

Joint Local Aggregates Assessment 2024 (incorporating figures for 2023) – Cumberland Council, Westmorland and Furness Council, Lake District National Park Authority



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Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

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1.0 Executive Summary

Summary dashboard

Resource	Sales in 2023(Mt)	Trend compared to 2022	Annual provision rate (Mt)	Permitted reserves (Mt)	Landbank (years)
Land-won sand and gravel	0.73	↓	0.79	3.99	5.1
Marine-dredged sand and gravel	Nil	↔	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Crushed rock	2.51	↓	2.78	108.56	39.1
Recycled and secondary aggregates (<i>estimated</i>)	0.43	↓	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

- 1.1 This Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) is produced jointly by Cumberland Council, Westmorland and Furness Council and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA). It forms part of the evidence base for monitoring and review of their local plans. The Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan (CMWLP) 2015- 2030 was adopted by Cumbria County Council in September 2017. The LDNPA has reviewed its local plan (which includes minerals policies) and the Lake District Local Plan (LDLP) was adopted by the LDNPA in May 2021 and covers a Plan period of 2020 - 2035.
- 1.2 Following local government reorganization (LGR) in April 2023, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council will each begin to prepare a new Local Plan for their administrative areas. As unitary authorities, the new councils now have responsibility for minerals planning policy and this will be incorporated into the new Local Plans. In the meantime, the adopted CMWLP remains in force as the relevant minerals planning policy across both council areas.
- 1.3 This LAA reports on the data from 2023. The sales, reserves and landbank provision figures for all aggregates in Cumbria (excluding sites within the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary) are shown in the summary dashboard above. The pattern of sales, reserve and landbank calculations over the past 3 years are shown in summary tables by aggregate type at the end of this summary chapter. Sales for most primary aggregates have dropped slightly in 2023 compared to 2022. This has had a slight but not significant impact on the 3-year and 10-year average sales used as a starting point for considering

LAA provision rates. The exception is non-VHSA sandstone and igneous where sales have doubled from the previous year. This is due to a significant increase in production confirmed by one of the operators.

- 1.4 This LAA will analyse the position for Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council separately for reporting on each minerals planning authority. However, consideration of supply and calculation of landbanks will continue to be assessed across the sub-region of Cumbria as a whole. This level of detail is not included within the Executive Summary. It is sufficient here to note that the majority of sand and gravel quarries (8 out of 11 in total) are located within Cumberland whilst a higher number of crushed rock quarries (15 out of 22 sites in total) are located within Westmorland and Furness.

Sand and gravel

- 1.5 Current permitted reserves of land-won sand and gravel for aggregate use (3.99Mt) are not sufficient to maintain the required landbank of at least 7 years throughout the CMWLP and LDLP plan periods (2030 and 2035). **The LAA provision will continue to be based on 3-year average sales figures (currently 0.79Mt) that equates to a landbank of 5.1 years that should run out in 2028.** In order to ensure permitted reserves remain above the “at least” 7 years landbank required by the NPPF, new reserves need to come on stream immediately as the landbank is already considered to be below the minimum 7 years at 31 December 2023.
- 1.6 This means that, based on 3-year average sales, a 7-year landbank cannot currently be demonstrated. To maintain the landbank based on the lower 10-year average sales (0.76Mt) will also require new reserves to come on stream immediately.
- 1.7 An additional 7.06Mt of sand and gravel reserve is required to maintain a landbank of a least 7 years throughout the CMWLP period (to 2030) based on 3-year average sales figures.

Crushed rock

- 1.8 Current permitted reserves of all crushed rock for aggregate use (108.56Mt) are more than sufficient to maintain the required landbank of at least 10 years throughout the CMWLP and LDLP plan periods. **The LAA provision will continue to be based on 10-year average sales (currently 2.78Mt) that equates to a land bank of 39.1 years.** In order to ensure permitted reserves for all crushed rock remain above the minimum 10

years required by the NPPF, new reserves will need to come on stream no later than 2053.

- 1.9 **The LAA provision for sandstone and igneous rock (excluding high specification aggregates) will continue to be based on 10-year average sales (currently 0.36Mt) that equates to a land bank of 59.7 years.** In order to ensure permitted reserves for sandstone and igneous rock remain above the minimum 10 years required by the NPPF, new reserves will need to come on stream no later than 2073.
- 1.10 **The LAA provision for limestone alone (also excluding high specification aggregates) will continue to be based on 10-year average sales (currently 1.97Mt) that equates to a land bank of 36.7 years.** This is comparable to the last LAA 10-year average sales figure of 1.98Mt. This will be kept under review. Increased sales and firmer timescales on some of the major infrastructure projects planned for Cumbria would be factors in deciding whether departure from the 10-year average sales figure could be justified in future LAAs. Based on current 10-year average sales, in order to ensure permitted reserves for limestone remain above the minimum 10 years required by the NPPF, new reserves will need to come on stream no later than 2050.

High specification aggregates

- 1.11 Current permitted reserves of high specification (HSA) and very high specification aggregates (VHSA) for use as roadstone is 14.67Mt. This is sufficient to maintain the required minimum 10 year landbank throughout the CMWLP and LDLP plan periods. **The LAA provision will continue to be based on 10-year average sales (currently 0.46Mt) that equates to a landbank of 31.9 years.** This provision rate is the same as 0.46Mt in 2022 but below the higher levels of 0.57 Mt in 2017, 0.54Mt in 2018 and 0.52Mt in the 2019 LAA (all based on 10-year average sales). Based on 2023 data, this year the 3-year average sales figure is 0.44Mt. Given the scarcity of this resource it is important to manage release of the available reserve to ensure it is done in respect of actual demand rather than perceived demand.
- 1.12 This provision rate gives a landbank of 31.9 years which should last until 2055. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for these high specification aggregates throughout the CMWLP period new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2045.
- 1.13 Ghyll Scaur is the only operating quarry in England to produce the VHSA roadstone. This is a nationally important resource and therefore demand is likely to increase as a result of planned growth in housing and infrastructure across the UK, not just within Cumbria. Any

reduced production from quarries producing this aggregate in the Yorkshire Dales National Park will also place increased demand on the HSA and VHSA roadstone quarries within Cumbria. If 2023 sales are exceeded there may not be sufficient permitted reserve remaining at the end of the Plan period in 2030 to provide a minimum 10-year landbank for VHSA alone. Sales, reserves and future demand for VHSA will continue to be monitored closely in future LAAs, including having regard to any further studies that may be carried out on the supply and demand for these high specification aggregates nationally

Recycled and secondary aggregates

- 1.14 It is estimated that around 0.21Mt of recycled aggregate was available for use in 2023 from recycling of inert waste, including around 0.08Mt of railway track ballast. In addition to the supply of recycled aggregate, there is a supply of secondary aggregate from slate waste from at least 3 of the slate quarries in Cumbria (estimated to be around 0.22Mt a year) giving an estimated total of 0.43Mt recycled and secondary aggregates. Whilst these quarries remain active, slate waste continues to be available as a recognised source of alternative aggregate for Cumbria at this time.
- 1.15 Future supply of recycled aggregates will likely be linked to the amount of development and redevelopment taking place

Managing supply and demand

- 1.16 Cumbria has traditionally supplied far more aggregate than is needed for its own use and this trend continues.
- 1.17 Some of the planned infrastructure requirements within Cumbria (see *Appendix 1 – Other Relevant Local Information*) are now likely to reach construction stage within the next 5 years. Significant developments currently underway or anticipated to commence within the next 5 years or so are the A66 dualling and the A595 Grizebeck Improvement Scheme, as well as some initial phases of the St. Cuthbert's Garden Village.
- 1.18 Following changes to the standard method for calculating housing requirements that were introduced with proposed changes to the NPPF in 2025, housing delivery requirements across the sub-region are now significantly higher than previously planned for, with a total of 49,100 homes to be planned for over the next 20 years.

