soft sand” or “building sand”, and are used in mortars and asphalt. The origin of these soft sand deposits is unclear, but the Milton Sands are generally considered to pre-date the main glacial events of the area and were probably laid down by a river system prior to glaciation.
Limestone

3.11 The Jurassic limestones of the county are widely used by the construction industry as an aggregate material for fill or ballast. They are also used as a fertiliser for agricultural purposes. The two principal limestone sources are the Lincolnshire Limestone (from the Inferior Oolite Group), and the Blisworth Limestone (from the Great Oolite Group). A sandy limestone occurs locally in the Northampton Sand Formation.

Lincolnshire Limestone

3.12 The Lincolnshire Limestone Formation found in the north of Northamptonshire forms the principal limestone resource in the county. It is mainly used as a source of crushed rock aggregate, but also as a building stone. In the extreme north of the county, there is a local variation of the Lincolnshire Limestone, known as Collyweston Stone Slate. The county’s famous stone slates come from the area of Collyweston, Easton-on-the-Hill and Wotherope; some were also obtained for a time at Kirby, near Deene, and locally at Harringworth and Wakerley, all places along a narrow north east – south west belt and within two to three kilometres of the east side of the Welland Valley. Geologically they come from the lowest beds of the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone in the few localities where these beds form a sandy limestone with the necessary properties to split into thin plates. The bed can be from a few centimetres to about a metre in thickness, resting on soft, uncemented sands near the junction with the underlying Grantham Formation. This material is used locally as stone slates for roofing and as a building stone. In the area to the east of Corby the upper part of the Lincolnshire Limestone has been worked as a high quality dimension stone. Known locally as “Weldon Stone”, this material is the only dimension stone from Northamptonshire to be employed extensively outside the region.

Blisworth Limestone

3.13 Blisworth Limestone Formation occurs extensively in the south and east of the county, often accessible beneath a clay cover. Generally of a lower quality than the Lincolnshire Limestone, it can be used both as an aggregate material and a building stone.
Ironstone

3.14 Ironstone occurs at two geological levels in the county. The Marlstone Rock in the Lias Group was formerly quarried in the south-west of the county for local building stone and iron ore. The geologically younger Northampton Sand Formation is part of the Inferior Oolite Group. In the north it occurs below the Lincolnshire Limestone and is separated from it by sands and clays of the Grantham Formation (formerly known as “Lower Estuarine Series”). South of Lincolnshire Limestone outcrop (i.e. south of Kettering) it is overlain directly by the later sediments of the Great Oolite Group (sands, clays and thin limestone of the Rutland Formation, and the Blisworth Limestone). The Northampton Sand Formation includes brown sandstones rich in iron compounds in western and central areas of the county, which were quarried for building stone; some local sandy limestone north of Northampton; and more iron-rich ironstone occurring in a broad band through the centre of the county from near Towcester north-eastwards to Easton-on-the-Hill and into Lincolnshire. This ironstone was quarried on a large scale, mostly by opencast methods, from the 1850s, particularly around Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough.

3.15 Ironstone continued to be quarried in the county for the manufacture of iron and steel until 1980 when steel production at Corby ceased. Although most of the ironstone quarries also ceased production at this time, a few are still working the ironstone as an aggregate mineral for the construction industry.

Refractory Minerals

3.16 Refractory minerals consist of fine silica sands and clays, often known locally as ganister. These minerals comprise part of the Lower Estuarine Series found separating the Northamptonshire Sand Formation and the Lincolnshire Limestone. Their distribution within Northamptonshire is limited to the northernmost part of the County, where they exist in close association with limestone and ironstone deposits. Refractory minerals are used for a variety of bricks, pipes and tiles as well as increasingly for the lining and capping of landfill sites for waste.

Hydrocarbons

Conventional Oil and Gas

3.17 Northamptonshire is unprospective for oil and gas because of a lack of mature source rocks. Potential source rocks have not been buried to sufficient depths to generate significant quantities of oil or gas. Similarly, the coals in the Westphalian C-D Coal Measures of the Oxfordshire Coalfield are of very low rank and have not been buried sufficiently deeply to produce thermogenic gas. Poor prospectivity is reflected in the fact that no exploratory wells have been drilled for hydrocarbons, and only a few seismic lines have been acquired. The seismic lines are all in the extreme south west of the county, where Coal Measures of the Oxfordshire Coalfield occur beneath the surface.

Coalbed Methane

3.18 Northamptonshire is not prospective for coalbed methane. Although Coal Measures occur beneath the surface in the south west of the county, the gas content of the coals is too low to allow coalbed methane production.
Secondary and Recycled Materials

3.19 The term secondary materials is used to describe a range of materials which may be used as alternatives to primary aggregates (subject to considerations of quality and contamination), but which arise as wastes from a variety of activities. They may be considered under three main headings:

- Naturally-occurring materials arising from mineral extraction and processing operations, such as overburden and quarry/processing waste;

- Materials arising from industrial processes, such as slags and ash, which may be of variable composition; and

- Construction and demolition wastes that may be either in a natural or manufactured state and include asphalt planings, road sub-base, concrete rubble and masonry. The arisings of these materials are highly variable in location, type and duration.

3.20 The last category of secondary materials are also often referred to as recycled materials as they are aggregates that have already been used for one purpose but can be used again as a substitute for primary aggregates and other building materials.

3.21 Utilising the aggregate potential of such materials may have the advantage of both reducing the demand for primary aggregates and thus land for extraction, and the problems of disposing of waste. In general, however, secondary and recycled materials are only suitable for less demanding aggregate applications, and their production and use may not always be environmentally or economically desirable.
Mineral Working in Northamptonshire – Past Levels and Patterns

3.22 Since 1988 mineral production in Northamptonshire has fallen dramatically reflecting the fact that demand has been lower than expected.

Sand and Gravel

3.23 The previous Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan 1991-2006 (NMLP) provides for the extraction of approximately 36 million tonnes of sand and gravel over the plan period 1991-2006. Actual production between 1991-2002 was some 17 million tonnes, of which approximately 2.2 million tonnes was soft sand.

3.24 If the previous NMLP provision is annualised production should have equated to 2.25 million tonnes per annum whereas it has actually equated to only 1.4 million tonnes per annum. This reflects the fact that sand and gravel production peaked in 1993 at 2.3 million tonnes and, with the exception of 2002, has since fallen year on year as shown in Figure 3.
3.25 Permitted reserves at 31 December 2002 were 4.82 million tonnes, which equates to 5 years supply based on the new baseline sub-regional apportionment. This includes permitted reserves of almost 0.8 million tonnes of soft sand.

3.26 In terms of the location of sand and gravel extraction over the period 1991-2002 the majority has been extracted from the Nene Valley and has been largely river deposits.

**Crushed Rock as Aggregate**

3.27 As with sand and gravel, crushed rock production has been lower than expected. The previous NMLP provides for the extraction of approximately 16 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate over the plan period 1991-2006. Actual production between 1991-2002 was 5.8 million tonnes.

3.28 If the previous NMLP provision is annualised production should have equated to 1 million tonnes per annum whereas it has actually equated to only 0.48 million tonnes per annum. Crushed rock production trends are shown in Figure 4.

*Figure 4: Crushed Rock as Aggregate Production in Northamptonshire 1991 – 2002*
3.29 Permitted reserves of crushed rock as aggregate in Northamptonshire are made up of a combination of old mineral permissions and permissions granted specifically for limestone. Permitted reserves at 31 December 2002 were 22.7 million tonnes, which equates to 58 years supply based on the new baseline sub-regional apportionment. Of the total permitted reserves at 31 December 2002 of 22.7 million tonnes, 20.3 million tonnes are those parts of the Active Phase I sites and sites with modern conditions that are considered viable for crushed rock as aggregate.

3.30 The location of limestone and sandstone extraction has largely been to the north of Northampton and in the north east of the county, although there has also been some significant working in the south of the county.

Building Stone

3.31 A small amount of limestone and sandstone is also produced in Northamptonshire for building purposes. Comprehensive building stone production figures are not available but between 1991-2002 approximately 35,000 tonnes of limestone for building purposes was extracted with 4,800 tonnes being worked at the peak in 1999.

Limestone for Agricultural Use

3.32 In Northamptonshire limestone is also used for agricultural purposes, but as planning permission is not needed to work limestone found and used on farms no data is available of the scale of this production, but it is considered to be relatively small.

Ironstone

3.33 Open cast working of ironstone ceased in 1980 with the closure of the Corby iron and steelmaking plant. A small amount of ironstone is, however, extracted for local use as crushed rock aggregate from active sites. The quantity of economically viable mineral reserves within the ironstone permissions is unknown.

Refractory Minerals and Clay

3.34 At 1 January 1995 permitted reserves of refractory minerals were 1 million tonnes. Based on past production levels the previous NMLP considered that this reserve was sufficient to meet estimated demand of 0.6 million tonnes over the plan period 1991-2006. Actual production between 1991-2002 was approximately 0.5 million tonnes.

3.35 Permitted reserves at 31 December 2002 are estimated at 0.27 million tonnes.

3.36 In terms of the location of clay extraction it has largely been in the north east of the county.

Secondary and Recycled Materials

3.37 It is difficult to calculate the amount of secondary and recycled materials used in the county, but it is estimated that at least 10% of the overall need for aggregates in Northamptonshire is met by secondary and recycled materials.
4: The Land-Use Strategy for Minerals in Northamptonshire

Introduction

4.1 Drawing on the policy context set out in chapter 2 and the nature of mineral resources and recent mineral working in Northamptonshire outlined in chapter 3, this chapter establishes the land-use strategy for all mineral planning in the county.

Strategy

4.2 Northamptonshire has in the past provided significant levels of minerals to meet both the county's own needs and those of other areas, particularly in relation to planned growth. However, it has become increasingly apparent that whilst the county is obliged to ensure an adequate supply of minerals in accordance with national and regional guidelines the fulfilment of these requirements has had a significant impact on the county's natural environment, particularly in the Nene Valley which has traditionally been a source of sand and gravel. The legacy of this is reflected in a much-changed landscape along parts of the valley, particularly through the creation of large open water areas.

4.3 The MPA considers that the overall aim should, therefore, be to reduce mineral extraction and consumption in favour of more efficient use of all minerals and the increased use of secondary and recycled materials. Measures are outlined in this plan to achieve this aim. However, this will not negate the need to provide within the plan a policy context and sites for mineral extraction in line with meeting local, regional and national needs.

4.4 Mineral extraction in the county will therefore continue to be necessary and some of this will be on new sites. This will include some continued workings within those parts of the Nene Valley where there has previously been mineral activity. However, wherever extraction does take place it will be fundamental that the environmental impact of this extraction is minimised.

4.5 This plan's strategy is:

> To make an appropriate contribution to meeting local, regional and national needs for minerals commensurate with the need to maintain and improve the quality of life of the county's current and future residents and the need to conserve important environmental resources.

Aims and Objectives

4.6 The strategy will be achieved through the implementation of the following aims and their associated objectives:

Aim 1

> To reduce the consumption of primary aggregates and increase the usage of secondary and recycled materials
Objectives
• To increase the use and number of permanent and temporary facilities for the handling and processing of secondary and recycled materials
• To increase efficiency and avoid waste in the use of minerals.

Aim 2
To minimise the impact of mineral extraction on local amenity and the environment

Objectives
• To protect the county’s residents and businesses from noise, dust, visual intrusion and other amenity effects of mineral extraction
• To ensure that the adverse effects of road-based mineral traffic are minimised
• To ensure that detrimental effects on leisure and recreation are minimised
• To conserve and enhance the county’s natural beauty, biodiversity and the cultural heritage
• To conserve agricultural resources
• To prevent any increase in flood risk and where possible reduce it
• To conserve and manage water resources
• To reduce the scale of heavy good vehicles using the highway network
• To increase, where practicable, the use of alternative means of transporting minerals such as rail, water and conveyor
• To secure the prompt restoration and aftercare of mineral extraction sites to suitable beneficial uses
• To carry out regular monitoring and review of all mineral sites
• To take prompt action for resolve breaches of planning control satisfactorily
• To avoid unacceptable cumulative impacts on local amenity and the environment

Aim 3
To reduce mineral extraction in the Nene Valley in favour of extraction of the glacial deposits

Aim 4
To protect key river valleys from the effects of mineral working

Aim 5
To ensure an adequate supply of minerals in accordance with national and regional guidelines

Aim 6
To provide for a landbank of permitted reserves of non-energy minerals in accordance with national and regional guidance

Objectives
• To aim to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years for sand and gravel at all times
• To aim to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years for soft sand at all times
• To aim to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years of crushed rock as aggregate at all times
Aim 7
To safeguard existing mineral resources from sterilisation

Objective
• To ensure that mineral resources are not sterilised by other forms of development

Aim 8
To support economic growth and employment

Objectives
• To facilitate the development of necessary infrastructure for both minerals development and other business development
• To help meet the needs of existing business.

