

North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2

Survey Paper - Evidence Report

Policy 33- Minerals

Purpose of Topic Papers

We are currently identifying and assessing the evidence available for each policy topic area identified in NPF4 and the Scottish Government's local development planning guidance.

We will issue online surveys for each topic, or group of topics, outlining:

- the relevant information and datasets we have identified so far
- our assessment of the evidence gathered, based on the identified information and datasets
- any potential connections to other topic areas
- potential implications for site selection at the Proposed Plan stage, and
- potential implications for the Local Development Plan

This will be an early opportunity for you to confirm if we have identified the appropriate evidence, provide any other evidence you have or would like us to consider, and offer your views on our initial considerations of the use and implications of the available evidence.

We will then consider the responses to the surveys and what they mean for our evidence base. This will help inform the preparation of our Evidence Report later this year.

Some of the information gathered are particularly technical on a specific topic, and may not be relevant to everyone. We welcome comments on all or some of the information published. There will be more opportunities to comment as we progress through the LDP preparation process.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires Planning Authorities to prepare an Evidence Report that contains sufficient information to enable the planning authority to prepare a Local Development Plan.
- 1.2 The Evidence Report has two main functions. The first is that it should set out the evidence that will be used to inform and prepare a new Local Development Plan. The second is for local authorities to identify the issues they think based on the evidence presented that need to be addressed by the new Local Development Plan, and for other interested parties and stakeholders to express what they think are the issues.
- 1.3 There are specific matters that the Evidence Report must cover; these are set out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
 - the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district;
 - the principal purposes for which the land is used;
 - the size, composition, health, and distribution of the population of the district;

- the housing needs of the population of the area, including, in particular, the needs of persons undertaking further and higher education, older people and disabled people;
- the availability of land in the district for housing, including for older people and disabled people;
- the desirability of allocating land for the purposes of resettlement;
- the health needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those health needs;
- the education needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those education needs;
- the extent to which there are rural areas within the district in relation to which there has been a substantial decline in population;
- the capacity of education services in the district;
- the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district;
- the infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy, and health care and education facilities);
- how that infrastructure is used; and
- any change which the planning authority thinks may occur in relation to any of the matters mentioned above.

1.4 This topic paper examines minerals related evidence for the forthcoming North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (NLLDP2). The paper identifies what evidence and information has been sourced and subjected to an initial assessment as to the relevance of that evidence and information to NLLDP2.

1.5 Key points from and the potential future relevance of the evidence and information is highlighted, with a view to this informing the approach in progressing the Evidence Report, and NLLDP2 more generally.

1.6 The final Evidence Report will detail the stakeholder engagement and public survey that has taken place in developing its conclusions and will highlight the agreements and disputes that have arisen through this process.

2. Identification of Relevant Evidence

2.1 The relevant evidence has been identified through an evaluation of this topic and assessment of available information linked to the topic and where available evidence shared by external stakeholders has been included. Should additional evidence become available we will consider its implications for the Evidence Report.

3. **Consideration of Relevant Evidence**

- 3.1 The following is an explanation of evidence sources which have been used in this Survey Paper and are considered potentially relevant for NLLDP2.

Main Evidence considered:

<p>Source: The Plan for North Lanarkshire (2019)</p> <p>Reason for using the Evidence: The plan sets out the vision for North Lanarkshire to be a place to Live, Learn, Work, Invest and Visit. NLLDP2 will be a tool to assist in the realisation of this vision. The vision consists of five priorities that are comprised of 25 high level Ambition Statements. These statements amongst other issues cover refocussing town centres, maximising the use of marketable land, and maintaining a clean, safe and attractive environment and additionally look to improve North Lanarkshire's economy.</p> <p>Links to Evidence: The Plan for North Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Council Climate Plan</p>
<p>Source: Collation of the results of the 2019 Aggregate Minerals Survey for Scotland</p> <p>Reason for using the Evidence: Provides an in-depth and up-to-date understanding of national and regional sales, inter-regional flows, transportation, consumption and permitted reserves of primary aggregates.</p> <p>Links to Evidence: https://www.gov.scot/publications/2019-aggregate-minerals-survey-scotland/</p>
<p>Source: Development High Risk Mapping Coal</p> <p>Reason for using the Evidence: Indicates areas recorded as having coal-mining related features that have potential to cause ground instability or risks of mine gas.</p> <p>Links to Evidence: Interactive Map Viewer Coal Authority (bgs.ac.uk)</p>
<p>Source: NLC SPG11 Minerals</p> <p>Reason for the using the Evidence: Sets out considerations relating to assessment of planning applications for minerals including coal and unconventional fossil fuels.</p> <p>Links to Dataset / Evidence: 11 Minerals.pdf (northlanarkshire.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Source: North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022 – Inset Map 3</p> <p>Reason for using the Evidence: Identification of Quarry Sites listed in adopted North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Links to Evidence: Council wide Inset Maps.pdf (northlanarkshire.gov.uk)</p>