- 1.19 Planned infrastructure requirements outside of Cumbria have also been taken into account when preparing this LAA. Some major non-highways projects are currently expected to commence within the next 5 years. This will need to be kept under review as the cumulative impact of projects coming online within the current Plan period could have an impact on the landbank position.
- 1.20 As a nationally important reserve, the supply of HSA and VHSA roadstone will be affected by major infrastructure requirements from across the UK and not just within Cumbria. Additional monitoring of this reserve is required, particularly as Cumbria contains the only operating quarry in England to produce the VHSA roadstone at Ghyll Scaur. Demand is likely to increase with various national infrastructure projects coming forward such as investment in new roads, airport expansion projects and new nuclear plant facilities. It is likely these projects could reach construction stage in 5 – 10 years' time so supply will be affected within the Plan periods and landbanks will need to be monitored accordingly.
- 1.21 Site Allocations have been made in the CMWLP that should provide sufficient reserve to maintain the minimum landbank required for sand and gravel, however there is no guarantee that applications will be forthcoming at all of these sites. A planning application was submitted in February 2025 for an extension at Peel Place Quarry (located within part of the Area of Search M15 on land adjacent Peel Place) and a Scoping Opinion was issued in November 2023 for an extension at Cardewmires Quarry (utilising the whole of Area of Search M8 on land adjacent Cardewmires). If progressed and granted planning permission, these schemes combined would release 2.39Mt additional permitted reserve towards the landbank for sand and gravel.
- 1.22 There is potential for marine-dredged sand and gravel to make a greater contribution towards the supply although landing figures are unpredictable and zero landings have been recorded since 2018. The Crown Estate has confirmed there is sufficient vessel capacity and licenced material in the region to re-establish supply if market conditions provide sufficient economic demand. The use of secondary and recycled aggregates should also continue to be encouraged as an alternative.
- 1.23 Site Allocations have been made in the CMWLP for safeguarding additional resource of HSA but no provision is made for VHSA. There is an area with potential for VHSA close to Ghyll Scaur however this lies within the Lake District National Park.

- 1.24 There are no concerns at this stage regarding supply and demand of crushed rock generally. Where any planning permissions for crushed rock extraction are due to expire within the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan period (2015 -2030), the relevant planning policies within the Plan would support both extension of time and lateral extension in principle to ensure continued access to the remaining resource where there is a need for that aggregate. This will allow production capacity to be maintained. 10 of the crushed rock quarries have permissions due to expire in February 2042 (imposed by the Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Act 1981); 3 of these are limestone quarries and 1 is for HSA sandstone.
- 1.25 As required by the NPPF, in addition to the specific Site Allocations mentioned in this LAA, both the CMWLP and the LDNPA Local Plan have designated Minerals Safeguarding Areas to ensure that known minerals resources - including existing, planned and potential infrastructure and plant - are not sterilised by other non-minerals developments. Railheads and wharves are also safeguarded under separate Local Plan policy.

Summary of Sales and Reserves data SAND AND GRAVEL	2023	2022	2021
Year end sales figures (million tonnes)	0.73	0.8	0.85
10-year average sales (million tonnes)	0.76	0.74	0.7
3-year average sales (million tonnes)	0.79	0.8	0.79
Permitted reserves of sand & gravel (million tonnes)	3.99	4.72	5.63
Landbank based on 10-year average sales (years)	5.3	6.37	8.04
Landbank based on 3-year average sales (years)	5.1	5.89	7.12
LAA provision	0.79	0.8	0.79
Landbank end date – based on LAA provision	End of 2028	Late 2028	Early 2029
Reserve and Landbank remaining at end of Plan period (2030) – based on LAA provision	-7.06 Mt (deficit) -1.9 years	-7.28 Mt (deficit) -2.10 years	-7.01Mt (deficit) -1.87 years
Additional tonnage required to maintain landbank – based on LAA provision	7.06Mt	7.28 Mt	7.01Mt

Summary of Sales and Reserves data ALL CRUSHED ROCK	2023	2022	2021
Year end sales figures (million tonnes)	2.51	2.66	2.86
10-year average sales (million tonnes)	2.78	2.77	2.80
3-year average sales (million tonnes)	2.68	2.7	2.82
Permitted reserves (million tonnes)	108.56	111.09	114.28
Landbank based on 10-year average sales (years)	39.1	40.10	40.81
Landbank based on 3-year average sales (years)	40.5	41.14	40.52
LAA provision	2.78	2.77	2.80
Landbank end date – based on LAA provision	Early 2063	Early 2062	Late 2062
Reserve and Landbank remaining at end of Plan period (2030) – based on LAA provision	61.3 Mt (surplus) +32 years	58.46 Mt (surplus) +31.10 years	61.08 Mt (surplus) +31.81 yrs
Additional tonnage required to maintain landbank – based on LAA provision	-	-	-

Summary of Sales and Reserves data LIMESTONE	2023	2022	2021
Year end sales figures (million tonnes)	1.5	1.91	2.1
10-year average sales (million tonnes)	1.97	1.98	1.99
3-year average sales (million tonnes)	1.84	1.97	2.05
Permitted reserves (million tonnes)	72.39	76.28	78.72
Landbank based on 10-year average sales (years)	36.7	38.53	39.6
Landbank based on 3-year average sales (years)	39.3	38.72	38.4
LAA provision	1.97	1.98	1.99
Landbank end date – based on LAA provision	Late 2060	Mid 2060	Mid 2061
Reserve and Landbank remaining at end of Plan period (2030) – based on LAA provision	38.89 Mt (surplus) +29.7 years	38.66 Mt (surplus) +29.53 yrs	40.91Mt (surplus) +30.56 yrs
Additional tonnage required to maintain landbank – based on LAA provision	-	-	-

Summary of Sales and Reserves data HIGH SPECIFICATION ROADSTONE (HSA & VHSA)	2023	2022	2021
Year end sales figures (million tonnes)	0.41	0.46	0.46
10-year average sales (million tonnes)	0.46	0.46	0.47
3-year average sales (million tonnes)	0.44	0.46	0.49
Permitted reserves (million tonnes)	14.67	15.1	15.62
Landbank based on 10-year average sales (years)	31.9	32.83	33.2
Landbank based on 3-year average sales (years)	33.3	32.83	31.87
LAA provision	0.46	0.46	0.47
Landbank end date – based on LAA provision	Late 2055	Late 2054	Early 2055
Reserve and Landbank remaining at end of Plan period (2030) – based on LAA provision	6.85 Mt (surplus) +24.9 yrs	6.36 Mt (surplus) + 23.83 yrs	6.69 Mt (surplus) +24.22 yrs
Additional tonnage required to maintain landbank – based on LAA provision	-	-	-

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Mineral planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. It is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to produce an annual Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA), the purpose of which is the annual assessment of the demand for, and supply of, aggregates in a mineral planning authority's area. This LAA is prepared jointly by Cumberland Council (CC), Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA). It reports on the data for 2023 as provided by the minerals operators in their survey returns.
- 2.2 2023 data from many of the national operators has been collated by the British Geological Survey (BGS) through their work on the 4-yearly national aggregates survey (AM2023) produced on behalf of MHCLG. Minerals planning authorities have sent out surveys to the smaller operators, as well as to secondary/recycled aggregate producers, and have provided estimates to BGS where operators have not provided a return. The BGS has provided the sales and reserves data to minerals planning authorities for use in preparation of their LAAs.
- 2.3 The LAA is used to inform the preparation, monitoring and review of each authority's minerals planning policies. The Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan (CMWLP) was adopted by Cumbria County Council in September 2017 and covers a Plan period of 2015-2030. Following local government reorganization (LGR) in April 2023, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council have started work on a new Local Plan for their own administrative areas. Minerals planning policy will now be incorporated into each Local Plan, rather than producing a separate minerals and waste local plan. In the meantime, the adopted CMWLP remains in force as the relevant minerals planning policy across both council areas. The Lake District National Park Authority adopted the Lake District Local Plan (which includes minerals policies) in May 2021. This covers a Plan period of 2020 – 2035.
- 2.4 As set out in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), the LAA covers three main elements:
- i) A forecast of the demand for aggregates (based on average annual sales figure and other relevant information)
 - ii) An analysis of all aggregate supply options (based on permitted reserves)

iii) An assessment of the balance between demand and supply

- 2.5 During the calendar year 2023 the minerals authority changed from Cumbria County Council to two separate minerals planning authorities – Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. This LAA will analyse the data for sales, reserves and landbank position for Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council separately to provide a baseline going forward for reporting on each minerals planning authority separately. However, due to the strategic nature of minerals planning, it is envisaged that the LAA will continue to be produced jointly between the two councils, along with the LDNPA which is a minerals planning authority in its own right and sits within both council areas.
- 2.6 As a sub-region, Cumbria is self-sufficient in aggregates and also supplies other markets, especially in the North West and North East. There are 11 sand and gravel quarries (8 located within Cumberland and 3 within Westmorland and Furness). None of the sand and gravel quarries are located within the Lake District National Park. Additional sand and gravel reserve is potentially available from marine dredged aggregates that are landed at Barrow Port. Whilst there have been no landings recorded since 2018, the Crown Estate has confirmed there is vessel capacity and licensed material in the region to re-establish supply if market conditions provide sufficient demand.
- 2.7 Crushed rock resource in Cumbria is predominantly limestone. Igneous rock includes granite at Shap Pink and Shap Blue and the volcanic tuff at Ghyll Scaur. There are several sandstone quarries (including some greywacke) which provide mainly building stone although some produce sandstone for aggregate use also.
- 2.8 There are 22 crushed rock quarries (7 located within Cumberland and 15 within Westmorland and Furness). Two of these (Shap Beck and Shap Blue) are located partly within the Lake District National Park and Shap Pink is located wholly within the Lake District National Park. As well as producing aggregates, some of the limestone quarries also supply industrial markets, mostly for the burnt lime. 3 of the quarries produce the high specification aggregates (HSA) and very high specification aggregates (VHSA) which are essential for the building and maintenance of roads, especially motorways, because of their high or very high skid- resistance properties. They have a national and regional market and are a nationally significant resource. Only one of these quarries produces the VHSA roadstone (Ghyll Scaur, located in Cumberland) and is the only quarry in England to produce VHSA.