Aim 9
To ensure a supply of locally sourced building materials including varieties of limestone, ironstone, sandstone and Collyweston stone slate to support local identity

Objectives
• To stimulate the production and use of locally sourced stone
• To ensure high quality end uses of locally sourced building stone

4.7 Chapter 8 sets out the indicators and targets that will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the plan’s strategy in achieving these aims and objectives.
Introduction

5.1 Taking forward the land-use strategy set out in the previous chapter, this chapter identifies the scale, type and location of mineral development that will take place in Northamptonshire during the period of this Plan.

Aggregate Minerals

5.2 Aggregate minerals are the main raw material of the consultation industry and are used in a variety of ways including concrete, road construction and manufactured building products such as concrete blocks, pipes and kerbs.

5.3 Aggregates can be divided up into two categories: primary aggregates which comprise naturally occurring materials such as sand and gravel and crushed rock, and secondary aggregates such as minerals wastes, industrial by-products and chalk and clay, where these are used for aggregate purposes. Output of aggregates is directly dependent on activity in the construction industry, which in turn reflects in general the performance of the economy as a whole.

5.4 Future demand for aggregate minerals is clearly dependent on a host of factors not all of which can be accurately forecast. Government guidance advises that long term forecasts of demand can only be a guide to what may be required over a period of time. Production of sand and gravel and limestone over the past decade is shown in Figures 3 and 4 in chapter 3.

5.5 At its meeting on 19 February 2004 the East Midlands Regional Assembly’s Regional Planning Board agreed the baseline sub-regional apportionment as the sub-regional apportionment for the East Midlands. In line with this apportionment, and as explained in chapter 2, this plan will make provision for 15.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel and 6.3 million tonnes of crushed rock (limestone) over the local plan period 2001-2016.

5.6 Production of soft sand over the years 1991- 2002 represented approximately 13% of the total sand and gravel production in the county. This amounted to some 2.2 million tonnes of soft sand. Applying the same rates of production to the provision of sand and gravel provides an estimated need of soft sand over the local plan period of 2 million tonnes. This is however included within the 15.5 million tonnes identified above and is not additional to it.

Landbanks

5.7 Mineral planning authorities are under an obligation to ensure that a continuous supply of minerals is available in the form of a rolling programme of permitted reserves. This is normally achieved by means of landbank policies and whilst it is the responsibility of mineral operators to make the applications the MPA should endeavour to ensure that the county is capable of making an appropriate contribution to supply. Landbank policies should reflect the different lead times and different methods of operation which are involved in different extraction processes. They should also take into account the levels of capital investment involved and the long lead times which are often necessary before any mineral extraction site can be fully productive.
5.8 For aggregate minerals the aim should be to provide for the release of land to maintain a stock of permissions at an appropriate level sufficient for at least 7 years of extraction unless exceptional circumstances prevail. In some circumstances, a longer period may be appropriate for crushed rock, but in the case of the crushed rock industry in Northamptonshire it is considered that 7 years is appropriate as there are sufficient permitted reserves for 58 years.

5.9 National guidance also advises that there should be a commitment in the plan that ensures that a landbank can be maintained at the end of the plan period. In practice this implies that the plan should demonstrate that a landbank of permissions will still exist at 2016. The MPA is not required to make specific provision for this post-plan landbank at the time of the plan’s preparation. They should simply demonstrate that resources can be brought forward if necessary. This plan identifies the specific provision figures required to meet the post 2016 landbank.

5.10 For Northamptonshire the appropriate landbank figures are: sharp sand and gravel 5.9 million tonnes, soft sand 0.9 million tonnes and for crushed rock as aggregate it is 2.8 million tonnes.

5.11 The commitment to maintaining a landbank at the end of the plan period indicates a need to bring forward an additional 5.9 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel, 0.9 million tonnes of soft sand, and 2.8 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate. This is based on the annual sub-regional apportionment figures of 0.97 million tonnes of sand and gravel and 0.4 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate. It should be noted that maintenance of this landbank will be dependent on the industry coming forward with planning applications at appropriate sites.

Policy 1 Landbanks

Subject to any review of national or regional guidance, the mineral planning authority will aim to maintain throughout and at the end of the plan period separate landbanks of permitted reserves of sharp sand and gravel and soft sand equivalent to at least 7 years production based on the annual average apportionment for the period.

For crushed rock as aggregate the landbank will be equivalent to at least 7 years production based on the annual average apportionment for the plan period.

For non-aggregate minerals the landbank will be sufficient to meet the needs and nature of the particular industry concerned having regard to all the aims and objectives of this plan.
Sand and Gravel

The Supply of Sand and Gravel 2001-2016 and Post 2016

5.12 The MPA has determined that of the total requirement for sand and gravel for Northamptonshire of 15.5 million tonnes for this plan period and the 6.8 million tonnes for the 7 year landbank post 2016 (or an annual average of 0.97 million tonnes 2001-2023) 6.5 million tonnes is available in permitted reserves or has already been produced. Of the remaining requirement of 15.8 million tonnes, 7.1 million tonnes will be met through the identification of proposed sites allocated in this plan. This is detailed in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Sand and Gravel Supply 2001-2016 and Post 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001 Production</td>
<td>756,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 Production</td>
<td>904,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permitted Reserves at 31.12.02</td>
<td>4,823,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision through Allocated Sites</td>
<td>7,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Provision</td>
<td>8,715,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>22,300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy 2 Supply of Sand and Gravel

Provision will be made for the extraction of at least 13.5 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and at least 2 million tonnes of soft sand over the plan period 2001-2016 and at least a further 5.9 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and at least a further 0.9 million tonnes of soft sand sufficient to maintain a 7 year landbank at 2016. This is equivalent to an annual average level of about 0.84 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and about 0.13 million tonnes of soft sand.

Permitted Reserves

5.13 The sites that make up the permitted reserves shown in Figure 5 all had planning permission at 31 December 2002 and the remaining reserves totalled 4,823,100 tonnes. These sites are listed below in Figure 6 and are shown on the Proposals Map as commitments:

Figure 6: Sand and Gravel Permitted Reserves at 31 December 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
<th>Type of Mineral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1 Bozeat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel (90%) / Soft Sand (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 Earls Barton Extension</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3 Milton</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 Passenham</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5 Stanwick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6 Thrapston - Castle Manor Farm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7 Wollaston and</td>
<td>4,823,100</td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8 Wollaston Extension</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel (84%) / Soft Sand 765,050 (16%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Allocated (Proposed) Sites

5.14 The sites included in this plan as allocated sites are those where the MPA is satisfied that in principle they are capable of being worked without serious harm to interests of acknowledged importance. There should be no assumption that planning permission will automatically be forthcoming for these sites as there are many issues, too detailed for the Local Plan stage, which would need to be addressed in any application.

5.15 The sites allocated for Sand and Gravel Extraction are listed within Policy 3 with an indication of approximate anticipated yield, not intended in itself to impose any limit on production. Details of each Allocated Site, including development control criteria to be taken into account in any planning application, are scheduled alongside the relevant Inset Map.

**Policy 3 Allocated Sites for Sand and Gravel Extraction**

Provision will be made for the extraction of sand and gravel at the following sites as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Collingtree</td>
<td>Soft Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Dodford</td>
<td>Glacial Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Earls Barton West</td>
<td>Alluvial Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Approximate order of yield

Sites for Further Consideration

5.16 The sites allocated in this Policy will provide for an approximate yield totalling around 7.1 million tonnes, of which 1.1 million tonnes is soft sand. This does not therefore meet the requirement set out in Policy 2.

5.17 There are a number of other sites that have the potential to meet this shortfall and which require further analysis of their appropriateness. This will be through the preparation of the Locations for Minerals Development Local Development Document, and which will form part of the new Minerals and Waste Development Framework the MPA is committed to preparing. The sites for further consideration, in alphabetical order, are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC1</td>
<td>Bozeat- Extension to North and East</td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel and Soft Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC2</td>
<td>Dodford- Brookfield Farm</td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC3</td>
<td>Earls Barton West -Extension to West</td>
<td>Alluvial Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC4</td>
<td>Heyford</td>
<td>Alluvial Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC5</td>
<td>Kettering (Land East of Barton Seagrave)</td>
<td>Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC6</td>
<td>Stoke Albany West (also known as Ashley)</td>
<td>Soft Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC7</td>
<td>Stoke Albany East (also known as Ashley East)</td>
<td>Soft Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC8</td>
<td>Watford Gap (also known as Long Buckby/Buckby Wharf)</td>
<td>Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC9</td>
<td>Welford- Lodge Farm</td>
<td>Glacial Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC10</td>
<td>West Haddon</td>
<td>Glacial Sand and Gravel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crushed Rock as Aggregate

5.18 The supply of crushed rock as aggregate in Northamptonshire has traditionally been met through a combination of old mineral permissions and permissions granted specifically for limestone. It is expected that this will continue, and on this basis it is estimated that the total supply of crushed rock as aggregate during the Plan period will be some 23 million tonnes. This is detailed in Figures 7 and 8 below. Whilst this is clearly sufficient to meet the total requirement for crushed rock as aggregate for Northamptonshire of 6.3 million tonnes for this plan period and the 2.8 million tonnes for the landbank period post 2016 (or an annual average of 0.4 million tonnes 2001-2023) the MPA considers that additional provision should be made for higher quality crushed rock as aggregate. This is because the quality of rock from the old mineral permissions is uncertain and in recent years only three sites listed in Figure 8 have consistently produced crushed rock as aggregate. Furthermore, the majority of reserves are from the old mineral permissions sites.

Figure 7: Crushed Rock as Aggregate Supply 2001-2016 and Post 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001 Production</td>
<td>337,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 Production</td>
<td>444,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permitted Reserves in Crushed Rock as Aggregate Permissions at 31.12.02</td>
<td>22,730,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision through Allocated Sites</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>26,512,120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy 4 Crushed Rock Supply

Provision will be made for the extraction of at least 5.8 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate over the plan period 2001-2016 and at least 2.5 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate sufficient to maintain a 7 year landbank at 2016. This is equivalent to an annual average level of about 0.4 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate.

Permitted Reserves

5.19 The sites that make up the permitted reserves shown in Figure 7 all had planning permission at 31 December 2002 and the remaining reserves totalled 22,730,100 tonnes. These sites are listed below in Figures 8 and 9. The sites listed in Figure 8 are shown on the Proposals Map as commitments. The old mineral permissions sites, i.e. only those parts of the Active Phase 1 Sites and sites with modern conditions that are considered viable have been included as permitted reserves. These are listed in Figure 9.
### Figure 8: Crushed Rock as Aggregate Permitted Reserves at Stone Sites at 31 December 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C9 Duddington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10 Harlestone and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C11 Harlestone Extension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12 Pury End and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C13 Pury End Extension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14 Rushton-Storefield Lodge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2,399,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 9: Crushed Rock as Aggregate Permitted Reserves at Active Phase I Sites and Sites with Modern Conditions at 31 December 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C15 Geddington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16 Gretton-Park Lodge/ Brookfield Cottage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C17 Pitsford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18 Wakerley/ Harringworth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C19 Weldon-Cowthick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C20 Weldon-Priors Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>20,330,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Proposed (Allocated) Sites

5.20 The sites included in this plan as allocated sites are those where the MPA is satisfied that in principle they are capable of being worked without serious harm to interest of acknowledged importance. There should be no assumption that planning permission will automatically be forthcoming for these sites as there are many issues, too detailed for the Local Plan stage, which would need to be addressed in any application.

5.21 Policy 5 allocates Site A4: Duddington Extension for the production of Crushed Rock as Aggregate. Details of the allocation, including development control criteria to be taken into account in any planning application, are scheduled alongside the relevant Inset Map.

