

Spatial Strategy for Minerals

**Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste
Local Plan 2040**

Hertfordshire County Council



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1.Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to give background information and justification on how the spatial strategy for minerals in the Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan') has developed and how the local context has been taken into consideration.
- 1.2 A spatial strategy has been developed for the Plan to give strategic direction for future mineral extraction in the county, to guide it towards the most suitable locations and ensure a continued and steady supply of sand and gravel.

2.National Policy and Guidance

- 2.1 The Plan must ensure a sufficient supply of sand and gravel over the plan-period (2020-2040). This must be achieved through identifying a total provision figure for sand and gravel and through the identification of either Specific Sites, Preferred Areas and or Areas of Search.
- 2.2 This process must be undertaken in line with national policy and guidance and must take account of the longstanding Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS) in relation to plan-making and requirements for the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA).
- 2.3 The MASS seeks to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregate mineral, to handle the significant geographical imbalances in the occurrence of suitable natural aggregate resources. It requires mineral planning authorities which have adequate resources to make an appropriate contribution to national and local supply¹. It requires mineral planning authorities to prepare LAA's to assess the demand for and supply of aggregates.
- 2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) set out the main requirements for minerals planning. The paragraphs of the NPPF which are of relevance to the planning for and maintenance of sand and gravel supply are set out below:
- 2.5 Paragraph 213 of the NPPF states:

'Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by:

a) preparing an annual Local Aggregate Assessment, either individually or jointly, to forecast future demand, based on a rolling average of 10 years' sales data and other relevant local information, and an assessment of all supply options (including marine dredged, secondary and recycled sources)

¹ Paragraph: 060 Reference ID: 27-060-20140306

b) participating in the operation of an Aggregate Working Party and taking the advice of that party into account when preparing their Local Aggregate Assessment;

c) making provision for the land-won and other elements of their Local Aggregate Assessment in their mineral plans, taking account of the advice of the Aggregate Working Parties and the National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group as appropriate. Such provision should take the form of specific sites, preferred areas and/or areas of search and locational criteria as appropriate

d) taking account of any published National and Sub National Guidelines on future provision which should be used as a guideline when planning for the future demand for and supply of aggregates;

e) using landbanks of aggregate minerals reserves principally as an indicator of the security of aggregate minerals supply, and to indicate the additional provision that needs to be made for new aggregate extraction and alternative supplies in mineral plans;

f) maintaining landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel and at least 10 years for crushed rock, whilst ensuring that the capacity of operations to supply a wide range of materials is not compromised;'

g) ensuring that large landbanks bound up in very few sites do not stifle competition; and

h) calculating and maintaining separate landbanks for any aggregate materials of a specific type or quality which have a distinct and separate market.

2.6 The PPG provides further guidance on planning for minerals. The PPG makes clear that mineral planning authorities should plan for the steady and adequate supply of minerals by designating one or more of either Specific Sites, Preferred Areas or Areas of Search².

2.7 The PPG states that the LAA must also consider other relevant local information in addition to the 10 years' sales data when forecasting demand³. The other relevant local information must seek to look ahead at possible future demand, rather than rely solely on past sales. Examples of other local information include levels of planned construction and housebuilding. The PPG adds that mineral planning authorities should also look at average sales over the last 3 years in particular, to identify the general trend of demand as part of the consideration of whether it might be appropriate to increase supply⁴.

² Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 27-008-20140306

³ Paragraph: 062 Reference ID: 27-062-20140306

⁴ Paragraph: 064 Reference ID: 27-064-20140306

3. Background to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 3.1 In considering the spatial strategy for minerals, it is important to understand the background to the Plan.
- 3.2 Prior to commencing work on the Plan, the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) had been carrying out separate reviews for the current adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan documents⁵.
- 3.3 The review of the adopted Minerals Local Plan started in 2014 and reached Proposed Stage. An Initial Consultation document was published for consultation in August 2015, a Draft Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation in December 2017 and the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation in January 2019.
- 3.4 In 2021, the MWPA made the decision to discontinue reviewing the plans separately and on 09 November 2021⁶ a report was presented to members of The Environment Cabinet Panel, setting out the authority's intention to merge the plans to create a single plan covering both minerals and waste policy.
- 3.5 The proposal to prepare a single plan received final approval from full Council on 14 December 2021. The plans which were under preparation prior to the approval of the single plan and their associated evidence base, were subsequently withdrawn.
- 3.6 Whilst the separate Minerals Local Plan and its evidence base were withdrawn, it is considered that the evidence base pertaining to the assessment and selection of mineral sites is pertinent to the Plan and should be drawn upon to provide justification for the identification of the three Mineral Allocation Sites (MAS) within the Plan.
- 3.7 See Chapter 5 for more information on the assessment and selection of mineral sites and how the previous evidence base work is applicable to the Plan.

⁵ The current adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan documents can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/planning-in-hertfordshire/minerals-and-waste-planning/minerals-and-waste-planning.aspx>

⁶ The report can be viewed via the following link: <https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=384&MIId=3533>

4. Sand and Gravel Annual Provision Rate

- 4.1 In making provision for land won sand and gravel within the Plan, an Annual Provision Rate must be established to determine the total provision required over the Plan period (2020-2040) and to ensure that a sufficient supply will be available to meet county's needs. The Annual Provision Rate is a figure in million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) which represents the quantity of sand and gravel Hertfordshire expects to contribute to the market on a yearly basis. This chapter explains how the Annual Provision Rate for the Plan was decided.
- 4.2 Hertfordshire's Annual Provision Rate has changed over time due to periodic reviews. The current adopted Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2007) was prepared using the Annual Provision Rate of 1.99Mtpa⁷. The Annual Provision Rate was reviewed through the 2009 National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision (the Guidelines covered the period from 2005-2020), resulting in a decreased Annual Provision Rate of 1.39Mtpa. This figure (1.39Mtpa) was used in the preparation of the separate Minerals Local Plan, which was being prepared prior to the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan⁸.
- 4.3 In 2021, the Annual Provision Rate was revised down from 1.39Mtpa to 1.31Mtpa. This figure has been used to plan for sand and gravel within the Plan. The figure (1.31Mtpa) is based on the end of 2020 10-year average sales figure (1.19Mt) plus an extra ten percent uplift, to provide flexibility and to accommodate to future growth.
- 4.4 The NPPG states that the 2009 Guidelines are not to be interpreted as rigid standards⁹ and that mineral planning authorities may decide, collectively, to plan for more or less than set out in the Guidelines based on their LAAs. The PPG goes on to state that such provision must be supported by robust evidence and be properly justified, having regard to local and national need¹⁰.
- 4.5 When considering the use of the 10-year sales average figure to calculate future supply, the PPG states:

*'Local Aggregate Assessments must also consider other relevant local information in addition to the 10 year rolling supply, which seeks to look ahead at possible future demand, rather than rely solely on past sales. Such information may include, for example, levels of planned construction and housebuilding in their area and throughout the country. Mineral Planning Authorities should also look at average sales over the last 3 years in particular to identify the general trend of demand as part of the consideration of whether it might be appropriate to increase supply.'*¹¹

⁷ As detailed in former Minerals Planning Guidance Note 6: Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England, 1994-2016, dated April 1994, as amended June 2003

⁸ The Annual Provision Rate was referred to as the 'sub-regional apportionment figure' within the separate Minerals Local Plan which was being prepared prior to the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan and in the current adopted Minerals Local Plan 2007

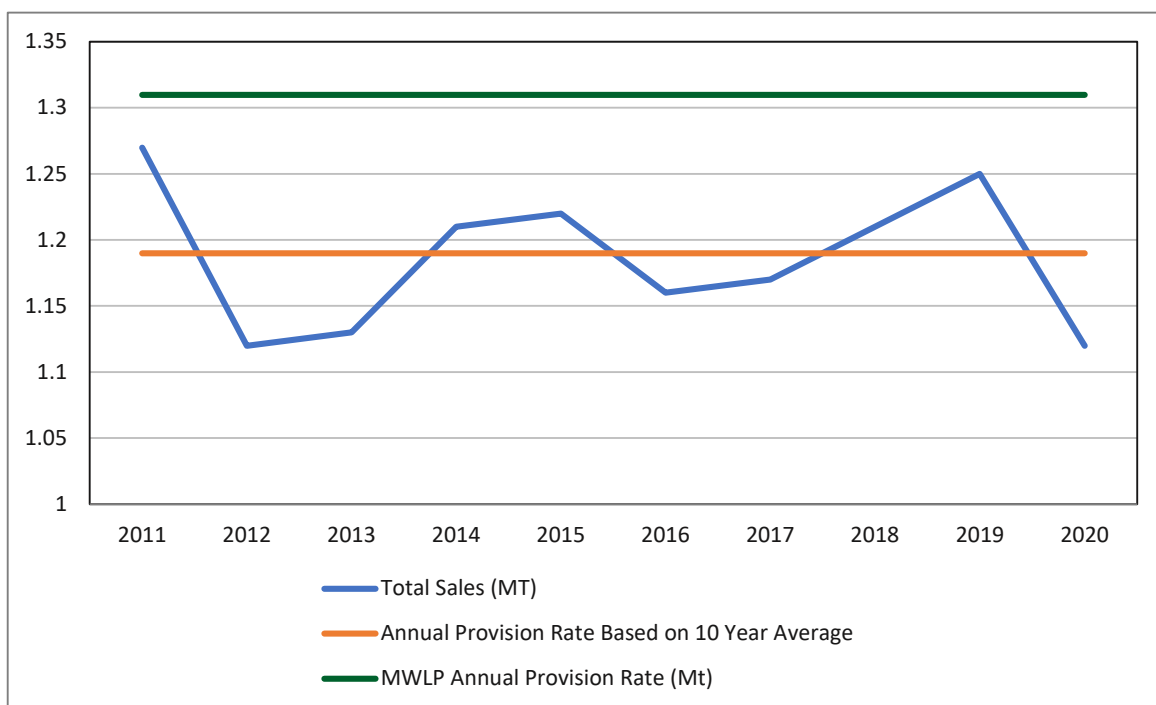
⁹ Paragraph: 068 Reference ID: 27-068-20140306

¹⁰ Paragraph: 070 Reference ID: 27-070-20140306

¹¹ Paragraph: 064 Reference ID: 27-064-20140306

- 4.6 In determining the Annual Provision Rate for the Plan, the county council considered the 10 and 3-year average sales figures as a starting point. The 10 and 3- year average sales figures, as of the end of 2020, both stood at 1.19Mt (million tonnes).
- 4.7 An Annual Provision Rate of 1.19Mtpa would be considered too low to use when planning for sand and gravel in Hertfordshire and would likely result in an undersupply. The total sand and gravel sales have exceeded 1.19Mt five times over the 10- year period from 2011-2020, whereas the sales never exceeded 1.31Mt in that same period. Figure 1 below shows where the total annual sales have exceeded the Annual Provision Rate based on the 10- year average sales figure (1.19Mt) over the 10- year period from 2011-2020. It also shows where the current Annual Provision Rate (1.31Mtpa) sits in relation to the total annual sales figures and the Annual Provision Rate based on the 10- year average sales figure (1.19Mt).

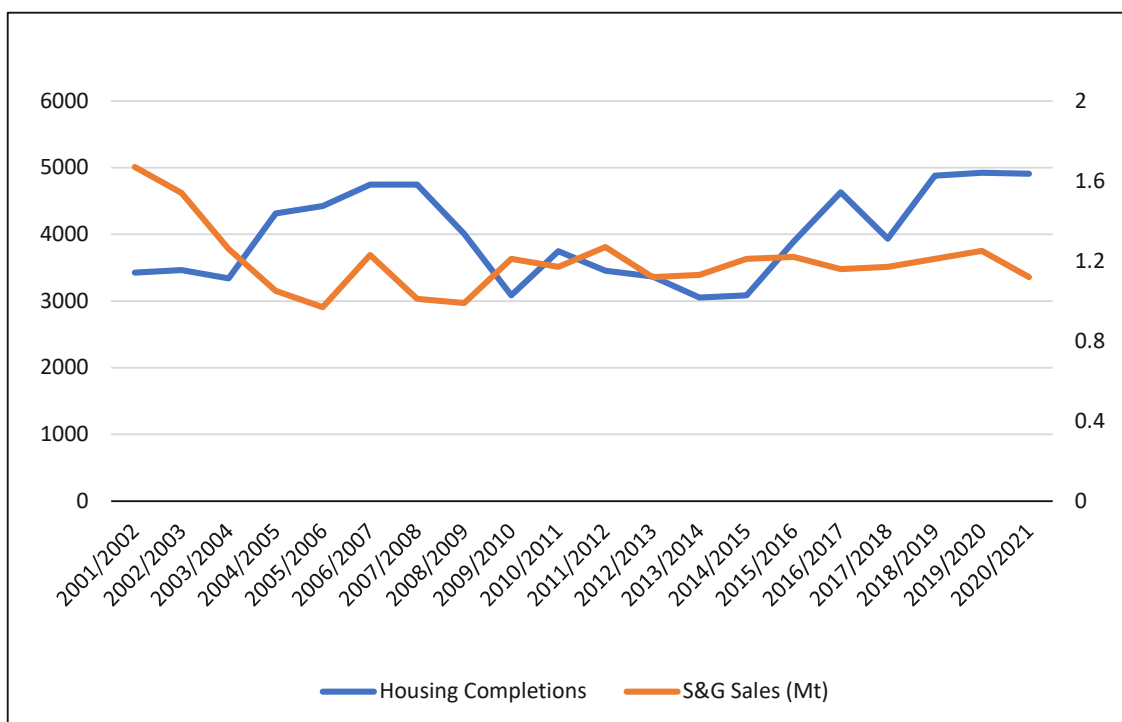
Figure 1: Annual Provision Rates Vs Total Annual Sales



- 4.8 In considering the Annual Provision Rate for the Plan, the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) also considered other relevant local information such as housebuilding rates.
- 4.9 Figure 2 below provides a comparison between sand and gravel sales and gross housing completions between the years of 2001/2002 to 2020/2021¹².