- 2.9 There are around 20 building stone and slate quarries currently operating across the sub-region. Eight are located in Cumberland and 17 within Westmorland and Furness. Several of these are located within the Lake District National Park, including many of the slate quarries; the major site at Kirkby Slate Quarry (Burlington Slate) is located outside of the National Park. Two stone quarries are located within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (Rooks and Pickering) so are not reported in this LAA.
- 2.10 Production of secondary and recycled aggregates across the sub-region makes a valuable contribution to resource efficiency and the protection of the environment from unnecessary primary extraction. There are a number of processing plants across the sub-region of Cumbria that produce alternative aggregates from quarry waste, recycled or re-used materials. Some of these are located on quarry sites which also import inert waste for recycling; others are located elsewhere, including near industrial sites or landfill facilities.

What are aggregates?

- 2.11 Aggregates are the basic raw materials used by the construction industry. Without them, houses, schools, hospitals, factories, offices and roads could not be built or maintained. They can be split into two main groups:-
- 2.12 **Primary aggregates.** These are crushed rock and sand and gravel, which are extracted directly from the ground at quarries (land-won aggregates) or dredged from the sea (marine-dredged aggregates). Depending on their geological source, primary aggregates can have different properties or characteristics that can be important for their end-use. Important examples in Cumbria are the two types of crushed rock that are used for surfacing motorways and main roads, referred to as High Specification Aggregates (HSA) and Very High Specification Aggregates (VHSA) because of their high or very high skid resistance properties.
- 2.13 **Alternative aggregates.** These are alternatives to primary aggregates and can be split into two sub-groups. The NPPF requires that planning policies should, as far as practicable, take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials. **Recycled aggregates** are produced by recycling construction, demolition, excavation and other wastes. They can include crushed concrete, bricks and glass, old railway track ballast and the surface layers removed from roads during roadworks (road planings). **Secondary aggregates** are a by-product of

mining or quarrying operations or of other industrial processes; they can include colliery spoil, china clay waste, incinerator ash and pulverised fuel ash from power stations, industrial glass waste, ceramic waste, old tyres, slate waste, spent foundry sand and old blast furnace slag banks.

The Managed Aggregates Supply System

- 2.14 Since the 1970s, there has been a national **Managed Aggregates Supply System (MASS)** set up to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, taking into account the significant geographical imbalances in the availability of suitable aggregates and the areas where they are most needed. It requires mineral planning authorities that have adequate resources of aggregates to make an appropriate contribution to national as well as local supply, while making due allowance for the need to control any environmental damage to an acceptable level. The North West, as a whole, meets only around half of its aggregates consumption from within the region. Cumbria helps to meet the needs of other parts of the region but much of the shortfall is met from other regions - for example, quarries in Derbyshire and North Wales supply Greater Manchester due to their proximity.
- 2.15 Originally, the MASS was based on national estimates of need for aggregates projected forward for 15 years, which were then apportioned to regions. The NPPF (2012) brought in the requirement for mineral planning authorities to produce their own Local Aggregates Assessment each year. However, they still need to take into account the published national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision.
- 2.16 The MASS is undertaken through national, sub-national and local partners working together to deliver a steady and adequate supply of aggregates:
- at the local level, mineral planning authorities must prepare Local Aggregate Assessments to assess the demand for and supply of aggregates in their area;
 - at the sub-national level, mineral planning authorities belong to and are supported by Aggregate Working Parties who produce fit-for-purpose and comprehensive data on aggregates covering specific geographical areas;
 - at the national level, the National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group should monitor the overall provision of aggregates in England.

Sub-regional apportionment

- 2.17 The Government sets national and regional apportionment figures for a 15 year period. The current figures are set in the National and Sub-National Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England (2005- 2020) which was last updated in 2009. From this the regional Aggregate Working Party must set a **sub-regional apportionment figure** for each of the mineral planning authorities in that region.
- 2.18 Cumbria, including the area administered by the Lake District National Park Authority, is a member of the North West Aggregates Working Party (NWAWP) and constitutes one of the four sub-regions in the North West. In 2011 the NWAWP agreed the sub-regional apportionment figures. For Cumbria this was set at 4.1Mt for crushed rock and 0.7Mt for sand and gravel.
- 2.19 Whilst sand and gravel sales in Cumbria have met or exceeded the apportionment figure of 0.7Mt consistently since 2015 onwards, sales of crushed rock have never come close to the apportionment figure for crushed rock of 4.1Mt. Apart from recording 3.3Mt in 2014 and 3.01Mt in 2018, sales of crushed rock have remained consistently below 3.0Mt. This is not due to a lack of supply but simply reflects the actual demand. There is a call nationally for these guidelines to be reviewed as they must now be considered out-of-date.

Landbanks

- 2.20 A key additional tool that underpins the working of the MASS is the **aggregate landbank**. This is principally a monitoring tool and is a key part of the evidence base that mineral planning authorities take into account when considering whether any change to existing policy approach is required during review of their Local Plan. Calculating the landbank is an integral part of the reporting requirements for producing the Local Aggregates Assessment.
- 2.21 Separate landbanks are required for crushed rock (at least 10 years) and sand and gravel (at least 7 years). The difference in time periods is to some extent because these two types of aggregate serve different markets and have different site infrastructure requirements. For example, quarries producing crushed rock will need a longer security of reserves to justify capital investment in crushing equipment.
- 2.22 Calculation of landbanks should be undertaken annually. The length of a landbank is typically calculated from the sum in tonnes of all permitted reserves for which valid planning permissions are extant, divided by the annual rate of future demand (typically the average annual sales figure over 10 years) based on the latest annual Local Aggregate Assessment. Other relevant information (such as planned infrastructure requirements)

may also be taken into account when considering whether a different annual sales figure should be used to calculate the landbank going forward. Permitted reserves include currently non-working sites, but exclude those sites where mineral working cannot take place until there has been a review of the planning conditions attached to their planning permission.

- 2.23 The NPPF¹ recommends that, as far as is practical, landbanks for non-energy minerals should be maintained from outside of designated areas such as National Parks and National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Cumbria contains, in whole or in part, two National Parks (Lake District; Yorkshire Dales) and three National Landscapes (Solway Coast; Arnside and Silverdale; North Pennines). There is also a World Heritage Site (Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Hadrian's Wall) across the north of the county, around 580 Scheduled Monuments and just under 100 Conservation Areas, all outside of the Lake District National Park. The Lake District National Park itself is now a World Heritage Site.
- 2.24 The landbanks that have been calculated for this LAA, do include reserves located in the Lake District National Park - for crushed rock used as aggregate from Shap Beck and Shap Blue quarries, both on the very edge of the Park. Rooks Quarry in the Yorkshire Dales National Park is now incorporated in to its own LAA work. It provides limestone off cuts for building stone so does not impact on Cumbria's landbank position. There are also landbank reserves located in two of the National Landscapes– at Sandside (Arnside and Silverdale), Hartley and Helbeck quarries (North Pennines).
- 2.25 Another requirement of the NPPF is that mineral planning authorities should ensure that competition is not stifled by large landbanks of permitted reserves bound up in very few sites; by inference, this means landbanks held by few mineral companies. In Cumbria, the control of reserves is not limited to a very few sites or very few operators.