4. Assessment of Evidence

Background

- 4.1 Aggregates are the raw materials that are used in the construction industry. Primary aggregates in Scotland include sand, gravel and crushed rock (igneous rock, sandstone and limestone) and are taken from pits and quarries. The 2019 Aggregate Minerals Survey for Scotland Report states that, 'aggregates are needed for the construction of transport and renewable energy infrastructure, housing and other buildings that are a vital part of the Scottish Government's infrastructure investment plans for the future.'
- 4.2 NPF4 seeks to ensure that LDPs support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.
- 4.3 In relation to The Plan for North Lanarkshire, specific to this topic the plan seeks to transform our natural environment to support wellbeing and inward investment and enhance it for current and future generations and ensure we keep our environment clean, safe and attractive while improving the sustainability and diversity of North Lanarkshire's economy.

2019 Aggregate Minerals Survey for Scotland

- 4.4 Aggregate Minerals (AM) surveys provide an in-depth and up-to-date understanding of national and regional sales, inter-regional flows, transportation, consumption and permitted reserves of primary aggregates. The AM Survey for Scotland aims to provide data for monitoring and facilitating aggregates provision at the local, regional and national level. The surveys are used to inform the development of minerals policy in respect to the production, movement and consumption of aggregates.
- 4.5 In 2019, there were 237 active quarries in Scotland and the response rate of active quarries was 45%. Sales and distribution data relate to 2019 and the permitted reserves were estimated at 31 December 2019. The information is presented by market areas defined by the Scottish Government for the survey using Planning Authority boundaries that were applicable as of 31 December 2019.

Permitted Reserves and Landbank

- 4.6 North Lanarkshire is within the West Central Scotland Aggregate and Mineral Market region (this market region also covers East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and South Lanarkshire). The AM Survey for Scotland outlines levels of aggregate supply for the West Central Scotland area –
- Estimated permitted reserves of primary aggregates (crushed rock, sand & gravel) in active/inactive sites 153 million tonnes
 - Estimated years of supply 15 years

There is a presumption from the survey results that the expected landbank of construction aggregates equivalent to a minimum of 10 years' worth of supply is currently being met in the West Central Scotland market region.

A new AM Survey is currently being undertaken and it is anticipated that updated figures on supply will be available once completed. The council will take this into account depending on the timing of the publications of the updated supply figures.

Quarries in North Lanarkshire

4.7 The following Quarry Sites are listed in the current North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022. A recent review of these indicates their status below:

1. Riskend Quarry - Active
2. Tomfyne Farm – Inactive (planning application for 350,000 tonnes per annum of hard rock over a 21-year period but status is still pending consideration).
3. Hillend Quarry - Active
4. Cairneyhill Quarry – Active
5. Duntilland Quarry - Active
6. Blairhill Quarry - Dormant
7. Tams Loup Quarry – Active

In North Lanarkshire there have been a small number of applications relating to minerals and aggregates (2020 – present), however they relate to amendments to conditions relating to restoration works or to time extensions for permitted operations, or to other workings.

Coal Mining – Development High Risk

4.8 The Local Development Planning Guidance outlines that where relevant, plans should consider if those areas identified as being Development High Risk by the Coal Authority, from former coal mining, are suitable for proposed future development. It further outlines the importance of any suggested mitigation measures introduced to minimise the risk to human health, such as that from mine gas release are fit for purpose.

Most of the North Lanarkshire area sits within a Coal Mining Reporting Area (as identified by the Coal Authority), with a significant area also within a Development High Risk Area, with surface mining (past and current) and past and probable shallow coal mine workings covering significant areas (see Appendix 1) sourced from [Interactive Map Viewer | Coal Authority \(bgs.ac.uk\)](#)

Coal production in the UK has seen a steep decline and there have been no operational coal mines in Scotland since 2002. As with the rest of the Central Belt, North Lanarkshire has valuable mineral reserves other than coal, including rocks used for aggregate. Open-cast mining is also on the decline as there are more favourable sustainable alternatives. NPF4 outlines that development proposals for the sustainable extraction of minerals will only be supported where they satisfy certain criteria.

