



Cumbria and the Lake District National Park

Fourth Joint Annual Local Aggregates Assessment 2016 (incorporating figures for 2015)

1. The purpose of the annual Local Aggregates Assessment is for each mineral planning authority to assess the balance between the demand for and supply of aggregates. It should show whether there is a shortage or a surplus of supply. If there is a shortage, it should say how this is being addressed.
2. There are 16 operating crushed rock quarries in Cumbria; two of these are partly within and one is wholly within the Lake District National Park. There are 10 operating sand and gravel quarries; none of these are within the National Park.
3. Cumbria is self-sufficient in aggregates and also supplies other markets in the North West, especially Lancashire, as well as other regions, especially the North East. Just under a third of Cumbrian quarries supply national markets, including Wales and Scotland.
4. The national policy criteria are that a minimum 7-year landbank should be maintained for land-won sand and gravel and a 10-year one for crushed rock. These should be based on the rolling average of 10 years annual sales data, whilst 3-year average annual sales can be used to identify trends.
5. In Cumbria, excluding the Lake District National Park, permitted reserves of land-won **sand and gravel** for aggregate use were 8.77 Mt, 10-year annual average sales were 0.63 Mt, representing **a landbank of 13.92 years**.
6. For a second year, sales of sand and gravel in 2015 held their significant increase after 5 years of low sales. Time extensions for a number of sand and gravel quarries were granted during calendar year 2015; however, although the landbank currently exceeds the minimum requirements, additional resources are required before 2030, especially in the south and west of the county. This is recognised in the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, through strategic policies and site allocations.

7. In Cumbria, including the Lake District National Park, permitted reserves of **crushed rock** at the end of 2015, were 144.63 million tonnes (Mt), 10-year average annual sales were 3.21 Mt, representing **a landbank of 45.06 years**.
8. Landbanks within Cumbria for those aggregates that constitute **high and very high specification roadstones** have also been considered separately from those for crushed rock for general use. The permitted reserve for these skid resistant roadstones, which supply national and regional markets, was 17.22 Mt with 10-year average sales of 0.59 Mt, giving **a landbank of 29.19 years** at the end of 2015.
9. Further resources for high and very high specification roadstones are advisable due to their regional and national significance, and this is addressed in the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, through strategic policies and site allocations.
10. The reserves solely for **crushed limestone for aggregate** purposes was 97.90 Mt giving **a landbank of 43.51 years**, based on 10 year rolling average sales of 2.25 Mt.
11. The supply of crushed limestone for industrial purposes is not covered in the landbanks considered above, and should be kept under review. These resources are, however, safeguarded within the limestone Mineral Safeguarding Areas.
12. National policy requires that landbanks should, as far as practical, be maintained from outside National Parks and other landscape designations. This may constrain the supplies of crushed rock that Cumbria can make to other parts of the country in the future.
13. More detail on the aggregates assessment than is contained in this 'headline' document, is to be found in the 'Cumbria and Lake District National Park Joint Annual Local Aggregates Assessment 2016: Supporting Information', dated October 2016, available from:
http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/MWLP/LAA.asp and also on the Lake District National Park website: <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/>

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