Information used to produce the LAA

- 2.26 The LAA should be based on a rolling average of 10 years sales data as a starting point but other relevant local information must also be taken into account. This could include planned infrastructure projects, levels of projected housing growth, and assessment of the 3 year average sales figures to identify any recent trends in demand. The most significant information used to prepare this LAA is set out below:-

¹ NPPF (December 2023) Section 17 Facilitating the sustainable use of Minerals – para. 224

- the Annual Monitoring Survey forms - sent to all mineral operators in Cumbria for primary land won aggregates and for secondary/recycled aggregates; this survey collects sales data for each type of aggregate for the previous calendar year and also indicates the permitted reserves at year end;²
- data and information on marine dredged aggregates, held by the Crown Estate;
- local information, which includes, but is not restricted to:
 - data provided in planning applications
 - liaison with minerals operators
 - levels of planned construction and house building in Cumbria
 - the economic strategy of the Local Enterprise Partnership
- the NAWP annual report
- the four-yearly aggregate minerals survey carried out by the British Geological Survey for MHCLG – AM2023.

2.27 This LAA incorporates data gathered from the Annual Monitoring Survey forms for 2023, issued by Westmorland and Furness Council as the nominated minerals planning authority on behalf of the AWP. Where operators have not provided any returns we have calculated their sales and reserves figure based on previous returns.

2.28 Operators who have not provided a survey return were advised by the mineral planning authority of the latest sales and reserve figures being reported for their site based on estimates and given the opportunity to respond prior to the inclusion of these estimates in the landbank calculations for this LAA.

2.29 It has also been necessary to take account of the HSA roadstone quarries in the Yorkshire Dales National Park as any reduced production from within the National Park could have an impact on the HSA and VHSA roadstone quarries within neighbouring Cumbria.

2.30 The assessment of demand and supply is discussed for each aggregate type in the following chapters, with an Executive Summary setting out the overall position at the end

² The data gathered on the survey forms is confidential and an officer is nominated to receive the data provided by the operators. Itemised sales and reserves figures are not reported – they are collated so that individual figures and quarries cannot be identified

of 2023. Further details on relevant local information such as planned infrastructure projects and growth forecasts are included in the Appendices.

- 2.30 This published version of the LAA has been prepared taking into account comments received following consultation with NWAWP members on the initial draft report and was considered ratified by the NW AWP in April 2026.

3.0 Sand and gravel

Demand for sand and gravel (sales)

- 3.1 Sales of land-won sand and gravel across Cumbria in 2023 was **0.73Mt**, compared to 0.8Mt in 2022 and 0.85Mt in 2021. Historic sales of land-won sand and gravel are set out below. Sales of marine-dredged aggregates have been reported in previous LAAs however there have been zero tonnes landed since 2018 and this remains the case for 2023. The sales split between the two new unitary authority areas is shown in the 2022 data to provide a baseline going forward; during 2022 the minerals planning authority was Cumbria County Council.

Land-won sand and gravel	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sales (Mt)	0.68	0.71	0.81	0.79	0.71	0.77	0.75	0.85	0.8	0.73 ³
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									0.66	0.58
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									0.14	0.14

- 3.2 The 2023 sales figures give a three-year average sales figure of 0.79Mt and a 10-year average sales figure of 0.76Mt. Sand and gravel sales across Cumbria have been consistently higher than the sub-regional apportionment of 0.7Mt since 2015.

Supply of sand and gravel (reserves)

- 3.3 Permitted reserves of all land-won sand and gravel across Cumbria at the end of 2023 were 4.17Mt. Of this amount, 0.17Mt was identified as non-aggregate reserve leaving **4.0Mt available for aggregate use**. Historic land-won sand and gravel aggregate reserves are set out below. Permitted reserves have reduced by half over the past 10 years. The fact that reserves have not been replenished has an impact on the landbank years remaining which, as reported below, is now at a critical point. Permitted reserve figures are not held for marine-dredged aggregate which supplements rather than directly contributes to the landbank for sand and gravel. As noted above, there has been zero tonnes of marine-dredged aggregate landed within Cumbria (at Barrow Port) since 2018 so this is not currently supplementing the available landbank for sand and gravel.

³ Discrepancy due to rounding to 2 decimal points (0.726)

Land-won sand and gravel	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Permitted reserves (Mt)	9.2	8.77	7.77	7.38	7.26	6.53	6.03	5.63	4.72	3.99
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									<i>3.04</i>	<i>2.41</i>
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									<i>1.68</i>	<i>1.59</i>

- 3.4 There are 11 sand and gravel quarries across the sub-region of Cumbria; 10 of these were active during 2023. Location of the sand and gravel quarries and permitted reserves attributed to them (cumulatively) across the two new unitary authorities is set out in the table below for context. None of the sand and gravel quarries are located within the Lake District National Park.

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
High House	Roosecote
Faugh No.1 – <i>Inactive</i>	Bonnie Mount
Low Gelt	Low Plains
Kirkhouse	
Cardewmires	
Overby	
Peel Place	
Faugh No.2 (Esk Quarry)	
Permitted reserves = 2.41Mt	Permitted reserves = 1.59Mt

- 3.5 Planning permission (1/22/9006) for a lateral extension at **Cardewmires** (for extraction of an additional 0.1Mt over a 12 month period) was granted permission in February 2023, with extraction to cease by 31 December 2025.
- 3.6 Planning permission (1/22/9005) for a time extension at **Faugh 2 (Esk Quarry)** (for continued sand and gravel extraction and also for recycled aggregate production) was granted permission in February 2023, subject to completion of a S106 Legal Agreement.
- 3.7 Planning permission for extraction at **Faugh 1** expired in June 2023. The operator has decided not to continue mineral working at this site. Planning permission was granted in 2024 to secure additional time to complete a revised restoration scheme by 31st December 2025. As there is no longer planning permission for mineral extraction at this site, the remaining reserve (approx. 0.4Mt) does not contribute towards the available landbank for sand and gravel.

- 3.8 Currently planning permissions at the following sites are due to expire before the end of the CMLPW period (2030). As of 31 December 2023, together these sites hold an estimated 1.43Mt of Cumbria's permitted sand and gravel reserve (around 35%). Policy DC12 of the CMWLP would support time extensions on existing sites where there is evidence of a need for that specific mineral. Planning application (4/25/9002) was submitted in February 2025 for a time extension at **Peel Place** to extract the remaining reserve, and also to facilitate a separate proposal for a lateral extension. The proposed end date for all extraction on the submitted application is 2047.

Site	Permission end date
Peel Place	2025
Cardewmires	2025
Low Gelt	2026
Overby	2026
Roosecote	2029

Managing supply and demand – LAA provision figures

- 3.9 Based on 2023 sales, the 10-year average sales figure of 0.76Mt equates to a current landbank of 5.3 years that should last until 2029 but will have fallen below the minimum requirement of 7 years by 2022. Using the 3-year average sales figure of 0.79Mt equates to a landbank of 5.1 years that should last until 2028 but would have fallen below the minimum requirement of 7 years by 2021.
- 3.10 Under either scenario this means that Cumbria as a sub-region cannot currently demonstrate a landbank of at least 7 years as required by the NPPF.
- 3.11 Previous LAAs have set the provision rate based on the higher 3-year average sales and it is considered appropriate to continue that in this LAA. Looking ahead, both new councils will have further aspirations for growth and there are existing housing figure commitments and major infrastructure projects scheduled within each area. Following the NPPF published in December 2024, the government has now set mandatory housing targets which are significantly higher than those previously planned for by the former district councils (and Lake District National Park Authority) in their adopted Local Plans. The new Local Plans being prepared by the two councils will need to plan for this higher level of housing provision. Further details on assessment of future demand for aggregates across Cumbria, including planned housing delivery, is set out in *Appendix 1 – Other Relevant Local Information*.