¹² The data were obtained from the Strategic Land Use Team within the county council's Spatial Planning Unit

Figure 2: Housing Delivery Vs Total Annual Sand and Gravel Sales



- 4.10 As can be seen from Figure 2 above, the sand and gravel sales were at their highest in 2001/2002 but the housebuilding numbers were relatively low during this time. Comparatively, when looking at the data from 2020/2021, the sand and gravel sales are relatively low, yet the housebuilding figure was at its highest.
- 4.11 Tables 1 and 2 below provide a detailed breakdown of the gross housing completions (split by District/Borough Authority area) between the years from 2001/2002-2010/2011 and 2011/2012-2020/2021¹³.
- 4.12 The total gross housing completion number for the period from 2001/2002 to 2010/2011 stood at 39,292 and the total gross housing completion number for the period from 2011/2012-2020/2021 stood at 40,131.

¹³ Figures obtained from the Strategic Land Use Team within the county council's Spatial Planning Unit

Table 1: Gross Housing Completions (2001/2002-2010/2011)

District/Borough	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Broxbourne	175	155	267	916	508	287	298	202	333	278	3419
Dacorum	375	705	446	333	250	480	472	459	259	636	4415
East Herts	636	397	297	381	644	812	599	597	494	304	5161
Hertsmere	327	111	215	251	341	285	409	328	331	225	2823
North Herts	760	685	482	437	569	662	769	488	390	455	5697
St Albans	422	357	285	668	379	439	337	466	329	495	4177
Stevenage	175	101	58	171	130	414	471	400	255	312	2487
Three Rivers	381	255	186	94	229	369	286	351	69	160	2380
Watford	79	192	277	379	638	292	336	369	540	665	3767
Welwyn Hatfield	95	504	825	682	737	708	768	348	83	216	4966
Total	3425	3462	3338	4312	4425	4748	4745	4008	3083	3746	39292

Table 2: Gross Housing Completions (2011/2012-2020/2021)

District/Borough	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Broxbourne	180	192	119	184	183	276	260	483	165	222	2264
Dacorum	477	364	254	402	701	764	628	532	522	802	5446
East Herts	445	729	394	535	739	668	613	943	994	854	6914
Hertsmere	217	334	473	225	406	340	562	677	623	521	4378
North Herts	422	314	274	251	360	556	346	249	338	601	3711
St Albans	466	400	504	398	457	404	493	731	474	602	4929
Stevenage	196	90	179	154	155	704	77	295	328	154	2332
Three Rivers	261	208	172	308	243	164	286	174	510	277	2603
Watford	479	568	431	271	308	384	357	292	278	454	3822
Welwyn Hatfield	309	170	254	356	338	370	314	505	695	421	3732
Total	3452	3369	3054	3084	3890	4630	3936	4881	4927	4908	40131

- 4.13 Housebuilding can only be used as a partial guide to future demand as aggregate sales reflect much wider demands including refurbishment of the housing stock and infrastructure maintenance¹⁴.
- 4.14 In addition to looking at housing delivery rates, it's also important to look ahead at possible future demand.
- 4.15 At least 100,000 new homes and jobs are aspired to be created in Hertfordshire by 2031¹⁵ and an estimated 50% of these new homes will be situated along the A414 corridor (within a 5-mile radius)¹⁶.
- 4.16 The majority of the ten District and Borough Councils within Hertfordshire are in the process of preparing new Local Plans or have recently adopted¹⁷ Local Plans. In revising their Local Plans, the District and Borough Councils must re-calculate the housing need for their local areas, in line with national requirements.
- 4.17 Table 3 below sets out how much housing is being planned for within the Hertfordshire District and Borough Local Plans¹⁸.

Table 3: Local Plan Housing Figures

Council	Planned Housing Figure	Source of housing figure
Broxbourne	7,700 homes by 2033	Adopted Local Plan (2018 - 2033) June 2020
Dacorum	16,600 homes by 2038	Emerging Strategy for Growth Consultation (Anticipated Plan period:2020-2038)
East Herts	18,458 homes by 2033	2018 East Herts District Local Plan (2011-2033) Adopted October
Hertsmere	Approximately 12,000 homes by 2038	Duty to Cooperate meeting 02/06/2021
North Herts	15,950 homes by	Proposed Submission Local Plan October 2016

¹⁴ Planning Officers Society and Mineral Products Association Practice Guidance on the Production and Use of Local Aggregate Assessments Living Document May 2017. Available at: <https://www.planningofficers.org.uk/publications/good-practice-production-and-use-of-local-aggregate-assessments>

¹⁵ HGB - Hertfordshire: driven by firm beliefs and a clear purpose (hertfordshiregrowthboard.com)

¹⁶ [a414-corridor-strategy-report-8.10.19-pdf-12mb.pdf \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁷ Stevenage Borough Council adopted on 22 May 2019, East Herts Council adopted on 23 October 2018 and Broxbourne adopted on 23 June 2020

¹⁸ The planned housing figures are subject to change and may alter throughout the Local Plan preparation process, including at examination. This table has been included for indicative purposes only and the figures are not to be taken as absolute, where plans are still under preparation

	2031	(Anticipated Plan period:2011-2031)
St Albans	14,608 homes by 2036	St Albans Draft Regulation 19 Local Plan 2018 ¹⁹
Stevenage	7,600 homes from 2011-2031	Stevenage Borough Local Plan (2011-2031) Adopted May 2019
Three Rivers	12,624 homes by 2038	Local Plan Regulation 18 Preferred Policy Options Consultation (Anticipated Plan period:2018-2038)
Watford	7,500 homes by 2036	Regulation 18 Preferred Options Local Plan Consultation September 2019 (Anticipated Plan period:2020-2036)
Welwyn Hatfield	12,000 homes by 2032 ²⁰	Draft Local Plan Submission Document, August 2016 (Anticipated Plan period:2013-2032)

4.18 Considering other major infrastructure projects planned for development (both inside and outside the county boundary) is also part of establishing possible future demand.

4.19 For Hertfordshire, the current major infrastructure projects being delivered include:

High Speed 2 (HS2):

4.20 HS2 is a Department for Transport project to build a new high-speed railway between London and the North-West. A section of the line, due to open in 2026, passes within Hertfordshire's county boundary and requires significant construction works, namely the Colne Valley Viaduct and Chiltern Tunnel Southern Portal.