**Policy 5 Allocated Site for Crushed Rock Aggregate**

**Sufficient provision will be made at the following site to provide for the extraction of at least 3 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate:**

A4 Duddington Extension
Non-Aggregate Minerals

Building and Roofing Stone

5.22 Northamptonshire’s building stones comprise three main types of rock: ironstone, sandstone and limestone, but many rocks are in fact mixtures of these constituents. This means that there are many different varieties of rock with different colours and textures. Building stone uses include new buildings, extensions and walling, with conservation work and refurbishment increasing the demand. Collyweston stone slate is used locally for roofing.

5.23 There is demand for building stone in the county particularly for projects where a match to existing stone is specified. Comprehensive building stone production figures are not available but between 1991-2002 approximately 35,000 tonnes of limestone for building purposes was worked with 4,800 tonnes being worked at the peak in 1999.

5.24 The increasing emphasis in new development on local identity and in creating a sense of place, as well as in the use of design codes, is likely to lead to an increase in new development using traditional materials.

5.25 Currently there are 11 sites that have planning permission to work building stone. These sites are listed below in Figure 10. Of these 11 sites, six are old mineral permissions sites (Active Phase I sites and sites with modern conditions) and are marked with an asterisk, one site is principally a limestone aggregate quarry and of the remaining four sites only two consistently work building stone. Therefore, supply is varied.

Figure 10: Sites with planning permission for building stone at 31 December 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C19 Weldon-Cowthick *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C9 Duddington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C17 Pitsford *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12/C13 Pury End and Pury End Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14 Rushton-Storefield Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10/C11 Harlestone and Harlestone Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C21 Oundle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C15 Geddington *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C20 Weldon-Priors Hall *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16 Gretton-Park Lodge/ Brookfield Cottage *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18 Wakerley/ Harrington *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Old mineral permission sites, i.e. Active Phase 1 Sites and sites with modern conditions.
5.26 Proposals for new building and roofing stone quarries will be required to robustly make the case that the building or roofing stone that would be produced would not be able to be obtained economically from existing quarries. The need for the stone should be defined by availability from permitted sites or other sources of the type of stone to which the proposal relates, including specific colour and texture, to meet a building specification. Production of building or roofing stone should also be the rationale for the extraction proposal and not simply a consequence of extraction for other uses. In considering proposals submitted under Policy 6, the MPA will still need to have regard to the environmental and amenity impact of any such proposals.

**Policy 6 Building and Roofing Stone Quarries**

Proposals for new building or roofing stone quarries or to extend existing building or roofing stone quarries will be permitted unless:
- they would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or local communities, taking into account the nature, scale and duration of the operations and the character of the surrounding area or,
- the stone required could be obtained economically from existing quarries.

**Limestone for Agricultural Purposes**

5.27 As well as providing a source of aggregates, limestone is also quarried to provide a local agricultural fertiliser. Under the provision of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order (GDPO) 1995, planning permission is not needed to work limestone for agricultural purposes, provided that the mineral is used on the farm where it is worked. If the limestone is exported from the farm where it was worked, or used for purposes other than agriculture then planning permission is required.

**Policy 7 Limestone for Agricultural Purposes**

Proposals for further workings of limestone solely for agricultural purposes other than that permitted under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995 will not be permitted.

**Refractory Minerals and Clay**

5.28 Refractory minerals in the form of silica sand and clay are used for a variety of industrial purposes including the manufacture of refractory linings, bricks, pipes and tiles as well as for the lining and capping of landfill sites for waste. Refractory minerals are also used in the iron and steel industry.

5.29 There are currently two quarries in the county with planning permission to extract refractory minerals: Kingscliffe (C22) and Nassington (C23). These sites are shown on the Proposals Map as commitments. However, one is now a landfill site and the other is related to a foundry that has now closed. In addition a number of limestone and other landfill sites have permission to extract clay where it is found. This clay is used on site for engineering works and fill, and is not significant in quantity. Total refractory minerals and clay reserves are estimated at approximately 0.27 million tonnes. Between 1991-2002 average annual production of refractory minerals and clays in the county was 41,000 tonnes but this should be seen within the context of a significant decline in production since a peak in 1991 of 193,900 tonnes to less than 17,000 a year since 1998.
Therefore, the MPA considers that although there is an increasing demand for clay, the county’s demand for such uses of clay can be met through incidental working, as previously described, or through the use of alternative materials. Furthermore, there are the two sites above that continue to have substantial permitted reserves of refractory minerals. Consequently the MPA considers that no further provision should be made for refractory minerals and clay in this plan.

**Policy 8 Refractory Minerals**

Proposals for the extraction of refractory minerals will be permitted where:

- it can be demonstrated that need for the mineral cannot be met adequately from existing reserves or other sources; and
- the need outweighs any adverse environmental, local amenity or other impacts that the development would be likely to have, and would not prejudice the other policies of this plan.

**Secondary and Recycled Materials**

Secondary and recycled materials currently make a comparatively small contribution to meeting the need for higher quality aggregates since most go for lower quality end uses. The sub-regional apportionment has already taken account of the contribution made by secondary and recycled materials. Nevertheless the substitution of secondary and recycled materials for primary aggregates has clear environmental advantages by virtue of a reduction in land take, due to reduced levels of mineral extraction, and because of the lower requirement for the landfilling of waste materials. However, the processes involved in recycling can be similar to the processing of primary aggregates and may involve noise, dust, visual intrusion and transportation issues. These matters need to be carefully considered in dealing with such proposals.

At 31 December 2002 there were 12 sites in the county with planning permission to recycle inert waste to produce secondary aggregates in addition to the handling and processing of secondary and recycled materials that takes place at existing mineral working sites and on development construction sites. These are listed below in Figure 11 and appear in the Northamptonshire Waste Local Plan.

**Figure 11: Sites with planning permission for the recycling of inert waste to produce secondary aggregates at 31 December 2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darwin Road, Corby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot Road, Corby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon Landfill Site, Corby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astwick Quarry, Croughton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Earls Barton Sewage Works, Earls Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeside Works, Great Billing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Coating Plant, Great Billing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekley Wood Landfill, Kettering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlestone Quarry, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boughton Quarry, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Manor Farm, Thrapston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duddington Quarry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.33 The MPA considers though that significantly more use could be made of these materials if more sites are allowed. Therefore, Policy 9 sets out the locations where the handling and processing of secondary and recycled materials will be acceptable. At locations that are only in temporary use, only temporary facilities should be permitted. Waste management facilities, including at mineral extraction sites, are acceptable locations for the handling and processing of secondary and recycled materials, where these facilities are in accordance with Policy 17 of the Northamptonshire Waste Local Plan.

*Policy 9 Secondary and Recycled Materials*

Proposals for facilities to handle and process secondary and recycled materials will be permitted at the following locations:

- mineral processing plants where it allows the material to be processed or blended to achieve higher quality end uses;
- development construction sites;
- existing and disused railhead and wharves;
- waste management facilities; or
- an existing general industrial area or on land which is permitted or allocated for general industrial development provided it is within the urban area.

At locations that are only in temporary use, only temporary facilities should be permitted.

*Safeguarding Mineral Resources*

5.34 Minerals are a finite resource. It is therefore in the long term national interest to protect mineral resources, where known, from being sterilised by other forms of development. The MPA is required to be consulted by the district councils on development proposals within the Mineral Consultation Areas. These areas identify potential reserves as well as known reserves and such consultations give the MPA an opportunity to request detailed investigations prior to applications being determined where there is a real threat to a potential reserve. In some cases where a known mineral deposit may be sterilised (by for instance the construction of a new road) it may be appropriate to allow for its extraction before permanent development takes place; this may be secured by a legal agreement. Even though Northamptonshire is a growth location, the new development that will take place in the County during the plan period should not be allowed to sterilise economically important mineral resources.

5.35 Mineral Consultation Area Plans have been prepared showing the parts of the county within which minerals are known to exist. However, Mineral Consultation Areas do not themselves constitute a land use policy; there is no presumption for or against minerals or other development in the notified areas.
Policy 10 Safeguarding Mineral Resources

All known mineral resources that are, or may become, economically important should be safeguarded and proposals that would sterilise the deposit or be a serious hindrance to its extraction will be subject to objection. Where potential deposits are believed to exist the Mineral Planning Authority may seek, through the Local Planning Authority, to obtain from the applicant further geological survey data to establish the existence or otherwise of an economical mineral deposit before the application is determined.

Where surface development is permitted the Mineral Planning Authority will seek the prior extraction of the mineral subject to:

- the size and nature of the proposed surface development;
- the need for and degree of urgency of the proposed development;
- the quantity and quality of the mineral that would be recovered, and the practicability of doing so; and
- the environmental impacts of mineral extraction.

Sustainable Transportation of Minerals

5.36 The issue of the transportation of minerals is one that provokes much local concern as it can have serious implications for highway safety as well as local amenity. There are, therefore, substantial social and environmental benefits in removing heavy goods vehicles associated with mineral development from the highway network. The MPA is conscious though that it is also an important principle of sustainable development that minerals are worked as close as possible to their ultimate destination. However, some minerals are transported longer distances either to meet specialist needs or to meet shortfalls in supply elsewhere. It is generally accepted that the best environmental option for these longer distance movements is by rail. In Northamptonshire it is likely that the greatest potential for moving minerals by non-road means will be by water, either using the navigable rivers or the canal system, or by on-site and/or inter-site conveyors. Although transport of any type of freight by water is at present very limited, safeguarding existing and disused facilities would reduce the infrastructure costs should water develop as a commercially viable mode.

Policy 11 Sustainable Transportation of Minerals

Existing and disused railhead and wharves, including their access, will be safeguarded where they have potential for the exportation and importation of minerals and secondary and recycled materials.

Proposals for the provision of new facilities that enable the movement of minerals by rail, barge or conveyor will be supported where this will result in an overall environmental benefit.
Extensions and Applications outside Permitted and Allocated Sites

5.37 Extensions to existing mineral working sites may be preferable to the use of new mineral sites. However, this may not always be the case due to the location and environmental issues associated with some existing mineral workings. There may be also be cases where the nature of the mineral itself or special demand for it affects the location in which it should be worked, making a new site preferable to any extension.

5.38 It should be noted that a general preference for extensions is based on land-use planning reasons and does not represent a policy for the protection of existing suppliers or the constraint of competition. Furthermore, the MPA will not automatically release reserves simply in order to maintain the continuity of production at established mineral working sites. Each case will be considered on its merits.

5.39 New proposals for the working of minerals outside the sites identified in this plan will be generally resisted except in cases where:
   • there is a need for a particular mineral that cannot be met, for example because an allocated site cannot be worked, or because the need is not anticipated in the plan; or
   • minor variations to established workings would result in net environmental benefits, such as improvements in efficiency in the use of materials, or the minimisation of waste.

5.40 The river valleys of the Great Ouse, Ise, Tove, Welland and the Nene between Stanwick and Wansford will be subject to rigorous protection from the effects of mineral development and therefore the approach outlined in the above paragraph will not apply within these areas.

Policy 12 Mineral Development outside Permitted or Allocated Sites

Proposals for the working of minerals outside permitted and allocated sites will not be permitted, unless:
   • they are required to meet a proven need which would not otherwise be met and their impact on the environment is acceptable, or
   • they involve amending the boundaries of existing operations, and would result in significant net environmental benefits without significantly increasing the level of permitted reserves, or
   • the sterilisation of resources will otherwise occur.

The river valley areas of the Great Ouse, Ise, Tove, Welland and the Nene between Stanwick and Wansford will be subject to rigorous protection from the effects of mineral development.

Borrow Pits

5.41 There is often a need for large quantities of aggregates for major construction and engineering works (such as road improvements). In some instances, it will be preferable to supply this need from a borrow pit in close proximity to the construction works rather than to create additional heavy traffic by importing the material from elsewhere. The plan cannot determine where there will be a need for borrow pits related to major projects over the plan period, and so none are identified on the proposals map.
Policy 13 Borrow Pits

Proposals for borrow pits will only be permitted where:
- they serve a major construction project;
- use of the material would not constitute the inappropriate use of high quality minerals;
- the pit is in close proximity to the project it is intended to supply;
- the minerals can be transported with no more than minimal use of the public highway; and
- the site will be satisfactorily restored at or shortly after the construction project it serves has been completed.

Reclamation

5.42 One of the main aims of planning control in relation to mineral development is to ensure that land taken for minerals is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity. As mineral extraction is a temporary activity it is important that this reclamation provides for the land to be restored either to its former use or to a new and beneficial use.