- 3.12 **The 2024 LAA will continue to base the provision rate on the 3-year average – currently 0.79Mt. This is higher than the regional apportionment figure of 0.7Mt but acknowledges the potential impact of currently planned housing and infrastructure delivery.** Using this provision figure the existing landbank would run out in 2028. **This means at present Cumbria cannot demonstrate a minimum 7 year landbank of permitted reserves for sand and gravel.** To maintain a landbank of at least 7 years, as required by the NPPF, throughout the CWMLP period (i.e. until at least the end of 2037) would require a minimum of **7.06Mt** additional sand and gravel to be released. New reserves need to come on stream immediately as the landbank is already considered to be below the minimum 7 years at 31 December 2023
- 3.13 Both councils are starting work on a new Local Plan working to a Plan period of 2045. Future LAAs will calculate the landbank requirements based on the need to maintain the minimum required landbanks through to the end of 2045. For context, based on the 2023 sales and current LAA provision (0.79Mt) to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years throughout the new Local Plan periods (i.e. until at least the end of 2052 for sand and gravel) would require a minimum of 18.9 Mt additional sand and gravel to be released. A further uplift to the provision rate may need to be considered going forward, taking into account the higher levels of housing delivery mentioned above.
- 3.14 If the landbank position were to be calculated separately for Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council in future years, based on the 2023 figures this would indicate a landbank of 4.1 years for Cumberland and 11 years for Westmorland and Furness. However, simply dividing the permitted reserve available within each council area by the sales recorded in each area does not accurately represent supply and demand across the sub-region of Cumbria. Looking at 2023 data, Cumberland Council holds around two-thirds of the permitted reserves (60%) and generates 80% of the sales; Westmorland and Furness holds 40% of the permitted reserve and generates only 20% of the sales. Whilst sales, reserves and landbanks will be calculated separately for each minerals planning authority for the purpose of LAA reporting it is considered that supply and demand for sand and gravel will be interdependent between the two councils and the required landbank should be planned for jointly.
- 3.15 The CMWLP identifies the following site allocations for sand and gravel. With the exception of Kirkhouse quarry, these are all within the west and south of Cumbria where there is a particular shortage of sand and gravel aggregate supply compared to the rest of the county.

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
M6 Area of Search – land between Overby and High House quarries, Abbeytown	M27 Preferred Area – land adjacent Roosecote quarry, Barrow-in-Furness
M8 Area of Search- land adjacent Cardewmires Quarry, Dalston	M12 Area of Search – land near Roosecote quarry
M11 Area of Search – land adjacent Kirkhouse quarry, Brampton	
M15 Area of Search – land adjacent Peel Place quarry, Gosforth	

- 3.16 These site allocations could be roughly estimated as containing 14Mt of resources so there is potential for any required shortfall to be met, providing a minimum 7-year landbank until the end of the current Plan periods. However, the mineral resource in these areas has not been fully evaluated or deemed commercially viable, so no specific amount of reserve has been confirmed. It is by no means certain that planning applications would be submitted, or approved, on these sites, or that time extensions will be sought on all the current permissions due to expire within the Plan period.
- 3.17 There has been recent interest in pursuing some of these site allocations. A planning application (4/24/9001) was submitted in February 2025 for a lateral extension at **Peel Place** quarry which is located within part of Area of Search M15. The proposal is for extraction of 0.69Mt of sand and gravel over a period of 17 years. A Scoping Opinion was issued in November 2023 for a southern extension at **Cardewmires** quarry utilizing the whole of Area of Search M8, estimated to yield 1.7Mt for extraction over a period of 14 -17 years (based on extraction rates of between 100, 000 and 120,000 tonnes per annum). A planning application has not yet been submitted. If progressed, they could release 2.39Mt additional permitted reserve towards the landbank for sand and gravel. Using the December 2023 data as a baseline, if this additional 2.39Mt was added to permitted reserves this would give a landbank of 8.08 years which would run out in 2031. Further new reserves would need to have come on stream by 2024 to maintain a minimum 7-year landbank throughout the rest of the Plan period. However, by the time planning permissions are granted the landbank will have fallen further so it is likely to still be below or only just at the minimum 7 years.
- 3.18 In addition, a planning application (2/25/9001) was submitted in April 2025 for a new sand and gravel quarry at **Goodyhills** with a potential reserve of 2- 2.5Mt identified, to be extracted over a 20 year period (estimated 100,000 tpa). This would potentially extend the landbank position at the end of 2023 by a further 2 years over and above the

extension proposals at Peel Place and Cardewmires. However, a new quarry operation will likely take much longer to come on stream than a lateral extension scheme so again the current remaining landbank will have fallen considerably by that point meaning additional reserves will continue to be required.

Marine aggregates

- 3.19 Marine-dredged sand and gravel is also considered a primary aggregate. In Cumbria, marine-dredged aggregates are landed at Barrow port and have previously been taken from the licensed area held by Tarmac Marine Dredging Ltd (331), approximately twenty miles off the coast of Barrow. In 2009 around 23,000 tonnes landed at Barrow docks. This amount declined steadily to around 8,000 tonnes in 2017 and there has been zero tonnes landed since 2018 to this date. There is no longer a licensed working area in this location. In addition there will be small amounts provided by channel maintenance activities at harbours, such as Workington and Maryport. These aggregates are often used very locally, as they are landed by a local operator. Currently figures on these additional dredging activities are not recorded and monitored in the LAA.
- 3.20 In 2022, marine-dredged aggregates contributed to 27% (14Mt) of the total construction need for sand and gravel.⁴ The quantities of marine-dredged aggregates that are landed in the North West have been falling over several years and have always been less than the authorized extraction rates. In 2023, the total permitted extraction for marine aggregates in the North West region was 0.7Mt. The total landings recorded (at Liverpool Wharves and Penrhyn) was 294,173 tonnes, compared to 217,884 tonnes in 2022⁵. An application for another licence in the North West has been submitted and if approved could increase the permitted tonnage by 0.5Mt per annum.
- 3.21 One of the key issues relating to supply is the economic viability of the marine resource compared to land-won. However, with the pressure on land-won resources there is the potential that marine aggregates may play an increasingly important role. Recent discussion with industry indicates that there is a plentiful supply of good quality marine aggregate in the North West, including local to Cumbria, that could meet future demand for sand and gravel. However, the issue is logistics of getting it to market. This is influenced by a number of factors including – the cost of chartering a vessel without sufficient market demand for the product; the cost of renting land/infrastructure at ports; availability of land-based infrastructure such as wharves/landing points and, in particular,

⁴ Profile of the UK Mineral Products Industry 2023 (MPA) – *latest available at time of writing*

⁵ Marine Aggregates – Crown Estates Licences – Summary of Statistics 2023

sufficient rail capacity to get the product to market. When road transportation is the only option this significantly increases costs. Failure to safeguard key sites has also led to the loss of infrastructure in some areas. Whilst marine aggregate remains more expensive to supply than available land-won resource it will not be the preferred option for the market.

- 3.21 Like other minerals planning authorities in the North West, Cumbria does not currently have enough permitted reserve of land-won sand and gravel to maintain sufficient supply throughout the CMWLP period. Noting the potential for marine aggregates to contribute to this shortfall, CMWLP policy SP10 states that planning permission will be granted for developments at appropriate locations that would enable increased use of marine-dredged aggregates (subject to being environmentally acceptable). Policy SAP5 also safeguards existing and potential railheads and wharves.

Summary – sand and gravel

Current permitted reserves of land-won sand and gravel for aggregate use (3.99Mt) are not sufficient to maintain the required at least 7 year landbank throughout the CMWLP period (2015-2030). Based on 3-year average sales figures (0.79Mt) the available landbank would run out in 2028. This means **at present Cumbria cannot demonstrate a 7 year minimum landbank of permitted reserves for sand and gravel based on 3-year average sales.**

A minimum of 7.06 Mt additional of sand and gravel reserve is required to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years throughout the CMWLP period, based on 3-year average sales.