The council is assessing possibilities for sustainably supporting heat networks and one option may be energy from mine water geothermal energy for heat generation. Mine water geothermal energy offers a sustainable and renewable energy source while also providing beneficial use for abandoned mine infrastructure. This subject also relates to other topics – papers 11 Energy and 19 Heating and Cooling.

Guidance

- 4.9 Existing North Lanarkshire Supplementary Planning Guidance 11 Minerals sets out considerations relating to assessment of planning applications for minerals including coal and unconventional fossil fuels. While there is acknowledgment that minerals operations can make a contribution to the economy, as well as other benefits, there should be a balance to limit any damage or disturbance to communities and the environment when considering the social, economic and environmental benefits. SPG11 states that the effects that any such development would have on the environment and on communities will be assessed.

NPF4 Policy 33 Minerals states that development proposals that seek to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances. The policy goes on further to state that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

SPG 11, whilst still relevant, will require to be updated to ensure that it is up to date in reflection of any changes in advice from the Coal Authority and Scottish Government. This will include strengthening of the guidance so that it corresponds with the Scottish Government's position of not supporting development of unconventional oil and gas and that proposals to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances.

5. Potential Connections in Evidence

- 5.1 The Plan for North Lanarkshire is the Council's main strategy for the area to improve services and outcomes for the communities who live here. It provides a shared ambition for inclusive growth and prosperity for all. It sets a path for the council and partners to follow. The Plan covers a wide range of activities that can impact on carbon emissions and help to make North Lanarkshire a more sustainable place to 'live-learn-work-invest-visit'.
- 5.2 In the UK the past four decades have been warmer than the one before. In North Lanarkshire it is expected that the average summer temperatures will increase, and the number of rainy days will reduce. The volume of rain on summer's wettest day will increase. Our winters are expected to be milder. Whilst the impact of climate change may seem to be less severe locally, in recent years we have seen an increase in severe weather events. These can affect us through:
- Travel Disruption
 - Emergency Response Situations
 - Loss of power supply
 - Landslides

- Flooding
- Disruption to service Delivery

5.3 The council recognised that it must take action and declared a climate emergency in June 2019. It has committed itself and the area of North Lanarkshire to achieving net-zero by 2030. Concerned about the impact of climate change on biodiversity, the council became a signatory of the Edinburgh declaration on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Minerals - implications for topic 1 tackling the climate and nature crises

5.4 NPF4 Policy 1 seeks to ensure that any development proposal brought forward will require to give significant weight to the global climate and nature crises in its consideration. The spatial strategy should reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

5.5 While the plan will be required to safeguard locations in support of a 10-year landbank of construction aggregates at all times within the market area, considerations of risks to the environment will be required, as will be the case for restoration or alternative use of inactive/dormant sites.

Minerals – implications for topic 2 climate mitigation and adaptation

5.6 NPF4 Policy 2 seeks to ensure that emissions from development are minimised, and places are more resilient to climate change impacts.

5.7 Future applications for extraction of mineral resources have the possibility to impact on the natural environment, particularly given their rural location.

Conclusion in terms of implications for topic 1 and 2

5.8 While there is potential for adverse effects on the environment, methods will be used to ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts from mineral extraction in the processes.

Other topic/policy overlaps stated in NPF4

5.9 It is possible that connections may exist with the following topics and in the following ways.

5.10 There is potential for some positive effects for the following topic areas:

- Tackling the climate and nature crises
- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Heat and Cooling
- Historic Assets and Places
- Zero Waste
- Infrastructure First
- Health and Safety

The matter of minerals not only incorporates the safeguarding of locations and resources but also the consideration of restoring inactive sites and potential use of old mining locations for energy production.

5.11 There is potential for some negative effects for the following topic areas:

- Tackling the climate and nature crises
- Climate mitigation and adaptation
- Rural Development

Rural locations of mineral extraction sites may have potential to impact on the local environment. However, it is expected that the policy requirements of NPF4 would minimise any impacts.

6. Site Selection Implications

6.1 Proposals located within Development High Risk areas and whether they are appropriate within these locations.

6.2 Implications on sites safeguarded to continue 10-year land bank.

7. Implications for North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2

7.1 NPF4 states that LDPs should safeguard important workable mineral resources which are of economic and conservation value and take steps to ensure that these are not sterilised by other types of development.