5.43 All proposals for mineral extraction should be accompanied by a formal reclamation scheme that indicates how the restoration and aftercare of the site is to be integrated with the working scheme, and should demonstrate the suitability of the proposals for the proposed after-use. Reclamation schemes should include an end date for the completion of the restoration. In preparing the reclamation scheme the applicant should have particular regard to the Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment in terms of the wider and local landscape character context of the proposal and should show that the scheme is appropriate in this context.

5.44 Where a proposed after use would require express planning consent the mineral operator will need to satisfy the MPA that the necessary consents will be forthcoming. If there is serious doubt whether satisfactory reclamation can be achieved then there must also be a doubt whether planning permission for mineral working can be given.

5.45 Agriculture will remain the most appropriate after use for the majority of the mineral sites in the county, especially on the best and most versatile agricultural land where it will be imperative that a high standard of restoration is achieved in accordance with Policy 23. However there may be instances where other non-agricultural after uses may be appropriate, for instance where another type of beneficial after use would result, such as enhanced local amenity, nature conservation and forestry, leisure, recreation or education. Schemes that enhance the long-term quality of land, landscapes and biodiversity will be particularly supported. Care, however, needs to be taken in pursuing such after uses to ensure that the potential risk of bird-strike to civil and military aircraft is not increased. It is important also to ensure that in these instances there is full commitment from the parties involved so that such land uses can be achieved and can then be managed appropriately.
In order to ensure that land is restored to a satisfactory standard and is capable of a beneficial after use, planning conditions may be imposed in accordance with Policy 31. Where appropriate measures cannot be achieved by the imposition of conditions the MPA may also seek to enter into legal agreements in accordance with Policy 32.

**Policy 14 Reclamation**

Proposals for mineral development will only be permitted if the reclamation of the site includes restoration to an appropriate landform, having no significant adverse impact on the character of the landscape. Site restoration shall be completed at the earliest opportunity. All reclamation schemes shall include a programme for restoration, including progressive restoration if possible, aftercare and management, indicating an end-date appropriate to the intended after-use, and demonstration that the reclamation scheme is feasible.
6: Controlling the Impact of Mineral Development

Introduction

6.1 It is recognised that, whilst temporary in nature, mineral operations can have a considerable impact on the environment and local amenity. It is therefore important that these impacts are considered before decisions are made. This chapter sets out the general criteria against which proposals for mineral working will be assessed.

Buffer Zones

6.2 Buffer zones ensure that there is always a sufficient distance between mineral activity and other established forms of development, such as dwellings, businesses, schools and community facilities, or other sensitive land-uses, such as nature conservation sites and sites of historic importance, in order to protect them from the most immediate damaging effects of mineral workings such as noise, vibration, dust, fumes and visual intrusion. The need for and nature of buffer zones will be determined as part of pre-application discussions between the MPA and the applicant prior to the submission of a planning application for mineral development.

6.3 Development will not be permitted in a buffer zone if it would prevent or prejudice the working of the site. Mineral development in a buffer zone will likewise also not be permitted if it negates the purpose of establishing the buffer zones in the first place. Through consultation on planning applications adjacent to proposed and existing minerals sites, the MPA will oppose conflicting land uses in order to reduce the potential risk for problems relating to amenity in the future.

Policy 15 Buffer Zones

Proposals for mineral development should include the provision of a buffer zone where this is necessary to safeguard local amenity. The scale and location of the buffer zone should reflect:

- the nature of the mineral and the processes involved;
- the character and nature of the surrounding land and land use; and
- the proposed hours of working.

Non-mineral development will not be permitted in a buffer zone if it would prevent or prejudice the working of the site. Mineral development in a buffer zone will not be permitted if it negates the purpose of the buffer zone.
6.4 The design and form of development is as important as its scale and location and this is as relevant to mineral development as much as it is to any other type of development. Plant, machinery and other development associated with mineral workings will need to be set in the context of the area in which it is sited, including the landscape and streetscape as appropriate. In addition, in order to prevent the proliferation of ancillary development at mineral sites that can generate additional traffic and lead to pollution and amenity issues, the primary use of any plant, machinery or other associated development should be associated directly with the mineral extracted at the site.

6.5 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order 1995 (GPDO) grants planning permission for certain classes of development without an application for planning permission having to be made. In the case of minerals related development the GPDO grants permission for:
   a) development of plant and machinery connected with the quarry on “land at a mine”, provided it deals only with the mineral from the site and does not materially affect the appearance of the site, subject to limits on size and
   b) processing and industrial activities, plant and buildings dealing principally with the mineral from the site, both on “land at a mine” and “ancillary mining land”, this permission is subject to the approval of the MPA.

Where development is permitted by the GDPO subject to the MPA’s approval, such approval will have regard to Policy 16. Applications for plant, machinery and other associated development not permitted by the GDPO will be considered against Policy 16.

Policy 16 Proposals for Plant and Machinery

Proposals for mineral development involving plant and machinery or other associated development will not be permitted unless the development would satisfy all of the following criteria:

- it is designed and located within the site to minimise visual intrusion;
- it is adequately and harmoniously screened from sensitive locations;
- it is appropriately finished and coloured to enable it to be assimilated into its surroundings;
- it would be removed from the site at cessation of mineral extraction unless there are overriding advantages in retention in connection with a related proposal;
- the primary use is associated directly with the mineral extracted at the site;
- it would not give rise to unacceptable traffic or pollution issues, or unacceptable impact on amenity.
6.6 Under normal circumstances processing plant should be removed soon after extraction of the mineral reserve for which it was permitted. However, the MPA wishes to enable sufficient flexibility to allow for the extraction of reserves which, because of commercial and/or technical reasons would otherwise not be viable, or in the interests of sustainable development to ensure that mineral is used to its fullest potential. The fourth criterion of Policy 16 therefore enables the MPA to allow the importation of ‘as raised’ minerals from sites within the county to established processing plants and allow for the retention of such plants for that purpose. The circumstances in which this will be permitted are set out in Policy 17. This is likely to be most applicable to the processing of sand and gravel.

*Policy 17 Retention of Processing Plants*

The use and retention of mineral processing plants during and beyond the normal life of the working of the adjacent mineral deposits to allow for the processing of imported material from sites elsewhere in the county will only be permitted where:
- it enables the working of a site which is otherwise considered to be commercially and/or technically unviable; or
- it allows mineral to be processed or blended to achieve higher quality uses.

In considering whether such proposals offer net environmental gains, the Mineral Planning Authority will take into account in particular, the environmental and amenity effects of intensifying the use of or prolonging the life of the plant (including the implications for the site restoration programme) and the traffic implications of importing the material.

*Traffic and Access*

6.7 The issue of transportation of minerals often has serious consequences for highway safety as well as local amenity and such effects must be moderated. In order to reduce heavy goods vehicle movements on roads, alternative ways of transporting minerals will be supported where there is an overall environmental benefit (see Policy 11 in chapter 5).

6.8 Proposed sites should be as close as possible to the strategic highway network with the routeing of lorries along identified lorry routes. In order to assess fully the traffic implications, the Highway Authority will require the applicant to provide a transport assessment (TA), including details of the anticipated vehicle movements and the probable markets for the material produced. The TA should also consider the impact on the existing rights of way network including bridleways and other permissive routes and cycleways as appropriate. The scope of the TA will be determined as part of pre-application discussions depending on the likely level of traffic impact on the local or strategic highway network.
Voluntary or formal agreements will be sought to provide traffic management solutions. Where appropriate contributions towards highway improvements and maintenance will be secured in order to make a proposal acceptable. Upgrading the standard of rural lanes and the construction of new haul routes to accommodate increased traffic should not, however, result in landscape degradation and urbanisation of the countryside. Weight restrictions will where necessary also be imposed on vulnerable routes in the network. The provision of facilities on site to prevent mud and debris from being deposited on the highway and causing a potential nuisance will where necessary also be required by planning condition. Measures to address the impact on the rights of way network and cycleways may also be necessary. Policy 24 deals with rights of way in more detail.

**Policy 18 Traffic and Access**

Development involving the transport of minerals by road will be allowed only where:
- alternative transport modes including rail, water and conveyor have been investigated and demonstrated not to be practical or viable options, and
- the site access and the local and strategic highway network can safely accommodate traffic associated with the development, and
- the impact of traffic generated by the development would not be unacceptably detrimental to road safety, the environment or local amenity.

Applications shall be accompanied by a Transport Assessment including the anticipated impact of vehicle movements, any mitigation works required in connection with the development and any cumulative impact on the transport system with other existing, permitted, proposed or allocated development.

**The Natural and Built Environment**

**Landscape**

6.10 Northamptonshire has no national landscape designations such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Parks. However, it is important to protect the county’s countryside for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes and wildlife and the wealth of its natural resources.

6.11 There are identified Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in the county and these are a local landscape designation referred to in the Structure Plan (Policy AR1). The Structure Plan states that priority will be given to the character and quality of the SLA, while taking account of the extent to which development proposals may bring wider economic and social benefits. Nationally there is a move away from local landscape designations towards a wider holistic approach that covers all landscapes. This approach is known as Landscape Character Assessment and the Structure Plan supports this approach through its Policy AR2. A Landscape Character Assessment has therefore been carried out in Northamptonshire and this rather than SLAs will be the driver for assessing proposals in respect of landscape impact in the future.
6.12 The Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) comprises a detailed environmental framework that integrates the physiographic, land use, ecological and current landscape character resources. It encompasses a comprehensive environmental baseline and defines the pattern of landscape Character Types across the county, and their geographically unique representation as Landscape Character Areas. Mineral development should respect the county’s landscape character as defined by the LCA and where appropriate provide for not only its conservation but also its enhancement. Proposals for extraction should demonstrate an understanding of both the wider and local landscape character context of the site. Restoration proposals and after-use and management of the site will need to be appropriate to the landscape character. To assist in this it is the intention to prepare supplementary planning advice for Northamptonshire on landscape character.

**Policy 19 Landscape**

Proposals for mineral development should respect the local character and distinctiveness of the landscape both during operations and in proposals for restoration, aftercare and after-use. The landscape character of the county will be conserved and enhanced.

**Biodiversity**

6.13 Northamptonshire’s natural environment is wide and varied and covers a hierarchy of designations from nationally important National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and rare or threatened species to individual trees and hedgerows that are of local significance. While such individual features may not have statutory protection they are of importance in the local context. There is a hierarchy of nature conservation designations and the degree of protection which is afforded to each type of designation varies.

6.14 Mineral workings may threaten designated sites that by their very antiquity, complexity, rarity or vulnerability cannot be replaced. Damage may also result from the consequences of this working and/ or related operations, such as changes to the water table; this damage should be avoided.

6.15 Developments should conserve and enhance features of nature conservation importance and where habitats and features are to be unavoidably lost, the creation of new or enhanced habitats should be forthcoming. The MPA will, therefore, seek the minimisation of the impact of mineral development on the county’s natural environment and seek a positive contribution to habitat development on reclamation.

6.16 Wildlife habitats, whether they are designated or not, are an important environment asset. A network of natural and semi-natural habitats, wherever possible linked by natural and man-made features such as hedgerows and railway embankments, will function as a series of wildlife corridors providing links between different areas. This will help maintain the range and diversity of wildlife. The reclamation of mineral sites can often provide a unique opportunity to enhance wildlife by creating new habitats and linking existing sites together. Mineral sites can also contribute to the creation and enhancement of geodiversity. The MPA will encourage reclamation proposals that will help meet the habitat creation objectives of the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan, and assist the county in meeting its share of regional and national biodiversity action plan targets.
6.17 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are important to visual amenity as well as providing wildlife habitats. The MPA will seek to retain and increase tree and hedgerow cover where possible having regard to the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the Northamptonshire LCA. In particular, the MPA will resist proposals for mineral extraction that would result in the loss or damage to ancient woodlands.

6.18 As well as nature conservation sites and features the MPA will seek to protect rare or threatened species or their habitats where a proposed mineral development would adversely affect them. The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 requires that species and habitats of European importance be protected. This is in order to protect and enhance the presence of particular species whether they are on a designated site or not, and is in accordance with the Habitats Directive (1992). At a national level, the preservation and enhancement of statutorily protected species and their habitats, as defined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Badgers Act 1992, is a material consideration of any minerals development proposal. When considering mineral development proposals the MPA will have regard to the European and national legislation as well as the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan which lists locally protected species.

Policy 20 Designated Biodiversity Sites

Proposals for mineral development affecting sites of nature conservation interest will be considered in the following manner:

Proposals for mineral development will not be permitted where they are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of Sites of International Importance including Special Protection Areas (and potential SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (including candidate SACs).