Updates to the A602 from Stevenage to Ware:

4.21 The scheme includes a series of Improvements to major junctions (such as the A119 junction, Hertford Road junction and the A120 junction) and roads, including Westmill Road and Ware Road.

4.22 The potential future major infrastructure projects for Hertfordshire include:

Hertford Bypass

¹⁹ The St Albans Local Plan was withdrawn in November 2020. St Albans District Council are now preparing a new Local Plan and the housing numbers in the new plan will vary from what is set out within this table. Figures from the withdrawn St Albans Local Plan have been included in this table for indicative purposes only

²⁰ The housing target and plan period may change as a result of the current examination taking place for the submitted Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Local Plan.

4.23 The Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) identifies that a highway bypass north or south of Hertford (referred to as Hertford Bypass) may be required in order to re-route the A414 and connect it with the A10 to the east of Hertford town. LTP4 states that the Hertford Bypass is a concept which will be investigated further as part of the A414 Corridor Strategy.

New M1 Junction 8a

4.24 The Hertfordshire LTP4 states that a new junction on the M1 could address the highway capacity concerns for the existing M1 Junction 8 and along the A414. The existing A414 and traffic using it through Hemel Hempstead, results in severance and local environmental impacts. It also constrains the potential to improve active travel and passenger transit improvements along and around the A414 route.

4.25 The concept of a new Junction will be developed further as part of the LTP4 Growth and Transport Plans and in partnership with Highways England who are responsible for the motorway.

Aspirations for Hertfordshire's Rail Network

4.26 The Hertfordshire Rail Strategy December 2020 sets out the key aspirations for the county's rail network. The Rail Strategy identifies that new stations may be required at Turnford and Park Plaza (on the Southbury Loop) and Stevenage South (on the Hertford Loop). The Rail Strategy also identifies a list of other additional new or improved rail line projects which include the delivery of Crossrail 2²¹, a new line to be built between Stevenage and Luton and more.

Adjoining Major Projects

4.27 There are a number of large housing development sites which are proposed/coming forward in neighbouring authority areas which could have an impact on the demand and supply of sand and gravel in Hertfordshire. Some of these major housing sites include²²:

- Harlow Gilston Garden Town²³- approx. 23,000 units (10,000 of the 23,000 will be built in Hertfordshire)
- Houghton Regis Development, Central Bedfordshire- 7,000 units
- North of Luton, Bedfordshire- 4,000 units
- East of Arlesey, Bedfordshire – 2,000 units
- Northstowe New Town, Cambridgeshire – 10,000 units

²¹ Crossrail 2 is a proposed new rail route going through London, which will link to some stations in Hertfordshire [Crossrail 2 - Supporting Growth in the South East](#)

²² Source of information: Hertfordshire Infrastructure & Funding Prospectus 2018-2031

²³ The project crosses over the border of Hertfordshire, into Essex. [Harlow and Gilston Garden Town - Home \(hgggt.co.uk\)](#)

- Cambourne New Town, Cambridgeshire – 5,000 units

Contribution to Regional Supply

- 4.28 In respect of Hertfordshire’s contribution to the regional supply of sand and gravel, the 2021 East of England Aggregates Working Party’s Annual Monitoring Report²⁴, states that sales of sand and gravel in Hertfordshire during 2020 accounted for 11% of the total sales within the East of England²⁵ and the Hertfordshire reserves (at the end of 2020) accounted for 6.6% of the total reserves within the East of England.
- 4.29 Whilst the Hertfordshire reserves make up a smaller proportion of the total permitted reserves within the East of England region (as of 2020), the county’s contribution is likely to increase in coming years as additional sand and gravel sites come forward.
- 4.30 Land adjoining Coopers Green Lane (Hatfield Quarry) received planning permission in October 2020 subject to a Section 106 Legal Agreement²⁶. Once the Decision Notice is issued, the reserves (3.52Mt) will be added to the Hertfordshire landbank. Hatfield Aerodrome is also subject to a planning application²⁷ for the extraction of up to 8Mt of sand and gravel²⁸.
- 4.31 Sales of sand and gravel in Hertfordshire are also likely to increase, as the country recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic. The Minerals Products Association issued a press release in February 2022²⁹ which stated that demand for mineral products in Britain recorded double-digit growth during 2021, a sharp recovery from the pandemic-induced slowdown a year earlier.

Other Supply Options

- 4.32 In considering the Annual Provision Rate, it is important to take account of all sources of aggregates in line with Paragraph 213a of the NPPF. The other supply options to consider in planning for sand and gravel include external sources of sand and gravel (both from land won and marine sources) and the contribution made by recycled aggregate which can be used as a substitute for virgin sand and gravel.
- 4.33 A national four-yearly Aggregate Minerals Survey (AMS) provides in-depth information of regional and national sales, inter-regional flows, transportation, consumption and permitted reserves of primary aggregates in England and Wales. The latest national AMS was carried out in 2020 to capture data for 2019 (2019 AMS).

²⁴ Which covers data from 2019 and 2020. Available at: <https://davidjarvis.biz/east-of-england-awp/>

²⁵ It should be noted that the 2020 sales of sand and gravel in Hertfordshire were slightly lower when compared to previous years. It is thought that this is a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic and the temporary slow and shut down in the construction sector.

²⁶ Planning application reference number PL\0963\18

²⁷ Planning application reference number: PL/0232/21

²⁸ All sand and gravel planning applications which have the potential to increase the Hertfordshire reserves are monitored through the Hertfordshire Local Aggregates Assessment

²⁹ <https://www.mineralproducts.org/News-CEO-Blog/2022/release04.aspx>

- 4.34 The 2019 AMS³⁰ reports that Hertfordshire received 222,000 tonnes of imported land won sand and gravel.
- 4.35 The total amount of land won sand and gravel consumed³¹ within Hertfordshire in 2019 stood at 1,148,000 tonnes, meaning that imported land won sand and gravel accounted for approximately 19% of that total.
- 4.36 Of the land won sand and gravel consumed within Hertfordshire (1,148,000 tonnes) 80-90% came from within Hertfordshire³² and most of the remainder was supplied from either Buckinghamshire, Essex or Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 4.37 The 2019 AMS also reports that Hertfordshire received 216,000 tonnes of imported marine sand and gravel. The majority (90-100%) was supplied from the London Borough of Greenwich and the remaining 1-10% was supplied from the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham. In comparison, the 2014 AMS reported that Hertfordshire received 19,000 tonnes of imported marine sand and gravel.
- 4.38 Whilst the county does receive some of its supply from external sources, the 2019 AMS also reports that of the sand and gravel extracted from Hertfordshire quarries, 74% was consumed within Hertfordshire, 11% was consumed within the East of England and the remaining 15% was consumed elsewhere. This means that 26% of the sand and gravel extracted in Hertfordshire's in 2019 contributed towards national and regional supply.
- 4.39 The imports received from external sources help to compensate for the supply which is exported to other authority areas outside of Hertfordshire.
- 4.40 The data available on recovered material that can be sold as recycled aggregate (as a substitute for virgin sand and gravel) are variable and not considered completely reliable. The MWPA monitors the amount of Construction, Demolition and Excavation CD&E waste, which is recycled at facilities within the county, through the annual Aggregate Monitoring Surveys. The MWPA receives limited data provided by site operators in response to this survey.
- 4.41 The use of secondary and recycled materials will go some way to meeting Hertfordshire's requirement for sand and gravel over the Plan period (2020-2040) but it is not possible to determine its contribution due to limited data. The Mineral Products Association estimate that nationally recycled materials account for 28% of aggregate supply³³.
- 4.42 The Plan includes policies that encourage an increased use of secondary and recycled aggregates. Policy 10 (Policy 10: Secondary and Recycled Materials) aims to maximise