7.2 Consideration should be given to whether there is an adequate landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years in the West Central Scotland region market area.

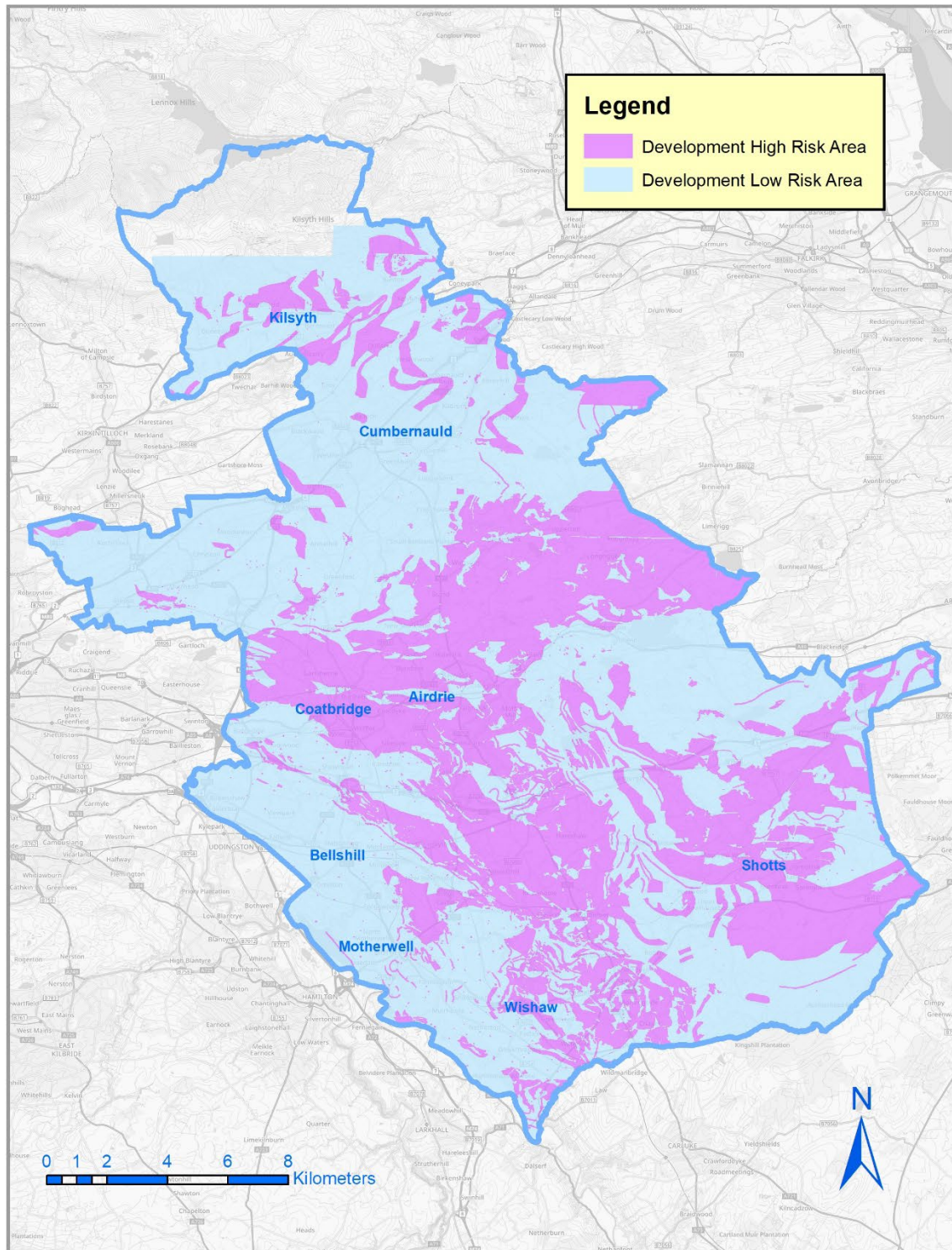
7.3 Safeguarding of those sites identified as supporting the landbank of construction aggregates.

7.4 Consideration of the Development High Risk areas identified by the Coal Authority and whether proposals within these locations are still appropriate.

7.5 Based on the evidence, analysis and views presented in this survey paper, North Lanarkshire Council currently considers that the topic policy in NPF4 for Minerals should be applied as per NPF4 in North Lanarkshire as there is no need to consider locally specific policy to support decision making in this regard.

Appendix 1 – Coal Authority Development High Risk Area

Map of Coal Development Risk Areas 2023



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