Proposals for mineral development that detrimentally affects Sites of National Importance including National Nature Reserves and/ or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and their settings will only be permitted where:
- other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations;
- the overriding national need for the mineral can be demonstrated;
- it is in the public interest;
- there are no alternative less environmentally constrained sites; and
- it can be shown that the effects can be adequately mitigated by the imposition of conditions and/ or through the negotiation of planning obligations.

Proposals for mineral development which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the following Sites of Regional and Local Importance must, where appropriate, make provision to safeguard or satisfactorily mitigate those impacts and, where possible enhance their attributes in the long term:
- Local Nature Reserves;
- County Wildlife Sites;
- Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites; and
- Ancient Woodlands.
Policy 21 Protected Species

Proposals for mineral development which are likely to adversely affect rare or threatened species or their habitats will only be permitted where:

• any adverse effects would be overcome by appropriate on or off site mitigation measures; or
• the adverse effects are reduced as far as practicable and are clearly outweighed by other planning benefits of the proposal.

Policy 22 Habitats and Features of Biodiversity and Geodiversity Importance

Proposals for mineral development should protect and enhance features important for biodiversity and geodiversity, including protected trees and hedgerows, unless the need for the development demonstrably outweighs the value of the feature.

If the loss of the habitat or feature cannot be avoided, provision will be made for the creation of an equivalent habitat or feature, either on the development site or under the terms of a voluntary agreement on a suitable alternative location within the county.

Where development is approved measures to achieve net gain of biodiversity and geodiversity will be sought, such as habitat creation as part of a reclamation scheme. Such habitat creation should be designed so as to contribute to the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

6.19 The best and most versatile agricultural land should be protected from development. Consequently, in considering the appropriateness of mineral workings on such land, consideration needs to be given to the extent to which full restoration of agricultural quality can be achieved once the mineral workings have been completed. Proposals for mineral development that will result in the irreversible loss of such land will not be permitted unless opportunities have been assessed for accommodating the development on poorer quality land and there is no available alternative and the need for the development outweighs the agricultural interest. On land of poorer quality, other appropriate countryside after-uses may be acceptable as it is no longer essential that all land be returned to agriculture.
Policy 23 Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Proposals for mineral development on the best and most versatile agricultural land will not be granted unless it can be demonstrated that:
- proposals will not affect the long term agricultural potential of the land; or
- there is no available alternative and the need for development outweighs the agricultural interest; or
- available land of lower value represents an important environmental asset which outweighs the agricultural land quality; and
- working, restoration and aftercare proposals are submitted with the planning application that demonstrate that the land can be restored to the same physical characteristics close to its original agricultural quality.

Where alternative options are limited to varying grades of best and most versatile land, the development should be located within the lowest grade.

Cultural Heritage

6.20 Where a mineral proposal would affect nationally important archaeological sites and monuments there will be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Where proposals affect areas of archaeological potential an archaeological assessment will be required as part of any planning application.

6.21 For mineral proposals affecting county significant archaeological sites whilst the presumption should be in favour of preserving remains in situ this may not always be possible or appropriate. Where it is not justified to physically preserve a site, there should be a proper provision for the excavation and recording of remains. This needs to be carried out before development starts in accordance with an agreed brief. Details of mitigation requirements can only be determined after archaeological characteristics of sites have been evaluated. The scheme of excavation, recording, analysis, archiving and publication of results may be achieved by a legal agreement or conditions attached to a planning permission. The developer should meet the full costs of any investigations.

6.22 Mineral development should not compromise the character, appearance or setting of listed buildings or conservation areas. This should also apply to the site and setting of registered historic parks and gardens and registered battlefields. Proposals affecting these cultural heritage assets will have to show how they will be safeguarded and, where appropriate enhanced by the development.
Policy 24 Cultural Heritage

Proposals for mineral extraction that affect the following assets:
- nationally important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, or their setting;
- the character, appearance or setting of conservation areas;
- the architectural or historic interest of listed buildings, or their setting;
- the site or setting of registered parks and gardens;
- the site or setting of registered battlefields;

will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not adversely affect the purpose of the designation and, where possible, would enhance the asset.

Where development affects areas of archaeological potential, the developer will be required to provide an archaeological assessment as part of any planning application.

Where known sites of county archaeological significance will be affected by development, planning permission may be granted where provision is made for preservation of remains in situ. In cases where this is neither feasible nor merited, planning permission may be granted subject to satisfactory provision being made for excavation and recording.

Public Rights of Way

Mineral working can have a drastic impact on public rights of way. Operators will be required to provide safe and satisfactory alternative routes if their proposed method of working affects existing rights of way. Any temporary or permanent diversion orders are required to be operative prior to the public right of way being affected. They will also be required to ensure that the footpaths and bridleways on their land remain usable at all times. Any diversion or stopping up of an existing public right of way must, before being implemented, have received the appropriate legal sanction. It is not normally possible to prepare a stopping up or diversion order until planning permission or the development has been granted. Restoration schemes should provide access that is at least as good as that pertaining before workings began. Where appropriate, applicants will be encouraged to dedicate additional rights of ways over the restored area and to enhance the reinstated rights of way.

Policy 25 Rights of Way

Proposals for mineral operations that affect the use of public rights of way will not be permitted unless they allow for:
- the continued use of the public right of way on the definitive route or on a temporary diversion of the route during extraction and restoration,
- the reinstatement of the public right of way, after mineral extraction and restoration and enhancement as appropriate on the definitive route or on a permanent diversion.
6.24 Mineral development has the potential to affect the flow, supply and quality of surface and groundwater supplies. It is important, therefore, that mineral operators establish the depth and, where appropriate, carry out monitoring of the water regime in order to ensure that ground and surface water can be safeguarded. The appropriate level of investigation and monitoring will be guided by the Environment Agency, and expert advice sought by the MPA in certain circumstances, taking account of the most up to date water and other relevant legislation.

**Policy 26 Water Resources**

**Proposals for mineral development will not be permitted which would cause demonstrable harm to water resources unless appropriate measures can be imposed to mitigate against such harm.**

6.25 Mineral development can also affect the important role of floodplains. Floodplains are used by rivers in flood conditions both to convey water away to the sea, i.e. floodplain flow, and to store excess water until it can drain away via the river, i.e. floodplain storage. Development in floodplains is not only at risk from flooding but, by reducing the amount of land available for flood water storage and by impeding flood flows, can increase the risk of flooding in other locations. Mineral development will generally not be permitted in areas at direct risk from flooding or where it would indirectly increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. For proposals likely to affect areas of flood risk an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required.

**Policy 27 Flood Risk**

**Proposals for mineral development that would unacceptably reduce storage capacity in areas functioning as floodplain or unacceptably increase the risk of flooding elsewhere will not be permitted.**

6.26 Local residents, businesses and others need to be protected from the incidental but also the potentially damaging effects of mineral working operations such as noise, vibration, dust, lighting, fumes and visual intrusion. Many of these effects are controlled under statutes administered by the Environment Agency and the Borough and District Councils’ Environmental Health services. The MPA will consult and liaise with these bodies to ensure local amenity is protected.
Policy 28 Local Amenity

Proposals for mineral development will only be permitted where the applicant has demonstrated that harmful effects on the environment and/or local communities will be minimised, and that the following can be controlled to within acceptable levels:

- Noise;
- vibration (including from blasting);
- dust;
- lighting;
- air quality;
- visual intrusion;
- hours of operation.

Unstable Land

6.27 Instability in mineral workings in Northamptonshire is rare, nevertheless the need to ensure stability in workings both during and after their active life is an important consideration. Such problems can be overcome by careful operation and by leaving an unworked strip between the extraction area and the site boundary, i.e. a buffer zone.

Policy 29 Unstable Land

Proposals for mineral development will not be permitted where it would result in an unacceptable adverse level of subsidence.

Cumulative Impact

6.28 Although minerals development is temporary in nature, mineral operations can have a significant impact on the environment and on the local amenity. In some cases, the extent of the mineral resource may result in a succession of applications for extraction. The impact, both real and perceived, of a concentration of workings close to, or even surrounding a community can be especially damaging to the general quality of life. It is therefore important that these impacts are considered before decisions are made.

Policy 30 Cumulative Impact

Planning permission will not be granted for mineral development which would result cumulatively in a significant adverse impact on the environment and/or the amenity of local communities.
7: The Approval Stage

Introduction

7.1 The previous chapter set out the general criteria against which proposals for mineral working will be assessed. This chapter outlines the purpose and nature of pre-application discussions, the need for environmental statements, the conditions which will normally be attached to planning permissions and the need for formal legal agreements. This chapter also emphasises that regular monitoring of planning permissions will take place and enforcement action pursued, if necessary, to ensure both compliance with planning permissions and that this plan's aims are met.

Pre-Application Discussions

7.2 The MPA places great importance on pre-application discussions well in advance of making a formal planning application and recognises the benefits that this can bring in achieving quicker and better planning decisions. Pre-application discussions enable the MPA to gain an understanding of the applicant's intentions as well as enabling the applicant to be informed of the planning policies and other issues of relevance to the proposal.

7.3 Where draft submissions are prepared for discussion, the information should include details of the proposal along with drawings sufficient for the Authority to provide application guidance. Information required will normally include:

- the nature of the development;
- the nature of the deposit;
- the proposed method of extraction, processing and transportation of the mineral;
- the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- the restoration, aftercare and after use of the site.

7.4 The following guidance will be provided by the MPA as part of any pre-application discussions:

- details of policies and proposals contained in the Development Plan;
- whether or not the proposal is in accordance with the Development Plan;
- any likely future changes of policy which may affect consideration of the proposals
- an indication of the nature and extent of the information that will be required to enable the MPA to determine the application; including whether or not a formal Environmental Impact Statement is required; and
- those bodies who can offer further advice to the developer and those bodies whom the MPA will consult.

7.5 The precise nature of pre-application discussions will vary from one proposal to another. Such discussions will need to be as free and open as possible, having regard to the need to treat some information as commercially confidential.

7.6 It is important for applicants to note that any views expressed by officers during pre-application discussions are given without prejudice to the decision of the MPA.
7.7 The MPA encourages applicants promoting proposals for mineral development with significant economic and environmental impacts to give them adequate publicity and, in particular, to discuss them with representatives of the local community at the earliest opportunity.

**Information to be Submitted with Planning Applications**

7.8 Applicants must submit detailed operational, technical and environmental information with planning applications to enable the proposed development and possible impacts to be properly understood by local communities, consultees and the MPA. Failure to do so will invalidate the planning application. The information required is likely to involve specialist reports covering such matters as impact on: landscape (including landscape character assessment), flood risk, biodiversity, amenities (noise and dust), archaeology, traffic and highway safety, land quality, water quality and hydrogeology, soils and agriculture; and a formal reclamation scheme. Such matters are likely to have been identified at the pre-application discussions stage, however, there are occasions where important issues arise as a result of consultations or representations, and applicants will be required to provide other detailed information when these circumstances arise. In addition, details of any consultations, including with the local community, already undertaken by the applicant prior to submission of the planning application and how these have guided the application should also be submitted with the planning application.

**Environmental Statements**

7.9 Proposals which are likely to have a significant environmental impact must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999.

7.10 Whether an ES is required for a proposed development will depend on such factors as its nature, size and location. The need for an ES should be discussed with the MPA at the pre-application discussions stage. Applicants are able to obtain a formal opinion from the MPA on whether an ES is required (i.e. a Screening Opinion) by writing to the MPA and including sufficient details of the proposal. Where an ES is required the MPA can also formally advise on the environmental matters to be covered (i.e. a Scoping Opinion) following a request in writing.

**The Determination of Planning Applications**

7.11 Decisions on planning applications will normally be made within thirteen weeks of a valid application being received, in accordance with the relevant national best value target, unless agreement is reached in writing between the MPA and the applicant. Consultation with a wide range of interested bodies is a fundamental requirement when determining a planning application. This is particularly the case where there are specialist interests involved or where a Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

7.12 Although the MPA will endeavour to determine applications within the time framework prescribed, applicants should note that mineral applications by their nature tend to be more complex and controversial than most other proposals and therefore such applications will normally take longer than average for determination.
When planning permission is granted a comprehensive set of conditions is normally attached to minimise disturbance to the environment and to ensure satisfactory working and reclamation of the site. The MPA will discuss with the applicant the terms under which it is proposed to grant permission in order to ensure that both understand the implications of the terms and consider them practical.

