CHAPTER 4 : SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION

INTRODUCTION

4.1 At the 1st January 1994 there were twenty-two sand and gravel sites with extant planning permissions. Seventeen of these sites are active and varying types of drift and solid deposits are worked for aggregate purposes. Nine are working river terraces, four are working glacial deposits, four are working solid deposits, of these two are in part producing moulding sand.

Eight of the active sites are located in the north and north-eastern part of the County, six are located in the central and south-eastern part of the County and three are located in the west around Hereford and Leominster. This distribution reflects the greater demands for aggregates in the urbanised areas of the County particularly in the north and north-east with its many towns and more complex road patterns and its proximity to the West Midlands Conurbation.

PRODUCTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL

4.3 The annual production levels of sand and gravel are shown in Table 3. It will be noted that output, in tonnage terms, has risen above the Mid-point estimate produced by WMRAWP. This increase may be due to the changing patterns of local purchasing but is more likely to be a result of improvements in the local economy. As is the case with crushed rock production, although the County output in tonnage terms exceeds the estimated forecast, in the first five years 1984 to 1988, in the second five years actual output was depressed and the County did not achieve its percentage share of regional output.

TABLE 3: PRODUCTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL, HEREFORD AND WORCESTER 1984-93 (SOURCE: BUSINESS MONITOR, WMRAWP)

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Actual Production	1.567	1.702	.693	1.447	1.568	1.397	1.336	1.066	1.162	1.201
Proportion of Regional Demand (Mid-Point)	1.2	1.3	.3							
Proportion of Regional Demand (High-Point)	1.4	1.5	1.486	1.53	1.568	1.605	1.627	1.672	1.524	1.524
Regional Output (% actual share)	13.7	13.7	15.6	13	11.1	10.0	10.6	10.0	11.6	11.6
Regional Output (% agreed share)	14.5	14.5	14.5	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	12.7	12.7

N.B. Production figures from Business Monitor.

(All figures in millions tonnes)

FUTURE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR SAND AND GRAVEL

4.4 The future demand for sand and gravel in the County is taken from the WMRAWP Interpretation of the MPG.6 figures as produced in June 1995. This apportionment of the Regional demand to the County for the period 1992 to 2006 is about 22.86 million tonnes. This would require an annual output of about 1.524 million tonnes, this figure is well within the scope of the local production rate.

Estimated reserves of sand and gravel in the County at January 1994 with current planning permissions total 20.561 million tonnes. Using the annual apportioned output figure these reserves would indicate about 13.5 years supply.

4.6 The additional preferred areas for minerals extraction proposed in this plan would, in the County Council's view, ensure an adequate landbank could be maintained for the foreseeable future. The potential reserves identified by these areas amount to about 9.316 million tonnes of sand and gravel resources. The effect of this would be to increase the potential reserves in the landbank by 6 years to a total of 19.5 years.

4.7 In summary, the Regional Interpretation of the MPG.6 Sand and Gravel Demand figures (see paragraph 4.4) indicates a need for some 25.908 million tonnes in the period 1994-2010. This can be compared to the present reserve figure of 20.561 million tonnes and the potential reserves of 9.316 million tonnes referred to in paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6 above. This would create an approximate total reserve landbank of some 19.5 years at an average annual output of 1.524 million tonnes. Table 1, Appendix 3 gives a breakdown of the tonnages attributed to the individual sites included in the above paragraphs.