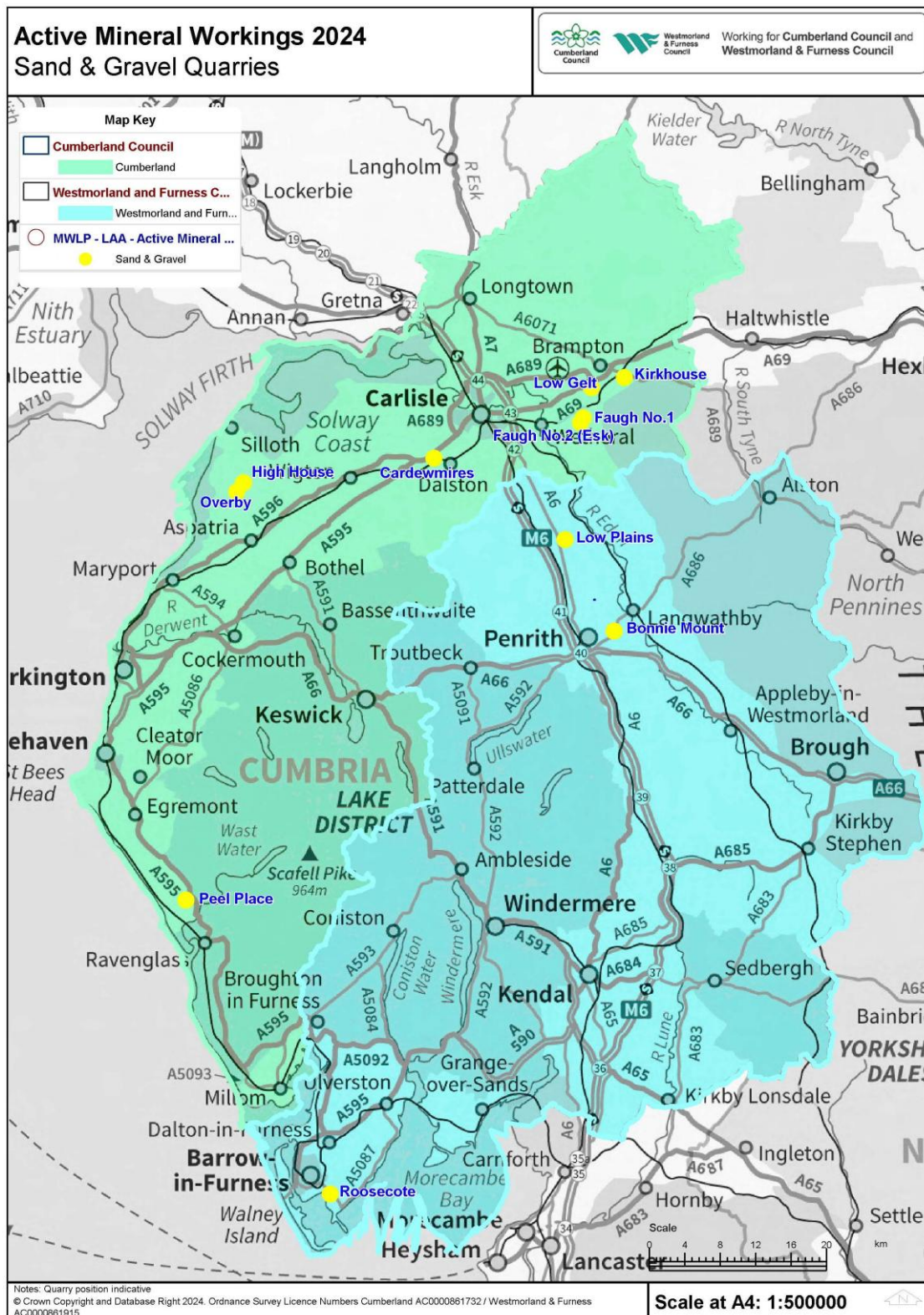
A number of permissions are due to expire before the end of the CMWLP plan period. Policy DC12 of the CMWLP would support approval of both time and physical extensions to existing sites where there is a need for that specific mineral.

Site Allocations have been made in the adopted CMWLP for Areas of Search/Preferred Areas for sand and gravel. If progressed, these could provide sufficient reserve to satisfy pre-recession sales levels and provide an at least 7 year land bank at the end of the Plan period. As of December 2023 there are 3 proposals for sand and gravel extraction under consideration (2 within Site Allocation areas) which, if planning permission is secured, could deliver up to 4.39Mt additional reserve towards the landbank for sand and gravel.

There is potential for marine-dredged sand and gravel to make a greater contribution to the permitted reserve figures in Cumbria. There is plentiful supply of good quality resource but

industry is facing a number of issues around the logistics of getting the product to market which means it is currently not as economically viable as land-won sand and gravel.

Sand & gravel quarries map



4.0 Crushed rock

Demand for crushed rock (sales)

- 4.1 Sales of crushed rock for aggregate use (excluding slate, building stone and other non-aggregate sales) across Cumbria in 2023 was **2.51Mt**, compared to 2.66Mt in 2022 and 2.86Mt in 2021. Historic sales of crushed rock are set out below. The sales split between the two new unitary authority areas is shown from 2022 to provide a baseline going forward although during 2022 the minerals planning authority was Cumbria County Council. For reasons of confidentiality the sales figures for HSA/VHSA cannot be reported as split between the two new councils as Cumberland Council only has one quarry providing this aggregate (Ghyll Scaur).

Crushed rock sales for aggregate use (Mt)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Limestone	1.9	2.52	1.92	1.78	1.99	2.16	1.89	2.1	1.91	1.5
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									0.71	0.62
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									1.2	0.88
Sandstone and Igneous (excluding HSA)	0.3	0.36	0.49	0.41	0.31	0.28	0.25	0.3	0.29	0.6
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									0	0
<i>Westmorland Council</i>									0.29	0.6
High specification aggregate (HSA)	0.38	0.42	0.48	0.43	0.52	0.57	0.45	0.46	0.46	0.41
Total crushed rock sales	2.58	3.3	2.89	2.61	2.82	3.01	2.59	2.86	2.66	2.51
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									1.00	0.91
<i>Westmorland Council</i>									1.66	1.60

- 4.2 In 2023, the 10-year average sales for all crushed rock was 2.78Mt (compared to 2.77Mt in 2022) and the 3-year average was 2.68Mt (compared to 2.7Mt in 2022). Sales figures for crushed rock have consistently been below the sub-regional apportionment set for Cumbria of 4.1Mt. There is a notable spike in sales of non-VHSA sandstone and igneous, double that of any sales since 2018. Whilst some sales figures for this aggregate type are estimates, survey returns confirm a significant increase in production for another operator so this reported increase can be accepted as accurate.

Supply of crushed rock (reserves)

4.3 Permitted reserves of all crushed rock across Cumbria at the end of 2023 were 116.69Mt. Of this amount, 7.52Mt (6.4%) was identified as non-aggregate reserve leaving **108.56Mt available for aggregate use**. Historic crushed rock aggregate reserves are set out below.

Crushed rock – permitted reserves (Mt)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Limestone	96.26	97.9	84.26	81.78	81.94	77.08	80.10	78.72	76.28 ⁶	72.39
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									20.94	20.3
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									55.35	52.09
Sandstone and Igneous rock (excluding HSA/VHSA)	29.82	29.5	29.00	29.01	22.84	22.93	20.08	19.95	19.7	21.51
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									0	0
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									19.7	21.51
High specification aggregate (HSA/VHSA)	10.98	17.22	16.74	16.56	16.11	15.50	16.15	15.62	15.10	14.67
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									5.85	5.55
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									9.25	9.12
Total reserves	137.06	144.63	130.00	127.35	120.88	115.51	116.35	114.28	111.09⁷	108.56
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									26.78	25.85
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									84.30	82.71

⁶ Combined figures do not tally due to rounding to 2 decimal points. Combined figure is accurately reported at 2 decimal points.

⁷ As above- cumulative effect of rounding figures to 2 decimal points

- 4.4 The figures above show an increase in reserve for non-VHSA sandstone and igneous (in Westmorland and Furness). This has been confirmed as being due to an operator re-assessing one of their sites in 2023, resulting in an updated permitted reserve figure for this year's surveys.
- 4.5 There are 22 crushed rock quarries operating across the sub-region of Cumbria and providing aggregate; 12 of these were active during 2023. In addition, Roan Edge Landfill and Recycling site has permission to extract HSA sandstone (0.3Mt) once minerals rights have been obtained. Location of the crushed rock quarries and permitted reserves attributed to them (cumulatively) across the two new unitary authorities is set out in the table below for context.

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
Ghyll Scaur – Igneous rock (volcanic tuff)	Shap Blue- Igneous rock (granite) (LDNPA)
Eskett & Rowrah – Limestone	Shap Pink – Igneous rock (granite) (LDNPA)
Moota – Limestone	Holme Park – Limestone
Silvertop – Limestone	Hartley- Limestone – Inactive
Snowhill No.1 – Limestone – Inactive	Shap Beck- Limestone
Tendley – Limestone and Sandstone	Flusco (Silverfields) – Limestone - Inactive
Snowhill No.2- Sandstone – Inactive	Sandside – Limestone – Inactive
	Stainton – Limestone – Inactive
	Goldmire – Limestone
	Kendal Fell – Limestone (LDNPA)
	Shap Fell (Hardendale) – Limestone – Inactive
	Holmescales – Sandstone/Greywacke – Inactive
	Roan Edge – Sandstone
	Roan Edge Landfill- Sandstone – Inactive
	Helbeck – Limestone - Inactive
Permitted reserves = 25.85Mt	Permitted reserves = 82.71Mt

- 4.6 During 2023, no permissions were granted for additional crushed rock reserves.
- 4.7 Currently planning permissions at the following sites are due to expire before the end of the CMWLP period (2030). As the permissions at Snowhill No.2 and Shapfell have expired and not been renewed their remaining reserves (estimated to be around 0.05Mt) are no longer included in the total permitted reserves for the purpose of calculating landbanks. As of 31 December 2023, the remaining two sites hold 4.2Mt of Cumbria's

permitted crushed rock reserve (approximately 4%). Policy DC12 of the CMWLP would support time extensions on existing sites where there is evidence of a need for that specific mineral.