**Policy 31 Planning Conditions**

The Mineral Planning Authority, when granting planning permission for mineral working and related operations, will impose appropriate planning conditions relating to the operation, restoration and aftercare of the site. These conditions will be designed in particular, in respect of the following matters:

**Working and Related Operations**
- Controlling the time scale of operations
- Carrying out development in accordance with an approved scheme of working, including phasing
- Controlling the hours of working and maintenance
- The siting, design and appearance of buildings
- The arrangements for site drainage and fencing
- Ensuring good practice when stripping, handling and storing soils
- Ensuring the satisfactory disposal of mineral waste
- The arrangement for landscaping and screening the site

**Access and Highway Safety**
- Ensuring satisfactory access to the site
- Ensuring road safety
- Ensuring vehicular management
- Protecting public rights of way
- Preventing transference of mud and dirt onto the public highway

**Local Amenity Protection**
- Measures to minimise the effects of dust, noise, vibration and land contamination including buffer zones
- Controlling the visual impact of development
- Measures to avoid damage in the form of subsidence or landslips, and to protect surface development from the effects of land instability.
- Measures to ensure no adverse impact on aircraft safety due to risk of birdstrike

**Environmental Protection**
- Protecting/ enhancing/ recording features of particular archaeological remains and other historic assets
- Protecting water resources, water supply and land drainage (taking account of de-watering effects on adjacent land).
- Retention, protection and enhancement of trees, woodlands, hedgerows and other landscape features
- Protecting sites of special scientific interest, other features of nature conservation and geological value, and protected species
- Ensuring full adherence to the policy and land management guidance set out in the Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment
Reclamation
- Ensuring progressive restoration of the site to an acceptable after-use, including aftercare, in accordance with a detailed scheme of reclamation

Planning Obligations

7.14 Planning obligations, also known as Section 106 or legal agreements, are agreements between the MPA and developers, and sometimes other parties, negotiated in the context of granting a planning permission. Mineral operators can provide a "unilateral undertaking" without the need for the MPA or other parties to be involved. Planning obligations, or unilateral undertakings, provide a means to enable the proposed development to proceed and to meet the needs of the local community associated with the new development by securing cash or in-kind contributions from the developer towards the provision of infrastructure and services.

7.15 The MPA supports the use of negotiated planning obligations, or unilateral undertakings, covering matters such as:
- The provision and improvement of access to the transport network (including rail and water)
- The introduction of traffic weight restrictions
- The provision of long-term site management after restoration
- The protection of local amenity
- The protection, replacement and enhancement of environmental features and natural resources (including landscaping, habitat and species protection and creation)
- The replacement and enhancement of local community facilities and services, such as improved open space and sports and recreation facilities.

All such obligations or undertakings will be in line with government advice contained within Circular 1/97 (or its successor).

Policy 32 Planning Obligations

The Mineral Planning Authority will seek to conclude legal agreements, where appropriate, through Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or such other relevant legislation, in order to secure planning obligations in respect of relevant matters which cannot be achieved by the use of planning conditions.

Monitoring and Enforcement

7.16 Regular and comprehensive monitoring is an important part of the planning process to ensure that mineral working is undertaken in accordance with planning permission, including any conditions and/ or planning obligations, and does not breach planning control. Mineral operators are expected to take a pro-active approach towards self monitoring by providing appropriate technical reports to demonstrate that planning conditions are being complied with and in contacting the MPA if compliance is presenting difficulties. This will enable constructive discussion to take place on any problems being encountered.
Where breaches of planning control or other problems arise, solutions will normally be sought by negotiation and agreement in the first instance. Where necessary, action will be taken to enforce planning conditions and planning obligations using the powers available under planning legislation. Similarly, in the case of unauthorised mineral development, action will be taken to bring it under planning control and to stop and rectify damaging development as quickly as possible.

**Policy 33 Monitoring and Enforcement**

The Mineral Planning Authority will monitor minerals operations on a regular basis and will take action as appropriate to secure compliance with planning conditions or planning obligations, and to bring unauthorised mineral development under control.

**Local Liaison Groups**

The MPA encourages and supports the establishment of local liaison groups (LLGs) for mineral working and related development where there is a significant effect on the locality and there is sufficient local interest. LLGs should be established for all the new allocated sites identified in this plan.

The MPA performs a liaison role between the mineral operators and the local communities by facilitating LLGs. LLGs are forums that allow the exchange of information and constructive discussion in order to identify and resolve problem areas in an amicable way, without recourse to any formal processes. In this way they not only enable community participation in planning decisions but also provide an invaluable monitoring and enforcement tool.

**Modern Conditions**

The Planning and Compensation Act 1991 included new requirements for dealing with permissions for the winning and working of minerals or depositing of mineral waste granted after 21 July 1943 and before 1 July 1948 under the Interim Development Order legislation. These are referred to in the Act as “old mining permissions”, and the Act required the holders of such permissions to register them with the MPA before 25 March 1992 or else they would cease to have effect. Once correctly registered, the Act required the holder of an IDO, which was part of an active site to submit to the MPA an application for the determination of conditions to which the permission would subsequently be subject, within 12 months of the registration (unless a longer period was agreed by the MPA). In the case of dormant sites, where mineral working had not occurred in the period between 1 May 1989 and 30 April 1991, no further working was allowed until a scheme of conditions had been submitted and approved.

By the deadline of registration the County Council had received 1 valid application for an active mineral site and none for dormant sites. The active site now has new operating and restoration conditions.
7.22 The Environment Act 1995 placed a duty on all MPAs to review and update planning permissions at mineral sites granted planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts between 1948 and 1983. This is known as the Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPS) where sites are classified into one of three categories:

- **Phase I Sites** - where the predominant mineral working and/or mineral tipping permission(s) were granted after 30 June 1948 and before 1 April 1969
- **Phase II Sites** – where the predominant mineral working and/or mineral tipping permission(s) were granted after 31 March 1969 and before 22 February 1982
- **Dormant Sites** – which have valid planning permissions where there had been no substantial working of minerals between 22 February 1982 and 6 June 1995.

7.23 The Review aims to update the conditions on existing permissions to bring them into line with modern standards of environmental protection and planning control and to impose modern restoration and aftercare conditions.

7.24 The publication of the First List on 31 January 1996 identified 9 Active Phase I, no Active Phase II and 29 Dormant sites within Northamptonshire.

7.25 At each of the active sites a deadline was imposed upon the mineral operator for the submission of a scheme of Working and Conditions. The Act specified that failure to submit a scheme by this deadline would mean the planning permissions ceased to function and therefore all mineral working would be required to cease. The Act also specified that no mineral development can lawfully be carried out at a Dormant site until a scheme of Working and Conditions has been submitted to and approved by the MPA.

7.26 The Review has compensation implications if the MPA imposes new conditions that affect the mineral asset value or economic viability of an operation. In the case of dormant sites, however, the Act allows for full modern conditions to be imposed, without invoking the implication of compensation on the MPA.

7.27 As at 31 December 2001 the position was:

- 7 site submissions determined and modern planning conditions agreed:
  - Pitsford/ Boughton (Active Phase I site)
  - Cowthick/ Weldon (Active Phase I site)
  - Geddington (Active Phase I site)
  - Priors Hall/ Weldon (Active Phase I site)
  - Kings Cliffe, Slipe Clay Pit (Active Phase I site)
  - Yarwell Quarry (Active Phase I site, worked out)
  - Park Lodge, Gretton/ Brookfield Cottage (Dormant site)

- 2 sites lapsed due to the operator failing to meet submission deadline, or revoked following approval of consolidating applications:
  - Kings Cliffe (Active Phase I site)
  - Grove Farm, Ashby St Ledgers (Active Phase I site, worked out)

- 1 site to be determined following requests for additional information and protracted negotiation:
  - Wakerley/Harringworth (Active Phase I site)
Modern planning conditions have been approved at one of the Dormant sites – Park Lodge, Gretton/Brookfield Cottage. There have been no prohibition or revocation orders served to date on the Dormant sites.

The County Council expects that all applications submitted for updated conditions to have regard to the policies in this Plan.

**Policy 34 Review of Old Minerals Permissions (ROMPS)**

In determining applications for new conditions under the provisions of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 or the Environment Act 1995 or other relevant legislation, the Mineral Planning Authority will consider such applications against all relevant policies of the development plan and national and regional guidance.

Schedule 14 of the 1995 Environment Act imposes a 15 year periodic review on planning conditions of all mineral planning permissions which last for beyond this long timescale. This will be carried out along the same lines as the ROMP process.

**Prohibition Orders**

There are a number of sites in the county with valid planning permissions, where the winning and working of minerals has not taken place for a considerable period of time. Most of the dormant sites identified by the ROMPS process fall into this type of site.

It is the MPA’s intention to remove the possibility of the re-opening of these sites through the service of Prohibition Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This will provide clarity and certainty for all parties but in particular for the public. Prohibition orders provide the due process for extinguishing planning permissions in such circumstances and the government believes that wider use should be made of these powers. In deciding whether to make a prohibition order, the MPA will follow the procedures set out in primary and secondary legislation which include the confirmation of prohibition orders by the Secretary of State and would provide for the restoration and aftercare of sites.

The MPA will pursue where appropriate the service of Prohibition Orders at those mineral sites where the winning and working of minerals has not been carried out for at least 2 years and where in its opinion working is unlikely to be resumed. The MPA will establish a priority list and timetable for dealing with these sites. Policy 33 lists those sites where it may be appropriate for the MPA to serve prohibition orders, but whether an order is served or not will be a matter for consideration as part of the process. Paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 sets out the circumstances in which a prohibition order may be made. It may be, therefore, that it will prove inappropriate to serve prohibition orders for some of the sites listed in Policy 33. A map of each site is included in the document ‘Review of Mineral Planning Permissions Environment Act 1995’ prepared by Northamptonshire County Council and available from the MPA as a background document to this plan.
**Policy 35 Prohibition Orders**

The Mineral Planning Authority will pursue, where appropriate, the service of Prohibition Orders at sites where the winning and working of minerals has not been carried out for at least 2 years and where in its opinion working is unlikely to be resumed.
8: Plan Monitoring and Review

Monitoring

8.1 It is important to keep the Minerals Local Plan under review to ensure that its policies and proposals are being implemented as intended and to assess whether the plan itself continues to be appropriate. By doing this the plan will remain a relevant consideration in development control decisions and operators and the public can have confidence in its ability to deliver sensible planning decisions.

8.2 The effectiveness of this plan will be principally monitored in terms of the implementation of its proposals as outlined in chapter 5, but monitoring will also be needed in terms of the wider context in which the plan operates and the achievement of the plan’s aims and objectives as set out in chapter 4.

Monitoring the Wider Context

8.3 Changes in circumstances that may have a bearing on the future scale and pattern of mineral working in Northamptonshire will be continuously monitored. The key areas to be monitored are:

- Changes in European, national, regional and sub-regional policy;
- Changes in the overall pattern of supply and demand for minerals;
- Improved information on mineral resources, including the potential for use of secondary material in place of natural minerals;
- Changes in markets and transportation developments; and
- Changes in working techniques, restoration opportunities and the overall economics of mineral working.

