

SWDP 32: Minerals

- A. Proposed development in Minerals Consultation Areas (as shown on the Policies Map) will be required⁽⁷³⁾ to assess the scope for minerals extraction before development takes place. Planning permission will not be granted for non-mineral development that would lead to the unnecessary sterilization of mineral resources within a Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) unless:**
- a. The applicant can demonstrate that the mineral concerned is no longer of any value or potential value; or**
 - b. The mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to the development taking place; or**
 - c. The development is of a temporary nature and can be completed and the site restored to a condition that does not inhibit extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed.**
- B. Developers will be encouraged to recycle and reuse construction waste on-site and use substitute or secondary and recycled minerals within development.**

Reasoned Justification

1. Minerals extraction is an important part of south Worcestershire's economy and an adequate supply of minerals is necessary to provide for new housing, other built development and infrastructure.
2. The broad extent of mineral resources that occur in south Worcestershire are shown on the Minerals Consultation Areas layer of the SWDP interactive Policies map⁽⁷⁴⁾.
3. Worcestershire County Council is the Minerals Planning Authority for Worcestershire. It is responsible for minerals planning for the whole of Worcestershire. At present, minerals policy and proposals for Worcestershire are set out in the policies of the Minerals Local Plan (1997) that were "saved" by the Secretary of State in September 2007. The "saved" minerals policies (which will be replaced by the revised Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan) form part of the overall Development Plan for south Worcestershire.
4. The County Council has a duty to determine planning applications for new minerals development in accordance with the Development Plan (including all parts of the SWDP), unless there are material planning considerations that would indicate otherwise.

73 Excluding 'exempt development', namely householder applications; development already allocated in the Local Plan; infilling in existing built-up areas.

74 [SWDP Interactive Policies Map - minerals consultation areas](#)

Minerals Safeguarding

5. The Framework indicates that local planning authorities should define Minerals Consultation Areas (based on Minerals Safeguarding Areas) and should take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials can make to the supply of materials.
6. Minerals are a finite, natural resource and can only be worked where they are found. It is therefore important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation.
7. Minerals are a cross-boundary issue that invokes the Duty to Co-operate.
8. Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) are areas designated by the Minerals Planning Authority that cover known deposits of minerals that are desired to be safeguarded from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development. MCAs, based on MSAs, are where consultation is required with Worcestershire County Council as Minerals Planning Authority on development proposals that have the potential to sterilise the minerals interests of the site.
9. The Policies Map shows the boundaries of the existing MSAs, based on the Proposals Map in the adopted Herefordshire and Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan. These boundaries may be changed during the preparation of the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan.
10. The Local Planning Authority will consult the County Council on any planning application received for non-minerals development which falls within the boundary of a MSA.
11. The identification of a MSA does not imply that permission for extraction will be given, only that the presence of minerals is a material consideration that must be addressed when considering future development.
12. Current best practice on safeguarding is provided by the document 'Mineral Safeguarding in England: Good Practice Advice' (BGS, 2011).
13. The revised Minerals Local Plan will include policies relating to the safeguarding of existing, planned and potential transport links to quarries, wharfage, handling and processing facilities.

Secondary and Recycled Aggregates

14. To sustain economic growth without increasing the use of land-won aggregates, it is vital that the contribution of secondary and recycled materials used in construction projects is increased. On site recycling and reuse of construction materials will therefore be encouraged, having regard to the environmental implications of any proposed operations and their overall acceptability. The use of substitute or secondary and recycled materials in development will also be encouraged.
15. The revised Minerals Local Plan will include policies relating to existing, planned and potential sites for concrete batching, the manufacture of coated materials, and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material.

Legacy of Minerals Extraction

16. In the Malvern Hills there is a mining legacy from the surface extraction / quarrying of building stone. The management of stability issues relating to the long-abandoned quarries is not a matter for the SWDP.
17. There is an area of known carboniferous formations to the north and west of Abberley. The Framework states that permission should not be given for the extraction of coal unless the proposal is environmentally acceptable or can be made so by planning conditions or obligations or it provides national, local or community benefits that clearly outweigh the likely impacts. Any planning application for coal extraction would be determined by Worcestershire County Council as the Mineral Planning Authority.
18. There are land stability issues in some parts of the SWDP area, for example as a legacy of salt working in Droitwich Spa and past coal mining activities in the northern part of Malvern Hills District. The Framework makes it clear that to prevent unacceptable risks from land instability, planning policies should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location. Where a site is affected by land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rests with the landowner and developer.
19. Where development is proposed in areas with a known legacy of minerals extraction, the developer will be expected to assess the site for ground contamination, ground stability and mining hazards and submit appropriate mitigation reports in support of their planning application.