Site	Permission end date
Snowhill Quarry 2 – sandstone	2020
Sandside – limestone	2029
Shapfell Quarry – limestone	2018
Tendley Quarry – limestone	2029

- 4.8 Some quarries are located in constrained sites due to being designated for their ecological or landscape value, which could impact on further extraction of reserves – **Holme Park** is located in a very sensitive area within a National Nature Reserve and SSSI in the centre of the quarry, and there are several surrounding Limestone Pavement Orders. **Sandside** is situated within the Arnside and Sliverdale National Landscape to which great weight is given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty. Within such areas, national planning policy states that permission should be refused for major development, other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Both these quarries contain limestone reserve.
- 4.9 There may be issues with two other crushed rock quarries (also limestone), which have the potential to impact on the landbank. At **Eskett & Rowrah** quarries that part of the quarry known as Eskett is almost worked out and the operator intends to move into that part known as Rowrah in order to extract the reserves located there. However, there is a substantial amount of water in the Rowrah area and, if an environmentally acceptable solution for its dewatering is not found, the reserves could be lost (estimated to be 16.75Mt at the end of 2023). **Kendal Fell** quarry has in the past been subject of a master planning exercise although no recent proposals for an alternative use have been put forward. Redevelopment of this site would potentially sterilize the resource, which remains in a Mineral Safeguarding Area. Prior extraction could be considered if development of the site was likely to result in an unacceptable loss of the available limestone resource within the sub-region of Cumbria (reported to be 1.47Mt at the end of 2023). Planning permission has been granted for a secondary aggregate production facility on this site.
- 4.10 A number of crushed rock quarries (10 out of the 22 operating) have permissions which expire automatically in February 2042 as a result of the Town and Country Planning

(Minerals) Act 1981 setting an end date of 21 February 2042 on all historic planning permissions for mineral working which were granted permission before 22nd February 1982 without a specific end date. Seven of the quarries affected are limestone; one is HSA sandstone and two are sandstone (four slate quarries in Cumbria are affected by this provision as well as a number of building stone quarries; none of the sand and gravel quarries are affected). Current policies in the CMWLP would support applications for an extension of time on their own merits, including taking into account whether there is evidence of need for the mineral. Two of the crushed rock quarries (both igneous sandstone) have their extraction area within the Lake District National Park. Current policy in the Lake District Local Plan would support applications for time extension (but not a physical extension) for general aggregate extraction where proposals can demonstrate sensitive restoration and extensions to existing sites could be supported for high purity limestone extraction where this meets an identified national need. Applications for building stone and slate extraction are supported in principle where there is a need identified.

Managing supply and demand – LAA provision figures

- 4.11 Based on 2023 sales, the 10-year average sales figure of 2.78Mt for all crushed rock gives a landbank of 39.1years that would last until 2063. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years, as required by the NPPF, new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2053.
- 4.12 **Provision for all crushed rock will continue to be based on the 10-year average sales level (2.78Mt).** As the current landbank is substantial it is considered reasonable to maintain provision based on the 10-year average, noting this is consistent with the 2022 10-year average of 2.77Mt and higher than the 3-year average of 2.68Mt for 2023 and 2.7Mt for 2022.
- 4.13 **Provision for all sandstone and igneous rock will continue to be based on the 10-year average sales level (0.82Mt).** This is slightly higher than last year's 10-year average of 0.79Mt and equates to a current landbank of 44 years that should last until 2067. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years, as required by the NPPF, new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2057.
- 4.14 **Provision for sandstone and igneous rock (without VHSA/HSA) will continue to be based on the 10-year average sales level (0.36Mt).** This is slightly higher than last year's 10-year average figure of 0.34Mt and now equates to a landbank of 59.7 years

that should last until 2083. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years, as required by the NPPF, new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2073.

- 4.15 Due to the substantial landbanks available, which should extend well beyond the Plan period, it is not considered necessary to consider any further scenarios for sandstone and igneous rock (excluding higher specification aggregates) or for the provision of crushed rock generally. Assessment of VHSA and HSA, including the LAA provision figure, is reported separately in the following chapter.
- 4.16 Looking at **limestone** alone, used only for general aggregate use and not as high specification roadstone, based on 2023 sales and remaining reserves (72.39Mt) , the 10-year average sales figure of 1.97Mt equates to a landbank of 36.7 years that should last until 2060. These figures also exclude limestone reserves for non-aggregate use, which are generally the high purity limestone that is used for industrial purposes. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years, as required by the NPPF, for limestone, new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2050.
- 4.17 This maintains the position as reported in last year's LAA. As the 2023 sales (at 1.5Mt compared to 1.91Mt in 2022) and therefore the 3-year average sales are lower than in 2022 then applying different sales scenarios does not have any significant impact on the landbank calculations.
- 4.18 When considering the highest sales level for limestone in the past 10 years (2.52Mt), this would reduce the landbank 28.7 years that should last until 2052. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years, as required by the NPPF, using this rate of sales then new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2042.
- 4.19 **The provision rate for limestone will continue to be based on the 10-year average sales level (1.97Mt).** This is comparable to the previous LAA figure of 10-year average sales at 1.98Mt.
- 4.20 Being mindful that a number of limestone quarries have permissions that are due to expire before or shortly after the CMWLP period, and that constraints have been identified around two of these, the provision rate and the need for replenishment of limestone reserves does need to be kept under review in future LAAs. The potential for additional or accelerated road building programs coming forward as a result of the Network North proposals announced by the Department for Transport (October 2023) could further impact on depletion of aggregate limestone reserves.

- 4.21 If the landbank position for all crushed rock were to be calculated separately for Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, based on the 2023 figures this would indicate a landbank of 28.5 years for Cumberland and 51.7 years for Westmorland and Furness. However, simply dividing the permitted reserve available within each council area by the sales recorded in each area does not accurately represent supply and demand across the sub-region of Cumbria. Looking at 2023 data, Cumberland Council holds around one quarter of the permitted reserves (24%) and generates 36% of the sales; Westmorland and Furness holds 76% of the permitted reserve and generates 64% of the sales. This suggests each council could potentially be self-sufficient in terms of crushed rock supply and demand but reserves in Cumberland would run out sooner. Arguably it would be unsustainable to seek new reserves within Cumberland whilst sufficient reserves remain within Westmorland and Furness to serve the needs of both council areas for the foreseeable future. Whilst sales, reserves and landbanks will be calculated separately for each minerals planning authority for the purpose of LAA reporting it is considered that supply and demand for crushed rock will be interdependent between the two councils and the required landbank should be planned for jointly.
- 4.22 The CMWLP identifies one Site Allocation for Limestone located within Cumberland – M10 Area of Search at Silvertop Quarry. This allocation was not to release additional reserves but to consider whether an alternative area for quarrying is available that would have less impact on the setting of the North Pennines National Landscape than the current permitted area. It has since been established by the operator that there is no winnable limestone reserve within this site allocation.

Summary – crushed rock

Current permitted reserves of all crushed rock for aggregate use (108.56Mt) are more than sufficient to maintain the required landbank of at least 10 years throughout the CMWLP period (2015-2030). **Based on 10-year average sales (2.78Mt) there is a landbank of 39.1 years.** To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for all crushed rock throughout the CMWLP period new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2053.

