

Policy CS38 – Minerals

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Facilities for the exploration, extraction, storage, processing and distribution of minerals will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

1. there is a demonstrable need and market demand for the mineral;
2. the proposal would not undermine the greater use of alternative, secondary or recycled materials;
3. the operations permitted will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the natural, water or historic environment, amenity or on human health;
4. adequate provision for the mitigation of any negative impacts will be secured during operations and periods when the site is not being worked;
5. sensitive environmental restoration and aftercare of sites will be secured at the earliest opportunity, to a standard and manner consistent with the character, setting and landscape of the surrounding area; and
6. the proposals will comply with the requirements of Policy CS42.

Facilities for the landing, storage, processing and distribution of minerals, including marine-won sand and gravel, will be directed towards existing facilities and to land within the port estates to maximise the use of sustainable transport by rail and water.

Land that should be safeguarded around mineral resources and facilities that are considered to be of economic importance will be included in a site-specific Local Plan. Mineral resources and facilities within safeguarded areas will be protected against unnecessary sterilisation by other development.

- 24.1 Minerals are an important economic asset but the exploration, working, storage, processing and distribution of minerals can have harmful effects on the environment. In line with national policy, applicants will need to demonstrate that mineral sites can be sensitively designed and operated in a way to ensure there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment or human health, which should be linked to a long-term management plan and landscape strategy during the life of the scheme. The land should be restored at the earliest opportunity in accordance with an aftercare scheme and a budget that makes provision for high quality restoration, aftercare, after-use and a final landform consistent with landscape character of the surrounding area.
- 24.4 Marine-won sand and gravel from Liverpool Bay has previously been landed at port facilities at Birkenhead and Eastham and is currently landed at a purpose-built facility on the Bromborough coast. Annual landings have been as high as 124,000 tonnes but over recent years have reduced to just over 92,000 tonnes, on average representing up to 30 percent of total landings in the North West. A more up-to-date Local Aggregates Assessment is currently being jointly prepared by the Merseyside and Greater Manchester authorities, to agree the local apportionment of minerals requirements.