³⁰ PDF copy of 2019 AMS available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1075214/AM2019_National_Collation-Final.pdf

³¹ Consumption is an overall figure combining imports from external sources as well as the supply consumed from in-county sources

³² Likely close to 80% considering that approximately 19% of the total land won sand and gravel consumed within Hertfordshire was supplied from imports of land won sand and gravel

³³ The Contribution of Recycled and Secondary Materials to Total Aggregates Supply in Great Britain - 2020 Estimates

the re-use, recycling and recovery of CD&E waste to minimise its disposal wherever possible and to ensure that this is achieved through the most appropriate means. It also supports the expansion of existing and the provision of new facilities to increase the capacity for processing, distribution and where necessary the re-processing of aggregates.

- 4.43 Policy 11 (Policy 11: Sustainable Design and Resource Efficiency) requires that all major planning applications must be accompanied by a Circular Economy Statement which includes details of the management of waste through all stages of development. This aims to encourage and increase the reuse and recycling of CD&E on site as well as encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates over primary aggregate.

Conclusion

- 4.44 An Annual Provision Rate of 1.31Mtpa has been used to plan for sand and gravel within the Plan.
- 4.45 Basing the Annual Provision Rate solely on the 2020 10 or 3-year average sales figure (1.19Mt), would result in an undersupply of sand and gravel. Hertfordshire's sales of sand and gravel have exceeded 1.19Mt five times over the 10- year period from 2011-2020. The last time the total sand and gravel sales figure exceeded 1.31Mt was in 2002.
- 4.46 The Annual Provision Rate is based on the 2020 10-year average sales figure (1.19Mt) plus an extra ten percent uplift to provide flexibility. This figure (1.31Mt) will ensure that a sufficient supply of sand and gravel is provided over the Plan period (2020-2040) to meet the growth aspirations of the county, whilst also accommodating for the anticipated gradual rise in demand for sand and gravel, as the county recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 4.47 The county does receive some imports of sand and gravel, but this likely compensates for the supply of sand and gravel which is exported out of the county. It is considered that whilst imports of sand and gravel do help to meet the county's needs, the imports do not contribute at a level which could enable the use of a lower Annual Provision Rate.
- 4.48 The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be reviewed within five years post-adoption, to assess whether it needs updating³⁴. The review will provide an opportunity to assess the trends in sand and gravel demand and whether the Annual Provision Rate remains appropriate.

³⁴ NPPF Paragraph 33

5. Mineral Site Assessment and Selection

- 5.1 The Plan identifies three sand and gravel allocations. The sand and gravel allocations are referred to as Mineral Allocation Sites (MAS) within the Plan and include:
- Land adjoining Coopers Green Lane (Hatfield Quarry)
 - Hatfield Aerodrome &
 - The Briggens Estate
- 5.2 The MAS have been identified through a mineral site selection process which was undertaken to support a now withdrawn Minerals Local Plan.
- 5.3 This chapter explains how the mineral site selection process undertaken for the withdrawn Minerals Local Plan is relevant to the Plan. It provides a breakdown of the steps included within the mineral site selection process and explains how the MAS were identified through this process.
- 5.4 As explained in Chapter 3, prior to commencing work on the Plan, the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) had been carrying out separate reviews for the current adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan documents.
- 3.8 The review of the adopted Minerals Local Plan started in 2014. An Initial Consultation document was published for consultation in August 2015, a Draft Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation in December 2017 and the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation in January 2019.
- 5.5 In 2021, the MWPA made the decision to discontinue reviewing the plans separately and on 14 December 2021, the authority received approval from members to prepare a single plan and withdraw the separate plans and their associated evidence.
- 5.6 Whilst the evidence base prepared to support the separate Minerals Local Plan was withdrawn, it is considered that the evidence base pertaining to the assessment and selection of mineral sites is applicable to the Plan and should be drawn upon to provide justification for the identification of the three MAS.
- 5.7 The evidence base connected to the assessment and selection of mineral sites has been published as supporting information alongside the Plan. This chapter identifies the names of these documents and where they can be found.
- 5.8 The mineral site selection process consisted of several steps. Paragraphs 5.9 to 5.59 below describe the work involved within each step and explain the outcomes of the process. A Table summarising the site selection process has also been included below (see Table 3).

Site Selection Methodology

- 5.9 To begin the site selection process, a Site Selection Methodology was established to ensure an appropriate framework was in place to assess the sites which would later be submitted to the council for consideration.
- 5.10 A Site Selection Methodology was prepared by Land Use Consultants and Cuesta Consulting Ltd on behalf of the council. The Site Selection Methodology was published as a supporting document alongside the Initial Consultation Document in August 2015 (consultation ran from 3 August 2015 to 16 October 2015) and was later finalised in December 2015. The Site Selection Methodology Report December 2015 was presented to members of the Environment, Planning and Transport Planning Panel in February 2016.
- 5.11 The Site Selection Methodology December 2015 has been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.

Call For Sites Exercise

- 5.12 The council undertook a Call for Sites exercise between February and April 2016. The aim of the exercise was to receive detailed mineral site submissions from quarry operators, agents or landowners which may be suitable for identification as allocated sites.
- 5.13 During the exercise, the council received 20 site submissions. Eighteen sites for sand and gravel extraction and two sites for brick clay extraction.

Site Assessment

- 5.14 Following the Call for Sites exercise, the next step involved assessing the sites against several detailed criteria (established through the Site Selection Methodology) to determine their potential suitability for designation and to narrow the group down to help identify the most suitable sites for identification in the Draft Minerals Local Plan.
- 5.15 The results of the assessments were detailed within the Site Selection Report March 2017 prepared by Land Use Consultants and Cuesta Consulting Ltd on behalf of the council.
- 5.16 Within the Site Selection Report, the sites are assessed against three stages called 'sieves' which, when applied to the group of sites, progressively narrowed it down by discounting sites from the study which did not meet the criteria. In addition to the 20 site submissions (18 for sand and gravel extraction and two for brick clay extraction), two of

the three³⁵ Preferred Areas identified within the current adopted Minerals Local Plan 2007 were also assessed within the Site Selection Report to determine their potential suitability for identification.

