

Greater Manchester Minerals DPD: Response to issues raised at the Preliminary Hearing Meeting

1. Reference to Landbank in Policy 2

In response to discussions during the preliminary meetings, the following amendment to Policy 2 is proposed.

Primary Extraction of Minerals - Aggregates Aggregate Extraction within Areas of Search

Applications for the extraction and/or processing of sand, gravel or sandstone/gritstone within the Areas of Search identified on Map 2 within this Plan will be permitted where:

1. The mineral is required to meet ~~a demonstrated need~~ *the required landbank of:*
 - i. at least 7 years for sand and gravel or*
 - ii at least 10 years for crushed rock;**and*
2. The site contains adequate reserves of the mineral, in terms of quality and quantity for extraction to take place; and
3. The proposal is in accordance with the Key Planning and Environmental Criteria in Policy 1;

This change to Policy 2 has been recorded as an additional minor change to the Minerals Plan (PAMC/AGMA/3), the Proposed Additional Minor Changes document will form a live record of any further changes which may result from the hearing sessions in February 2012.

2. Development and consultation on Areas of Search for future minerals extraction.

Initial work on identifying areas of search for future minerals extraction commenced through the production of a study 'Investigation into Mineral Resources in Greater Manchester' (2007) to inform the need for the development of a minerals plan in Greater Manchester. This work started by reviewing the previous areas of search used to inform the 1986 Minerals Local Plan.

The 1986 Minerals Local Plan provided a review of minerals activity in Greater Manchester which included mineral commodities such as sand and gravel, sandstone / gritstone, brick clay, peat, opencast coal, and secondary aggregates. It also identified future areas of search for sand, gravel, sandstone / gritstone and opencast coal.

A more recent study by the British Geological Survey (BGS) presents the geological distribution of mineral resources, the extent of mineral planning

permissions, the location of current mineral workings, and the extent of selected, nationally designated planning constraints within Greater Manchester.

Detailed information on the geology of Greater Manchester is presented in the Scoping Study- Investigation into Mineral Resources in Greater Manchester (TD009) and this was used with information from the BGS (TD002) to define Areas of Search for aggregates as included within the Submitted Plan.

Revision of 1986 Minerals Local Plan AoS.

The initial task in defining Areas of Search was to review and refine as necessary, the 1986 designations. This work principally reviewed the existing designations. To do this we overlaid the polygons for the 1986 AoS, using GIS, over current mastermap data and aerial photography to identify if any potential resources had been sterilised by urban development which may affect their use going forward. This work also looked at adjacent development.

The stages of work undertaken to assess the 1986 resources are set out below; Assessment of future minerals supply in Greater Manchester

1. Capture AoS for each mineral commodity from a variety of sources (digital and hard copy)
2. Revision of AoS boundaries to be coincident with BGS solid and drift geology boundaries where appropriate
3. Overlay urban area polygons (data provided by GM authorities for the Joint Waste Development Plan Document)
4. Identify AoS now potentially sterilised by urban development

Paragraphs 6.7 to 6.10 of TDxxx explain in detail the findings of this work and how this affected the existing boundaries.

Once the draft revised boundaries had been finalised, the next step was to assess these against additional data sources.

The principal sources of data for this exercise were as follows;

- BORIS (Borehole Information / Analysis System) - 1981 / 2 sand and gravel exploration programme¹;
- New areas brought forward following consultation with industry, land owners and land agents; and
- BGS Mineral Resources data

The BORIS borehole data was derived from a sand and gravel reconnaissance drilling programme commissioned by Greater Manchester Council (GMC) in the

¹ The BORIS borehole data was derived from a sand and gravel reconnaissance drilling programme commissioned by Greater Manchester Council (GMC) in the early 1980s. The programme comprised the drilling of around 200 boreholes covering an area of 5600 hectares (ha) with an average borehole density of 1 per 30ha.

early 1980s. The programme comprised the drilling of around 200 boreholes covering an area of 5600 hectares (ha) with an average borehole density of 1 per 30ha. Additional details on the methods used and criteria adopted for assessing sand and gravel resources were provided in Appendix 2 of the 1986 Minerals Local Plan. The original data was used, in part, to define the sand and gravel areas of search for the 1986 Minerals Local Plan.

For the purposes of this study the raw borehole data was subjected to additional analysis in line with present day economic criteria. The criteria were applied to each borehole to give an overall score weighting derived by multiplying the component scores. The economic criteria used in this assessment is set out in sections 6.14-6.23 of that report, however it should be noted that this is not an exhaustive set and other parameters (e.g. presence of deleterious materials including clay, coal, mudstones etc) may affect economic viability although this was not captured in the BORIS data. The criteria applied for this assessment were mineral thickness, overburden to mineral ratio, and gravel content. These are discussed in more detail in sections 6.14 - 6.23 of that report.