Monitoring the Achievement of the Plan’s Aims and Objectives

8.4 The plan’s aims and objectives will be monitored against the indicators set out in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Aim</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Monitored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To reduce the consumption of primary aggregates and increase the usage of secondary and recycled materials</td>
<td>1. Number of permanent and temporary facilities for handling and processing secondary and recycled materials 2. Amount of recycled and secondary aggregate produced at these facilities</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To minimise the impact of mineral extraction on local amenity and the environment</td>
<td>3. The effectiveness of the criteria in the development control process</td>
<td>No negative impact</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Successful land restoration that returns sites to beneficial after use</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aims and Objectives</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To reduce mineral extraction in the Nene Valley in favour of extraction of the glacial deposits</td>
<td>Amount of sand and gravel production from the Nene Valley (river sand and gravels) - from the glacial deposits</td>
<td>Reduce</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. To protect key river valleys from the effects of mineral working</td>
<td>Amount of aggregate and non-aggregate production from - Welland Valley - Tove Valley - Ise Valley - Nene Valley between Stanwick and Wansford - Great Ouse Valley</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. To ensure an adequate supply of minerals in accordance with national and regional guidelines</td>
<td>Amount of minerals produced - amount of aggregate produced - amount of non-aggregate produced</td>
<td>Plan provision figure</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. To provide for a landbank of permitted reserves of non-energy minerals in accordance with national and regional guidance</td>
<td>Landbank levels for: - sand and gravel - soft sand - crushed rock as aggregate</td>
<td>At least 7 year landbank for sand and gravel At least 7 year landbank for soft sand At least 7 year landbank for crushed rock as aggregate</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. To safeguard existing mineral resources from sterilisation</td>
<td>Amount of aggregate and non-aggregate resources sterilised</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. To support economic growth and employment</td>
<td>Indicator 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. To ensure a supply of locally sourced building materials including varieties of limestone, ironstone, sandstone and Collyweston slate to support local identity</td>
<td>Amount of locally sourced building materials produced</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount of locally produced building materials used locally for building stone</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. To safeguard existing mineral resources from sterilisation</td>
<td>Amount of aggregate and non-aggregate resources sterilised</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. To safeguard existing mineral resources from sterilisation</td>
<td>Amount of aggregate and non-aggregate resources sterilised</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. To support economic growth and employment</td>
<td>Indicator 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. To safeguard existing mineral resources from sterilisation</td>
<td>Amount of aggregate and non-aggregate resources sterilised</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>Annually. Annual Monitoring Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Number of advertised departures from the Minerals Local Plan approved by the MPA as a percentage of total permissions granted</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Monthly. Reported in Annual Monitoring Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.5 In addition to the targets outlined above the MPA will also monitor its
development control performance in accordance with national and local best
value performance indicators.

8.6 The monitoring of the Plan will be assisted by the following:
- Annual aggregate monitoring surveys carried out by the East Midlands
  Aggregate Working Party;
- The annual monitoring of mineral planning permissions granted; and
- The ongoing review of mineral working sites.

Review

8.7 The Minerals Local Plan will be reviewed to keep it up-to-date. Review will be
necessary to take account of changed circumstances and in order to maintain a
clear effective framework for decision making and control of mineral development.

Review under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act

8.8 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act the current system of local
plans is being replaced with local development frameworks (LDFs), which will
comprise a portfolio of local development documents rather than one all-
encompassing plan. Minerals local plans and waste local plans will be replaced
by the minerals and waste development framework (MWDF). The timetable for
preparing the portfolio of local development documents in a MWDF will be set out
in a minerals and waste development scheme (MWDS).

8.9 As local plans will be replaced under the new system, the review of the adopted
Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan will take the form of the Northamptonshire
MWDF. The timetable for the production of the Northamptonshire MWDF is set
out in the Northamptonshire MWDS.
Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 1 - A2 Dodford

Development Control Criteria For Site:
- Haul route and access to A45,
- Phased working and restoration to equivalent agricultural grade at or near ground level
  without imported filling material,
- Protection measures for the County Wildlife Site, woodland at Dodford Holt
  and the western part of Dodford Village
- Advance flood risk and hydro-geological investigation,
- Advance traffic impact assessment, and
- Advance biodiversity survey.
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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 3 – C10 Harlestone and C11 Harlestone Extension

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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 4 - C12 Pury End and C13 Pury End Extension

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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 5 – A1 Collingtree

Development Control Criteria For Site:
- Haul route and access to Towcester Road,
- Phased working and restoration to equivalent agricultural grade at or near ground level without open water areas,
- Protection measures for properties on Collingtree Road between the M1 and the Railway,
- Maintenance of Right of Way
- Advance Flood Risk assessment and hydro-geological investigation including potential effects on motorway and railway embankments,
- Advance transport assessment.

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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 7 - A3 Earls Barton West

Development Control Criteria For Site:
- Phased working and restoration mainly to dry, and of equivalent agricultural quality,
- Specific protection to biodiversity features,
- Specific provision for recording archaeological features,
- Maintenance of Rights of Way,
- Advanced flood risk assessment and hydro-geological investigation, and
- Advanced transport assessment.
Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 8 - C2 Earls Barton Extension
C7 Wollaston and C8 Wollaston Extension

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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 10 – C1 Bozeat

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Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 12 - C9 Duddington, A5 Duddington Extension and C22 Kingscliffe

Development Control Criteria For Site A5 Duddington Extension:
- Working and restoration to pay particular attention to the existing landform and to nearby woodland.
Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan
Inset Map 15 - C23 Nassington

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Schedule of Policies

Policy 1 Landbanks

Subject to any review of national or regional guidance, the mineral planning authority will aim to maintain throughout and at the end of the plan period separate landbanks of permitted reserves of sharp sand and gravel and soft sand equivalent to at least 7 years production based on the annual average apportionment for the period.

For crushed rock as aggregate the landbank will be equivalent to at least 7 years production based on the annual average apportionment for the plan period.

For non-aggregate minerals the landbank will be sufficient to meet the needs and nature of the particular industry concerned having regard to all the aims and objectives of this plan.

Policy 2 Supply of Sand and Gravel

Provision will be made for the extraction of at least 13.5 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and at least 2 million tonnes of soft sand over the plan period 2001-2016 and at least a further 5.9 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and at least a further 0.9 million tonnes of soft sand sufficient to maintain a 7 year landbank at 2016. This is equivalent to an annual average level of about 0.84 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and about 0.13 million tonnes of soft sand.

Policy 3 Allocated Sites for Sand and Gravel Extraction

Provision will be made for the extraction of sand and gravel at the following sites as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Collingtree</td>
<td>Soft Sand</td>
<td>1,100,000 tonnes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Dodford</td>
<td>Glacial Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
<td>2,000,000 tonnes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Earls Barton West</td>
<td>Alluvial Sharp Sand and Gravel</td>
<td>4,000,000 tonnes*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Approximate order of yield

Policy 4 Crushed Rock Supply

Provision will be made for the extraction of at least 5.8 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate over the plan period 2001-2016 and at least 2.5 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate sufficient to maintain a 7 year landbank at 2016. This is equivalent to an annual average level of about 0.4 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate.
**Policy 5 Allocated Site for Crushed Rock Aggregate**

Sufficient provision will be made at the following site to provide for the extraction of at least 3 million tonnes of crushed rock as aggregate:
A4 Duddington Extension

**Policy 6 Building and Roofing Stone Quarries**

Proposals for new building or roofing stone quarries or to extend existing building or roofing stone quarries will be permitted unless:
- they would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or local communities, taking into account the nature, scale and duration of the operations and the character of the surrounding area or,
- the stone required could be obtained economically from existing quarries.

**Policy 7 Limestone for Agricultural Purposes**

Proposals for further workings of limestone solely for agricultural purposes other than that permitted under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995 will not be permitted.

**Policy 8 Refractory Minerals Proposals**

Proposals for the extraction of refractory minerals will be permitted where:
- it can be demonstrated that need for the mineral cannot be met adequately from existing reserves or other sources; and
- the need outweighs any adverse environmental, local amenity or other impacts that the development would be likely to have, and would not prejudice the other policies of this plan.

**Policy 9 Secondary and Recycled Materials**

Proposals for facilities to handle and process secondary and recycled materials will be permitted at the following locations:
- mineral processing plants where it allows the material to be processed or blended to achieve higher quality end uses;
- development construction sites;
- existing and disused railhead and wharves;
- waste management facilities; or
- an existing general industrial area or on land which is permitted or allocated for general industrial development provided it is within the urban area.

At locations that are only in temporary use, only temporary facilities should be permitted.
Policy 10 Safeguarding Mineral Resources

All known mineral resources that are, or may become, economically important should be safeguarded and proposals that would sterilise the deposit or be a serious hindrance to its extraction will be subject to objection. Where potential deposits are believed to exist the Mineral Planning Authority may seek, through the Local Planning Authority, to obtain from the applicant further geological survey data to establish the existence or otherwise of an economical mineral deposit before the application is determined.

Where surface development is permitted the Mineral Planning Authority will seek the prior extraction of the mineral subject to:
- the size and nature of the proposed surface development;
- the need for and degree of urgency of the proposed development;
- the quantity and quality of the mineral that would be recovered, and the practicability of doing so; and
- the environmental impacts of mineral extraction.

Policy 11 Sustainable Transportation of Minerals

Existing and disused railhead and wharves, including their access, will be safeguarded where they have potential for the exportation and importation of minerals and secondary and recycled materials.

Proposals for the provision of new facilities that enable the movement of minerals by rail, barge or conveyor will be supported where this will result in an overall environmental benefit.

Policy 12 Mineral Development Outside Permitted or Allocated Sites

Proposals for the working of minerals outside permitted and allocated sites will not be permitted, unless:
- they are required to meet a proven need which would not otherwise be met and their impact on the environment is acceptable, or
- they involve amending the boundaries of existing operations, and would result in significant net environmental benefits without significantly increasing the level of permitted reserves, or
- the sterilisation of resources will otherwise occur.

The river valley areas of the Great Ouse, Ise, Tove, Welland and the Nene between Stanwick and Wansford will be subject to rigorous protection from the effects of mineral development.
Policy 13 Borrow Pits

Proposals for borrow pits will only be permitted where:
- they serve a major construction project;
- use of the material would not constitute the inappropriate use of high quality minerals;
- the pit is in close proximity to the project it is intended to supply;
- the minerals can be transported with no more than minimal use of the public highway; and
- the site will be satisfactorily restored at or shortly after the construction project it serves has been completed.

Policy 14 Reclamation

Proposals for mineral development will only be permitted if the reclamation of the site includes restoration to an appropriate landform, having no significant adverse impact on the character of the landscape.

Site restoration shall be completed at the earliest opportunity. All reclamation schemes shall include a programme for restoration, including progressive restoration if possible, aftercare and management, indicating an end-date appropriate to the intended after-use, and demonstration that the reclamation scheme is feasible.

Policy 15 Buffer Zones

Proposals for mineral development should include the provision of a buffer zone where this is necessary to safeguard local amenity. The scale and location of the buffer zone should reflect:
- the nature of the mineral and the processes involved;
- the character and nature of the surrounding land and land use; and
- the proposed hours of working.

Non-mineral development will not be permitted in a buffer zone if it would prevent or prejudice the working of the site. Mineral development in a buffer zone will not be permitted if it negates the purpose of the buffer zone.

Policy 16 Proposals for Plant and Machinery

Proposals for mineral development involving plant and machinery or other associated development will not be permitted unless the development would satisfy all of the following criteria:
- it is designed and located within the site to minimise visual intrusion;
- it is adequately and harmoniously screened from sensitive locations;
- it is appropriately finished and coloured to enable it to be assimilated into its surroundings;
- it would be removed from the site at cessation of mineral extraction unless there are overriding advantages in retention in connection with a related proposal;
- the primary use is associated directly with the mineral extracted at the site;
- it would not give rise to unacceptable traffic or pollution issues, or unacceptable impact on amenity.
Policy 17 Retention of Processing Plants

The use and retention of mineral processing plants during and beyond the normal life of the working of the adjacent mineral deposits to allow for the processing of imported material from sites elsewhere in the county will only be permitted where:
- it enables the working of a site which is otherwise considered to be commercially and/ or technically unviable; or
- it allows mineral to be processed or blended to achieve higher quality uses.

In considering whether such proposals offer net environmental gains, the Mineral Planning Authority will take into account in particular, the environmental and amenity effects of intensifying the use of or prolonging the life of the plant (including the implications for the site restoration programme) and the traffic implications of importing the material.

Policy 18 Traffic and Access

Development involving the transport of minerals by road will be allowed only where:
- alternative transport modes including rail, water and conveyor have been investigated and demonstrated not to be practical or viable options, and
- the site access and the local and strategic highway network can safely accommodate traffic associated with the development, and
- the impact of traffic generated by the development would not be unacceptably detrimental to road safety, the environment or local amenity.

Applications shall be accompanied by a Transport Assessment including the anticipated impact of vehicle movements, any mitigation works required in connection with the development and any cumulative impact on the transport system with other existing, permitted, proposed or allocated development.

Policy 19 Landscape

Proposals for mineral development should respect the local character and distinctiveness of the landscape both during operations and in proposals for restoration, aftercare and after-use. The landscape character of the county will be conserved and enhanced.
Policy 20 Designated Biodiversity Sites

Proposals for mineral development affecting sites of nature conservation interest will be considered in the following manner:

- Proposals for mineral development will not be permitted where they are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of Sites of International Importance including Special Protection Areas (and potential SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (including candidate SACs).