- 5.17 Sieve 1 looked at major constraints and ruled out any previously worked sites, sites within urban areas or sites with extant planning permission for other forms of development.
- 5.18 Sieve 2 verified evidence relating to commercial viability and deliverability. Sieve 2 was not an exclusionary sieving stage. For sites put forward during the Call for Sites exercise, a certain level of information was expected to be provided by the site promoter to demonstrate that their proposed site was economically viable.
- 5.19 Sieve 3 assessed the sites against more detailed environmental and planning constraints and issues to identify the sites most appropriate for inclusion within the plan. Each criterion was considered in turn to inform a detailed comparative evaluation of the sites. The Sieve 3 criteria covered the following topics:
- Airport Safeguarding Zones
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Aquifers
 - BAP Priority Species or Habitats
 - BMV Land
 - Cumulative Effects
 - Ecological Status of Water Bodies
 - Flood Risk
 - Geodiversity
 - Green Belt
 - Groundwater Vulnerability
 - Heritage Assets
 - International and National Ecological Designations
 - Land Ownership
 - Landscape Designations
 - Local Nature Reserves and/or Local Wildlife Sites
 - Proximity of Allocated Residential or Build Development
 - Recreation
 - Restoration
 - Sensitive Land Uses
 - Sustainable Transport
 - Pollution to the Environment (dust, air, water)

³⁵ Preferred Area 3 (as identified within the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2007) was not assessed within the Site Selection Report. The area comprises land to the south-east of the existing Tyttenhanger Quarry, almost all of which has been worked, as extensions to that site.

5.20 The sites were scored against the criteria within each Sieve using a traffic light ranking system of impact ranging from Positive to Very High. The scoring system can be seen in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Scoring system applied within Site Selection Report

Score	Description
Positive	There are positive impacts or benefits/enhancements.
Low	There are no/insignificant impact(s)/ issue(s).
Medium	There is a minor/moderate impact/issue which may be acceptable (and may involve mitigation).
High	There is a major impact/issue which may or may not be adequately mitigated.
Very High	There is an impact on a site or area of international or national significance within which working will only be permitted once an exception or alternative test in national policy have been met.

5.21 The sites were also subject to separate landscape and visual sensitivity and highways assessments.

5.22 Hertfordshire County Council Highways Department provided a high-level review of the sites. The Highways review does not provide a detailed assessment of the potential implications on the highway network as this would be more appropriate at the planning application stage. Instead, the review included general highways comments for each of the sites and applied a traffic light grading system (grey was included for sites lacking information) to determine the potential impact on the local highway network. Each site was scored against the following matters pertaining to Highways: General Assessment, Highway Impact, Collision Data, Venerable Road Users, Air Quality Management Areas, Heavy Goods Vehicle Routing, Public Footpaths and Highway Condition.

5.23 Land Use Consultants undertook a Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study of the potential mineral sites (including sites submitted to the council and the two of the three Preferred Areas identified in the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2007) on behalf of the council.

5.24 The study makes a series of judgements about the sensitivity of each individual site to a specific type of mineral extraction (sand and gravel or brick clay) alongside making comment on likely landscape and visual effects.

5.25 The sensitivity of sites to mineral extraction was assessed against several criteria and graded using a five-point sensitivity scale formed using a traffic light grading system.

5.26 The judgements of the study are indicative of the likely effects and are not intended to be a substitute for detailed consideration of the effects of individual development proposals if required as part of planning applications.

5.27 The Site Selection Report March 2017 includes a summary of the findings from the Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study and includes the Highways Department review as an appendix (see Appendix 2 of the Site Selection Report March 2017).

5.28 The Site Selection Report March 2017 sets out the following conclusions:

- The least constrained site
- The sites with a modest range of high impacts, scoring 3 or 4 red (Very High/High) scores (likely to have the greatest potential to mitigate the adverse impacts associated with their excavation and operation and therefore considered to be potentially suitability for allocation)
- The sites with a moderate range of high impacts, scoring 5 or 6 red scores (lower potential suitability for allocation)
- The sites which have over 7 red scores and offer the least potential as sand and gravel site allocations
- The most appropriate brick clay extraction site (out of the two submitted brick clay sites)

Site Selection

5.29 Following the assessment of the sites, consideration was given as to whether sites should be identified as a Specific Site, a Preferred Area and/or an Area of Search as appropriate. This depended on the level of information and known degree of deliverability of the areas/sites in question.

5.30 Four potential sand and gravel site groupings were developed using the conclusions from the Site Selection Report March 2017 as a basis, together with a review of site deliverability and potential tonnage yield from each site.

5.31 A Report was presented to members on 7 September 2017 to summarise the site assessment work and set out the preferred group of sites for inclusion within the Draft Minerals Local Plan.

5.32 The Report presented to members has been published as a supporting document to the Plan and is available to view on the council's minerals and waste webpages. The report is called: 'Mineral Site Options Panel Report'. The Site Selection Report March 2017 is appended to this report but has also been published separately as a supporting document to the Plan.

5.33 The Mineral Site Options Panel Report explains that of the two sites put forward for brick clay extraction, one of the sites (MLPCS013 Harry's Field) presented some uncertainty regarding its deliverability and the other (MLPCS020 Roundhill Wood) had several potential high impacts and therefore would not be suitable for allocation.

5.34 Due to the deliverability and unsuitability issues, neither of the brick clay sites were taken forward for allocation within the Draft Minerals Local Plan. To address the requirements of the NPPF, the Draft Minerals Local Plan safeguarded brick clay resources through Mineral Safeguarding Areas.

5.35 The four potential sand and gravel site groupings considered and summarised within the Mineral Site Options Panel Report are set out below:

Option 1

5.36 Option 1 was based solely on the recommendations from the Site Selection Report (March 2017):

004 Pynesfield
012 Broad Green
017 Robins Nest Hill
008 Furze Field
PA1 Land at BAe/Land Close to the existing Hatfield Quarry
006 Hatfield Aerodrome
009 Land Adjoining Coopers Green Lane
018 Southfield Wood
PA2 Land at Rickneys

Option 1 Total Tonnage: 21,750,000 tonnes

Option 2

5.37 Option 2 was based on Option 1 but excluded sites 004, 017 and 018 due to economic viability issues, landownership constraints and one of the sites being granted planning permission for extraction.

012 Broad Green
008 Furze Field
PA1 Land at BAe/Land Close to the existing Hatfield Quarry
006 Hatfield Aerodrome
009 Land Adjoining Coopers Green Lane
PA2 Land at Rickneys

Option 2 Total Tonnage: 19,900,000 tonnes

Option 3

5.38 Option 3 was based on Option 2 but excluded site 012, Preferred Area 1 (northern), added in Land at Ware Park 003:

008 Furze Field

006 Hatfield Aerodrome
009 Land Adjoining Coopers Green Lane
PA2 Land at Rickneys
003 Land at Ware Park

Option 3 Total Tonnage: 21,050,000 tonnes

Option 4

5.39 Option 4 is based on Option 3 but excluded MLP003 Land at Ware Park due to a refusal of planning permission for mineral extraction on the site. Option 4 also excluded PA2 Land at Rickneys in order to provide an alternative scenario from the preferred areas identified in the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2007.