Data submitted by industry landowners

Although a number of sites were submitted by industry, they were not accompanied by borehole data. The information was therefore assessed against BGS data and the existing areas of search. Industry were also asked to submit borehole data if this became available as work progressed on the development of the Minerals plan. Additional work was done in regards to a site submitted near Pilsworth Landfill site to identify if there were potential sand and gravel deposits in that location. This work revealed that there were not reserves of sufficient quality and they withdrew their request for an allocation.

Other areas put forward which lay within the proposed areas of search and were not supported by any qualitative or quantitative evidence were not specifically allocated in the plan and would be taken forward as part of the wider AoS allocation. This was because no data was provided which supported a preferred area or site allocation.

Development of the GM Minerals DPD.

Consultation document: Identifying and protecting Mineral Resources in Greater Manchester.

In November 2009, the Joint Authorities consulted on the above document which included the following maps:

BGS Mineral Resources Information - Sand and Gravel
BGS Mineral Resources Information - Peat
BGS Mineral Resources Information - Sandstone

BGS Mineral Resources Information - Brickclay
BGS Mineral Resources Information/ The Coal Authority - surface mining coal

It also included maps of the amended AoS as identified through the 2007 work.

The consultation asked for comments on development of the AoS and for further submission of evidence for preferred areas and/or specific sites. The outcomes from this were used to development of the Issues and Options Report.

A letter regarding the availability of this document for consultation was sent to all stakeholders on the Minerals Plan database and was also available to download online from the minerals plan website and a link from each districts website. The consultation took place for 6 weeks.

Minerals DPD: Issues and Options Report

The Issues and options paper included a number of questions regarding how we should plan identifying future areas for minerals development. Section 4 of this report was entitled Method for identifying and protecting minerals resources – the issues. Questions 16-20 of this paper specifically deal with identifying aggregates. The questions were posed so as to discuss how allocations in the plan should be developed, the type of constraints that should apply and again to request for submission of information on new extraction sites. No maps were provided in this study.

The issues and options paper was consulted on for 6 weeks with documents made available online and at all 211 deposit points across Greater Manchester. Stakeholders were also informed of this consultation by letter/email and advert was also placed in the Manchester Evening News (MEN) paper.

The outcomes of this work were used to refine the methodology and identify allocations for the preferred approach report.

Minerals DPD: Preferred Approach Report

Section 4 of the Preferred Approach Report identifies future minerals development. This section included information on 3 preferred areas that had been submitted, no minerals data to back up these allocations had been submitted. The allocations were included for general consultation but had not been formally supported by the authorities.

One of the allocations fell within Lancashire (Fletcher Bank Quarry). We provided the information to Lancashire and also informed the landowner of the need to submit this information to Lancashire CC. The access to the site does however fall within Bury, Greater Manchester, therefore only the access provisions were specifically to be identified in the Minerals DPD.

The other allocations fell within Bolton and included a proposed extension to the south of Pilkington Quarry and a second extension into the adjoining quarry Montcliffe.

Paragraphs 4.12 to 4.23 set out the method which was used to define areas of search for aggregates and the constraints to be applied. This approach had been used to define areas of search shown for the whole of Greater Manchester on Map 3 and for each district on Maps 3i to 3x.

The preferred approach paper was consulted on for 6 weeks with documents made available online and at all 211 deposit points across Greater Manchester. Stakeholders were also informed of this consultation by letter/email and advert was also placed in the Manchester Evening News (MEN) paper.

Following consultation on this document, the land to the south of Pilkington was given planning permission, therefore this allocation was removed from the plan process as this would be covered through policy on sites with existing permission. A further area included in this extension was considered unsuitable as this would affect the current conditions on restoration as detailed in Planning Permission 84065/10. The proposed extension of land between Pilkington and Montcliffe was considered premature as this would not be worked until the existing permission at Pilkington had been worked, and the recent extension of time took this beyond the plan period. As such this was removed from the plan. All information regarding the exclusion of these sites and the reasons for this has been provided to the landowners.

As the proposed extension to Fletcher Bank fell within Lancashire, it is not possible for the minerals DPD to allocate this. However, the access would be protected by Policy 10 of the Publication plan

As no further sites were submitted for consideration, the Publication Minerals Plan only contained information on Areas of Search as consulted upon at Preferred Approach.