- Proposals for mineral development that detrimentally affects Sites of National Importance including National Nature Reserves and/ or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and their settings will only be permitted where:
  - other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations;
  - the overriding national need for the mineral can be demonstrated;
  - it is in the public interest;
  - there are no alternative less environmentally constrained sites; and
  - it can be shown that the effects can be adequately mitigated by the imposition of conditions and/ or through the negotiation of planning obligations.

- Proposals for mineral development which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the following Sites of Regional and Local Importance must, where appropriate, make provision to safeguard or satisfactorily mitigate those impacts and, where possible enhance their attributes in the long term:
  - Local Nature Reserves;
  - County Wildlife Sites;
  - Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites; and
  - Ancient Woodlands.

Policy 21 Protected Species

Proposals for mineral development which are likely to adversely affect rare or threatened species or their habitats will only be permitted where:

- any adverse effects would be overcome by appropriate on or off site mitigation measures; or

- the adverse effects are reduced as far as practicable and are clearly outweighed by other planning benefits of the proposal.

Policy 22 Habitats and Features of Biodiversity and Geodiversity Importance

Proposals for mineral development should protect and enhance features important for biodiversity and geodiversity, including protected trees and hedgerows, unless the need for the development demonstrably outweighs the value of the feature.

If the loss of the habitat or feature cannot be avoided, provision will be made for the creation of an equivalent habitat or feature, either on the development site or under the terms of a voluntary agreement on a suitable alternative location within the county.

Where development is approved measures to achieve net gain of biodiversity and geodiversity will be sought, such as habitat creation as part of a reclamation scheme. Such habitat creation should be designed so as to contribute to the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan targets.
**Policy 23 Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land**

Proposals for mineral development on the best and most versatile agricultural land will not be granted unless it can be demonstrated that:
- proposals will not affect the long term agricultural potential of the land; or
- there is no available alternative and the need for development outweighs the agricultural interest; or
- available land of lower value represents an important environmental asset which outweighs the agricultural land quality; and
- working, restoration and aftercare proposals are submitted with the planning application that demonstrate that the land can be restored to the same physical characteristics close to its original agricultural quality.

Where alternative options are limited to varying grades of best and most versatile land, the development should be located within the lowest grade.

**Policy 24 Cultural Heritage**

Proposals for mineral extraction that affect the following assets:
- nationally important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, or their setting;
- the character, appearance or setting of conservation areas;
- the architectural or historic interest of listed buildings, or their setting;
- the site or setting of registered parks and gardens;
- the site or setting of registered battlefields;
will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not adversely affect the purpose of the designation and, where possible would enhance the asset.

Where development affects areas of archaeological potential, the developer will be required to provide an archaeological assessment as part of any planning application.

Where known sites of county archaeological significance will be affected by development, planning permission may be granted where provision is made for preservation of remains in situ. In cases where this is neither feasible nor merited, planning permission may be granted subject to satisfactory provision being made for excavation and recording.

**Policy 25 Rights of Way**

Proposals for mineral operations that affect the use of public rights of way will not be permitted unless they allow for:
- the continued use of the public right of way on the definitive route or on a temporary diversion of the route during extraction and restoration,
- the reinstatement of the public right of way, after mineral extraction and restoration and enhancement as appropriate on the definitive route or on a permanent diversion.
Policy 26 Water Resources

Proposals for mineral development will not be permitted which would cause demonstrable harm to water resources unless appropriate measures can be imposed to mitigate against such harm.

Policy 27 Flood Risk

Proposals for mineral development that would unacceptably reduce storage capacity in areas functioning as floodplain or unacceptably increase the risk of flooding elsewhere will not be permitted.

Policy 28 Local Amenity

Proposals for mineral development will only be permitted where the applicant has demonstrated that harmful effects on the environment and/or local communities will be minimised, and that the following can be controlled to within acceptable levels:
- Noise;
- vibration (including from blasting);
- dust;
- lighting;
- air quality;
- visual intrusion;
- hours of operation.

Policy 29 Unstable Land

Proposals for mineral development will not be permitted where it would result in an unacceptable adverse level of subsidence.

Policy 30 Cumulative Impact

Planning permission will not be granted for mineral development which would result cumulatively in a significant adverse impact on the environment and/or the amenity of local communities.
Policy 31 Planning Conditions

The Mineral Planning Authority, when granting planning permission for mineral working and related operations, will impose appropriate planning conditions relating to the operation, restoration and aftercare of the site. These conditions will be designed in particular, in respect of the following matters:

**Working and Related Operations**
- Controlling the time scale of operations
- Carrying out development in accordance with an approved scheme of working, including phasing
- Controlling the hours of working and maintenance
- The siting, design and appearance of buildings
- The arrangements for site drainage and fencing
- Ensuring good practice when stripping, handling and storing soils
- Ensuring the satisfactory disposal of mineral waste
- The arrangement for landscaping and screening the site

**Access and Highway Safety**
- Ensuring satisfactory access to the site
- Ensuring road safety
- Ensuring vehicular management
- Protecting public rights of way
- Preventing transference of mud and dirt onto the public highway

**Local Amenity Protection**
- Measures to minimise the effects of dust, noise, vibration and land contamination including buffer zones
- Controlling the visual impact of development
- Measures to avoid damage in the form of subsidence or landslips, and to protect surface development from the effects of land instability.
- Measures to ensure no adverse impact on aircraft safety due to risk of birdstrike

**Environmental Protection**
- Protecting/ enhancing/ recording features of particular archaeological remains and other historic assets
- Protecting water resources, water supply and land drainage (taking account of de-watering effects on adjacent land).
- Retention, protection and enhancement of trees, woodlands, hedgerows and other landscape features
- Protecting sites of special scientific interest, other features of nature conservation and geological value, and protected species
- Ensuring full adherence to the policy and land management guidance set out in the Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment.

**Reclamation**
- Ensuring progressive restoration of the site to an acceptable after-use, including aftercare, in accordance with a detailed scheme of reclamation.
**Policy 32 Planning Obligations**

The Mineral Planning Authority will seek to conclude legal agreements, where appropriate, through Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or such other relevant legislation, in order to secure planning obligations in respect of relevant matters which cannot be achieved by the use of planning conditions.

**Policy 33 Monitoring and Enforcement**

The Mineral Planning Authority will monitor minerals operations on a regular basis and will take action as appropriate to secure compliance with planning conditions or planning obligations, and to bring unauthorised mineral development under control.

**Policy 34 Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPS)**

In determining applications for new conditions under the provisions of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 or the Environment Act 1995 or other relevant legislation, the Mineral Planning Authority will consider such applications against all relevant policies of the development plan and national and regional guidance.

**Policy 35 Prohibition Orders**

The Mineral Planning Authority will pursue, where appropriate, the service of Prohibition Orders at sites where the winning and working of minerals has not been carried out for at least 2 years and where in its opinion working is unlikely to be resumed.
**Glossary**

**A**

**Aftercare** - The management and treatment of restored mineral working following extraction.

**Aggregate** - Sand and gravel, crushed rock and other bulk materials used in the construction industry.

**After Use** - The ultimate purpose to which former mineral sites are returned.

**Ancient Woodland** - Areas which have had continuous woodland cover since 1600. Ancient Semi-Natural Woods are those parts which retain naturally regenerated trees and shrubs. They have a long period of time to acquire wildlife and are therefore one of the most important wildlife habitats.

**Area of search** - An area within a Mineral Working Area that has been identified as having substantial mineral reserves that may require further evaluation in order to ascertain its economic viability, and environmental acceptability.

**B**

**Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land** – Agricultural Land Grade 1, 2, and 3a.

**Blasting** - Takes place where the rock to be extracted is hard enough to warrant fracturing prior to removal and processing.

**Boulder Clay** - A stony mass of finally ground rock, usually containing boulders and pebbles formed at the base of a glacier and left in situ after the glaciers retreat.

**Buffer Zone** - A zone or area that separates mineral development from other land uses to safeguard local amenity.

**C**

**Collyweston Stone Slate** - A roofing material widely used in Northamptonshire, in adjoining areas and on important buildings further a field. Collyweston stone slates are produced by the action of frost on the so called ‘log’ which is derived from the lowest beds of Lincolnshire Limestone. Suitable log is only found in discrete areas the best known sources being centred historically on Collyweston village. Other sources have been documented.

**Conservation Areas** - An area designated under the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, as being of special architectural or historic interest and therefore protected from any alterations which would destroy its character.

**County Wildlife Sites** - A designation for sites in the County which do not benefit from statutory protection but are still of high value to wildlife and are very important in a local context. Identified by the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust.

**Crushed Rock** - Hard rock, which has been quarried, fragmented and graded for use as aggregate.
Dormant sites - Under the terms of the Environment Act, 1995, a site is a dormant site if no mineral development has been carried out to any substantial extent in, on, or under the site at any time in the period beginning 22 February 1982 and ending on 6 June 1995 (MPG 14).

Fill - Aggregates used in construction or land reclamation works to create new levels.

Floodplains - All land adjacent to a watercourse over which water flows in times of flood or would flow but for the presence of flood defences where they exist.

Gravel - Naturally occurring aggregates of more or less rounded rock fragments (pebbles) which are coarser than sand; i.e. 2-64 millimetres in diameter, and used as a building and construction material and in drainage work.

Groundwater - Water associated with soil or rocks below the ground surface, usually taken to mean water in the saturated zone.

Inert Waste – Generally excavation and demolition materials arising from building and construction. Does not normally undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological changes when deposited at a landfill.

Landbanks - A stock of planning permissions sufficient to allow for extraction over a given period at an appropriate local level.

Listed Buildings - A building of special historic or architectural interest listed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Mineral Consultation Areas - Areas where mineral deposits are believed to exist, within which the District/Borough Council should consult the County Council, as Mineral Planning Authority (MPA), on any development proposed which might sterilise or prejudice the working of that deposit.

National Nature Reserve (NNR) - Statutory reserves established under the Wildlife and Conservation Act 1981. They protect those wildlife sites which have national and regional importance. In England they are owned or leased by English Nature or are managed in accordance with Nature Reserve agreements with landowners and occupiers. These are all ‘Sites of Special Scientific Interest’ (SSSIs).
**O**

**Overburden** - Soil and other material that overlies a mineral deposit of economic value which must be removed in order to extract the mineral.

**P**

**Preferred Areas** - An area within a Mineral Consultation Area containing mineral resources which can be identified with a high degree of provision and where there is a strong presumption in favour of extraction.

**Public Right of Way** - footpaths, bridleways, tracks and lanes used as public paths and public byways.

**R**

**Reclamation** - Operations designed to return the area to an acceptable environmental condition for the resumption of the former land use or a new land use.

**Recycling** - The collection and separation of materials from waste and subsequent processing to produce new marketable products.

**Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)** - A National scheme being promoted by English Nature and organised on a county basis. RIGS constitute a network of non-statutory earth science sites. Their notification should result in an increased level of protection and their promotion as sites for earth science education, leisure and amenity.

**Reserves** - Mineral deposits which have been tested to establish the quality and quantity of material present and which could be economically and technically exploited. Permitted reserves are reserves having the benefit of planning permission for extraction.

**Resources** - A potential mineral deposit where the quality and quantity of material present has not been tested.

**Restoration** - The return of land to its former or an appropriate condition using subsoil, topsoil and/or soil making material.

**S**

**Sand and Gravel** - Naturally occurring materials which are formed as a result of the disintegration of rocks through weathering processes, and are transported and deposited by wind, water and ice. In Britain the most common rock types are flint, limestone, quartzite and igneous rocks. Sand and gravel are therefore derived from similar sources, and are similar in their composition, though they differ in the size of their respective particles.

**Secondary Aggregate** - By-product wastes, synthetic materials and soft rock which may be used for aggregate purposes such as power station ash and other mineral wastes.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** - English Nature has a duty to notify as a Site of Special Scientific Interest any land which in its opinion is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features. This is a statutory designation.

**Sharp Sand** - Angular grains of sand which are suitable for use in concrete manufacture (also known as concreting sand).
**Soft Sand** - Sand of a generally fine rounded grain shape (also known as “building sand”). Soft sand is used in a variety of building operations, such as the manufacture of mortar, and in the manufacture of asphalt for road construction purposes.

**Special Landscape Area** - A Countywide designation identifying the most extensive areas of attractive landscape within the County.

**Sterilisation** - Where minerals cannot be extracted because of surface level development e.g. buildings on top of reserves which prevent access.

**W**

**Water Table** - The level of water below the surface of the ground in porous rocks. During wet weather the water table rises and during dry weather it falls.