008 Furze Field
006 Hatfield Aerodrome
009 Land Adjoining Coopers Green Lane
010 (Preferred Area) Briggens Estate

Option 4 Total Tonnage: 25,750,000 tonnes

5.40 Members agreed to the authority's decision to pursue Option 4 and subsequently the sites that comprise Option 4 were taken forward for identification within the Draft Minerals Local Plan December 2017.

5.41 The Site Selection Report was updated in November 2017 to reflect updated Highways comments. The November 2017 version of the Site Selection Report was published as a supporting document alongside the Draft Minerals Local Plan.

5.42 The Site Selection Report November 2017 has been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.

Draft Minerals Local Plan Consultation and Additional Site Submissions

5.43 The consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan ran from 4 December 2017 to 09 February 2018. The council received four additional site submissions³⁶ in response to the consultation. The additional site submissions necessitated the need to update the Site Selection Report to ensure the additional sites were assessed and appropriately considered to the same extent as all other sites.

³⁶ One of the four sites was a resubmission. Site MLPCS001 (Land at Cromer Hyde Farm) was resubmitted following the securing of support from a mineral operator (Cemex) and agreement with landowners (Gascoyne Cecil Estates) to convey extracted material to the existing Cemex processing machinery at Hatfield Quarry. The resubmitted was reassessed within the Site Selection Report August 2018 as Site MLPCS001RS.

Omission Sites Document

- 5.44 The council also prepared an Omission Sites Document to detail reasons why the rejected sites were not carried forward into the Draft Minerals Local Plan. A consultation on the Omission Sites Document December 2017 ran parallel to the consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan.
- 5.45 The Omission Sites Document December 2017 has been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.

Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan

- 5.46 Following consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan and parallel consultation on the Omission Sites Document December 2017, the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was prepared.
- 5.47 On 14 November 2018, a report was presented to members of the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy Cabinet Panel, to present the Minerals Local Plan Proposed Submission Document for publication and the Omission Sites Document January 2019 for consultation.
- 5.48 An additional Omissions Sites Document was prepared following Draft Plan consultation to take account of the four additional site submissions (see paragraph 5.43). The Omissions Sites Document January 2019 was used to detail reasons why the four additional site submissions were rejected.
- 5.49 The report presented to members on 14 November 2018 has been published as one of the supporting documents to the Plan. The document is called 'Proposed Submission & Omissions Document Panel Report' and is available to view on the council's minerals and waste webpages.
- 5.50 The Omission Sites Document January 2019 has also been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.
- 5.51 The Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation from 14 January 2019 to 22 March 2019. The consultation on the Omission Sites Document January 2019 ran parallel to this consultation.
- 5.52 An August 2018 Site Selection Report was published alongside the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan as a supporting document. The Site Selection Report August 2018 includes assessments of the four additional sites which were submitted to the council in response to the consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan.

- 5.53 The Site Selection Report August 2018 has been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.
- 5.54 The assessment of the four additional sites did not result in any changes to the group of sites identified. The Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan identified the same four site allocations as the Draft Minerals Local Plan.
- 5.55 The Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study (see paragraphs 5.21 to 5.27) was also updated to include an assessment of the four additional sites. The Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study August 2018 was published alongside the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan as a supporting document.
- 5.56 The Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study August 2018 has been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 5.57 The withdrawn Minerals Local Plan was subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). A full SA Report was produced to support the Draft Minerals Local Plan December 2017 and a full SA Report was also produced to support the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan January 2019.
- 5.58 The SA Reports assessed the sites considered for potential inclusion within the plan by assessing each site individually and by assessing the four potential site groupings (i.e. Options 1 to 4).
- 5.59 Given the SA's relevance to the background of the MAS' identified within the Plan, the SA Report prepared to support the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan January 2019 has been published as one of the supporting documents to the Plan. The document is called 'Sustainability Appraisal of Withdrawn Minerals Local Plan' and is available to view on the council's minerals and waste webpages. See Chapter 8 (Chapter 8: Hertfordshire Proposed Submission MLP - Mineral Site Allocations and Reasonable Alternatives - Summary of SA Findings) of the report to view the outcomes of the mineral sites appraisal.
- 5.60 Table 3 below provides a summary of the steps outlined within this chapter.

Table 3: Plan preparation vs Site Selection

Date	Plan Preparation	Evolution of Site Selection Process and Documents Connected to Site Selection
2015	An Initial Consultation document was published for consultation from 3 August 2015 to 16 October 2015.	A Site Selection Methodology was developed to support the site selection process and finalised in December 2015. The document was published for consultation alongside the Initial Consultation document.
2016	Responses to the Initial Consultation were considered. Work commenced on preparing the Draft Minerals Local Plan.	A Call for Sites exercise was undertaken between February and April 2016. 20 site submissions were received.
2017	<p>The results of the Call for Sites exercise, and site selection work were presented to members on 7 September 2017.</p> <p>The report presented to members identified Option 4 as the preferred group of sites for identification within the Draft Minerals Local Plan. Members agreed to Option 4. A copy of the Site Selection Report March 2017 was appended to the report.</p>	The Call for Site submissions were assessed. The assessments were detailed within the Site Selection Report March 2017.
Late 2017/ early 2018	The Draft Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation from 4 December 2017 to 9 February 2018.	<p>The Site Selection Report November 2017 was published as a supporting document alongside the Draft Minerals Local Plan.</p> <p>An Omission Sites Document December 2017 was published for consultation. Consultation on the Omission Sites Document December 2017 ran parallel to the consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan. The Omissions Site document December 2017 set out the reasons why the rejected sites were not carried forward into the Draft Minerals Local Plan.</p> <p>A full Sustainability Appraisal Report was produced to support the Draft Minerals Local Plan and was</p>

		published as a supporting document.
2018	The Draft Minerals Local Plan consultation closed on 9 February 2018.	Four additional sites were submitted to the council in response to the consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan.
	Responses to the Draft Minerals Local Plan consultation were considered and the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was prepared.	<p>The Site Selection Report was updated to include assessments of the four additional sites submitted in response to the Draft Minerals Local Plan consultation.</p> <p>An additional Omissions Site Document was prepared to explain why the four additional site submissions were rejected and would not be carried forward into the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan.</p> <p>On 14 November 2018, a report was presented to members of the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy Cabinet Panel, to present to Minerals Local Plan Proposed Submission Document for publication and the Omission Sites Document January 2019 for consultation.</p>
2019	The Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was published for consultation from 14 January 2019 to 22 March 2019.	<p>The updated Site Selection Report August 2018 was published as a supporting document alongside the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan.</p> <p>The Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study August 2018 was published as a supporting document alongside the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan.</p> <p>The Omission Sites Document January 2019 was consulted upon. The consultation ran parallel to the consultation on the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan.</p>

		A full Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2018) was produced to support the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan and was published as a supporting document.
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6. Sand and Gravel Allocations

- 6.1 As explained in Chapter 5, the Mineral Allocation Sites (MAS) were identified through the site assessment and selection work undertaken to support the withdrawn Minerals Local Plan.
- 6.2 The group of MASs identified within the Plan include those sites that comprise Option 4, excluding Furze Field. Furze Field received planning permission for the extraction of 450,000 tonnes of sand and gravel on 19 October 2018 and sand and gravel extraction has commenced.
- 6.3 The three MAS will provide a sufficient supply of sand and gravel over the Plan period (2020-2040). As explained in Chapter 4, the Plan has been prepared based on an Annual Provision Rate of 1.31Mtpa.
- 6.4 Based on the Annual Provision Rate, the council must plan for a total provision of 27.51Mt of sand and gravel over the plan period (2020 to 2040). The total provision describes the total amount of sand and gravel required over the plan period (2020-2040) and is calculated by multiplying the Annual Provision Rate by the number of years the plan covers (21 years).
- 6.5 When calculating total provision, any permitted reserves at the start of the plan period must be taken account of. As of January 2020, total permitted reserves in the county stood at 8.95Mt³⁷. This leaves a shortfall of 18.56Mt.
- 6.6 Table 4 below sets out the potential reserves for each MAS.

Table 4: Potential Reserves from Mineral Allocation Sites

Site Name and Address	Potential Reserve (Mt)
MAS01: The Briggens Estate Land to the East of Stanstead Abbots	8.80
MAS02: Hatfield Aerodrome Land at former Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield Road, Hatfield	8.00
MAS03: Land Adjoining Coopers Green Lane Oaklands Lane, Smallford, St Albans	3.52
Total Supply	20.32

³⁷ Hertfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2021, p.3

- 6.7 The supply provided through the MASs amounts to 20.32Mt, leaving a surplus of 1.76Mt.
- 6.8 Some Minerals Local Plans add a further seven years of provision to the supply, to ensure that there is a seven-year landbank remaining at the end of the plan period. The Plan does not do this on the basis that it will be reviewed and a new one adopted well before 2040.
- 6.9 Policy 2 (Policy 2: Meeting Sand and Gravel Needs) of the Plan states that the required plan provision (18.56Mt) will be met through, and planning permission will be granted in principle for, applications for sand and gravel extraction at the three MASs. Proposals for sand and gravel extraction within MAS must fulfil the Site-Specific Requirements of Policy 2 and must clearly demonstrate how they have addressed the site considerations set out in the corresponding Site Brief (Site Briefs can be seen at Appendix 1 of the Plan).
- 6.10 Policy 2 also deals with planning applications for sand and gravel extraction outside of the MASs, except for applications for Borrow Pits or Incidental Extraction³⁸. Policy 2 sets out the criteria under which proposals for sand and gravel extraction in other areas must meet to be supported.

³⁸ Borrow Pits and Incidental Extraction are dealt with under separate policies.

7. Mineral Safeguarding

- 7.1 The Plan safeguards sand and gravel and brick clay resources through Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA). The methodology applied to define the extent of the MSAs can be seen in the Mineral Safeguarding Area Methodology July 2022. This document has been published as a supporting document alongside the Plan and is available to view on the councils minerals and waste webpages.
- 7.2 Policy 5 (Policy 5: Mineral Safeguarding Areas) of the Plan sets out the types of development which fall within a MSA that is except from consultation with the council and the circumstances under which the council will object to proposals for non-mineral development within a MSA.
- 7.3 The Mineral Allocation Sites (MAS) are safeguarded through the use of Site Safeguarding Areas and Site Consultation Areas. Policy 4 (Policy 4: Site Safeguarding and Consultation Areas) of the Plan states that development proposals within MAS will only be supported where they are in accordance with the site's permitted or allocated use, including the site's restoration.
- 7.4 More information on how mineral resources and the MAS are safeguarded can be seen in Appendix 3 (Appendix 3: Safeguarding of Minerals and Waste Infrastructure and Resources) of the Plan.

8. Other minerals

- 8.1 The main naturally occurring mineral resources in Hertfordshire include sand and gravel with smaller deposits of chalk and brick clay. The county does not contain any naturally occurring resources of hard rock and relies on imports of this mineral through the Hertfordshire Rail Aggregate Depots.

Clay

- 8.2 As explained in Chapter 5, two brick clay extraction sites were submitted and considered by the council for potential inclusion within the Draft Minerals Local Plan. It was concluded by the council that neither site was suitable for allocation and that Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA) should be identified to protect the county's brick clay resources from unnecessary sterilisation. Information on brick clay MSA can be seen in Chapter 7 above.
- 8.3 The county no longer has any brick clay extraction sites, or any operational works to support the production of bricks.
- 8.4 Policy 6 (Policy 6: Brick Clay) of the Plan supports proposals for brick clay workings where it can be demonstrated that the level of permitted reserves for a specified brickworks is insufficient to maintain brick clay production for at least 25 years and the proposal directly contributes towards the required supply for brick clay at the specified brickworks.

Chalk

- 8.5 The scale of working for chalk has historically been relatively small. Chalk has been quarried at a small number of sites to the north and west of the sand and gravel belt for use as an agricultural lime on farms. Currently there is only one chalk working in the county, at Bedwell, and this is used for agricultural purposes.
- 8.6 There are no national policy requirements to maintain a supply of permitted reserves because chalk previously extracted in Hertfordshire was not used as an industrial mineral. Owing to the low use and unlikely requirement for further chalk supply in the county, the county's chalk resources are not safeguarded.
- 8.7 Policy 7 (Policy 7: Chalk) of the Plan supports proposals for chalk extraction where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for additional chalk supply for agricultural use.

Hard Rock

- 8.8 Imports of crushed rock are monitored annually through the Hertfordshire LAA. The most recent data³⁹ shows that the majority of Hertfordshire's hard rock is imported from

³⁹ 2022 Annual Aggregate Monitoring Survey Returns (covering 2021 data)

Mountsorrel Quarry (Leicestershire/East Midlands) & Torr Quarry (Somerset/South-West).

- 8.9 The Hertfordshire Rail Aggregate Depots are safeguarded through Policy 4 (Policy 4: Site Safeguarding and Consultation Areas) of the Plan and proposals for new and extensions or improvements to existing Rail Aggregate Depots (and other transport related infrastructure such as wharves) are supported in principle by Policy 23 (Policy 23: Transport Infrastructure Sites) of the Plan, where they would facilitate sustainable growth proposals identified in the Development Plan, and/or would reduce the amount of material being transported by road.