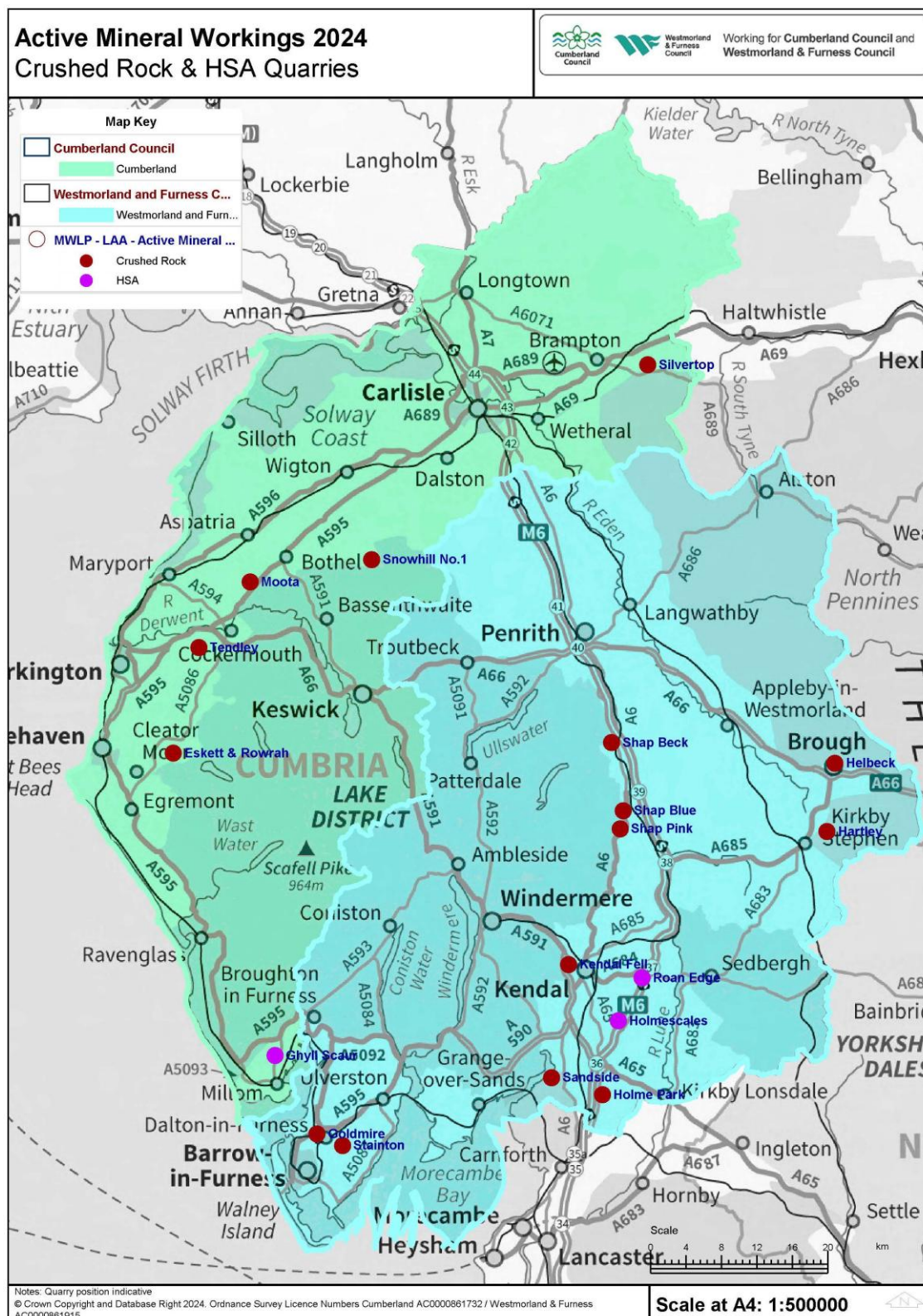
The 10-year average sales (0.36Mt) for sandstone and igneous rock (excluding high specification aggregates) equates to a landbank of 59.7 years. Using this provision figure, to maintain a landbank of at least 10 years throughout the CMWLP period new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2073.

Looking at reserves for limestone alone (also excluding high specification aggregates) the 10 year average sales (1.97Mt) equates to a landbank of 36.7 years. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for limestone throughout the CWMLP period new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2050. This needs to be kept under review as a number of limestone quarries have permissions that are due to expire before or shortly after 2030 and environmental constraints have been identified around two of these.

There are no concerns at this stage regarding supply and demand of crushed rock generally. Where planning permissions do expire within or shortly after the CMWLP period, relevant policies would support both extension of time and lateral extension in principle to ensure continued access to the remaining resource where there is a need for that aggregate.

As Cumbria has three quarries producing high specification and very high specification aggregates for use as roadstones, and this is a nationally significant resource, these aggregates are assessed separately.

Crushed rock and HSA quarries map



5.0 High specification aggregates

- 5.1 The High and Very High Specification Aggregates (HSA and VHSA) produced in Cumbria are essential for the building and maintenance of roads, especially motorways, because of their high or very high skid resistance properties. They have a national and regional market and are a nationally significant resource. Skid resistance properties are measured using a number of factors, including their polished stone value (PSV). A distinction is made between high specification aggregates (HSA) with a PSV of 58+ and very high specification aggregates (VHSA) with a PSV of 68+ which are geologically rare.
- 5.2 Sales and reserves data for HSA and VHSA are calculated separately within the LAA in order to plan for ongoing supplies of this resource distinct from general crushed rock used for aggregates. Demand has risen over the past few years. There are limited sources of these aggregates in the UK and as yet no suitable alternatives.

Demand for high specification aggregates (sales)

- 5.3 Sales of HSA and VHSA for aggregate use (excluding slate, building stone and other non-aggregate sales) across Cumbria in 2023 was **0.41Mt**, compared to 0.46Mt in 2022. Historic sales of these aggregates are set out below. For reasons of confidentiality the sales figures cannot be reported as split between the two new councils as Cumberland Council only has one quarry providing this aggregate (Ghyll Scaur).

HSA and VHSA	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sales (Mt)	0.38	0.42	0.48	0.43	0.52	0.57	0.45	0.46	0.46	0.41

- 5.4 Sales of HSA and VHSA have varied over the past ten years but have not yet regained their pre-recession level of over 0.7Mt recorded in 2008 and 2009. Nor have they picked up from the drop in 2020/2021 which had been attributed to restrictions placed on the construction industry during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.5 As a nationally important mineral resource, demand for HSA and VHSA will be influenced by growth in infrastructure and housing from across the UK and not just within Cumbria or the North West. Five strategic road schemes (and rail upgrades) were given government funding following the Spending Review of Summer 2025. Road schemes include the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine (continuous dual carriageway) which has sections within Cumbria; the M54-M6 link in Staffordshire; the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island in Greater Manchester, together with schemes at the A38 Derby Junctions and the

A46 Newark Bypass in Nottinghamshire. The government has also committed to support 28 local road schemes across the UK. The Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS 3) for the period 2026-2031 (published March 2026) identifies £24.9 million funding available. RIS 3 has a strong focus on maintenance and renewal of the existing highway network with highway improvements recognized as helping to support the delivery of housing requirements. Schemes relevant to Cumbria and the North West confirmed as major enhancements starting in RIS 3 include the A66 Northern TransPennine and the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange, with the M6 Lune Gorge Structure Improvements planned as a larger renewal of infrastructure.

- 5.6 The strategic road schemes are located within Cumbria, the North West and Midlands so are likely to draw from the high specification aggregates within Cumbria. In addition to these planned new road schemes there will be continued requirements for ongoing maintenance and repair of the existing national highway network. There is also likely to be increased demand for HSA and VHSA resulting from airport expansion projects and the development of new nuclear power plant facilities across the UK. It is therefore expected that demand for these aggregates will rise over the next 5-10 years.

Supply of high specification aggregates (reserves)

- 5.7 Permitted reserves for HSA and VHSA across Cumbria at the end of 2023, all for aggregate use, were 14.67Mt. Historic reserve figures are set out below.

Crushed rock – permitted reserves (Mt)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
High specification aggregate (HSA/VHSA)	10.98	17.22	16.74	16.56	16.11	15.50	16.15	15.62	15.10	14.67
<i>Cumberland Council</i>									5.85	5.55
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>									9.25	9.12

- 5.8 There are three established quarries within Cumbria which provide HSA and VHSA roadstone aggregate, with additional reserves permitted at Roan Edge Landfill and Recycling site (adjacent to and in separate ownership from the quarry). Extraction in the permitted extension area on that site has not yet commenced. Location of the quarries

and permitted reserves attributed to them (cumulatively) across the two new unitary authorities is set out in the table below for context. None of these are located within the Lake District National Park.

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
Ghyll Scaur – Igneous rock (volcanic tuff) (VHSA)	Holmescales – Sandstone/Greywacke (HSA)
	Roan Edge – Sandstone (HSA)
	Roan Edge Landfill- Sandstone (HSA)
Permitted reserves = 5.55Mt	Permitted reserves = 9.12Mt

- 5.9 **Homescales** quarry has an expiry date of February 2042 but is currently mothballed with an estimated reserve of 18,000 tonnes remaining. It has been identified as an Area of Search in the CMWLP. Extraction is currently limited to 100,000 tonnes per annum on road movements due to capacity constraints of the local road network for access. An appeal against refusal of planning permission for an increase in HGV movements was dismissed on these grounds.
- 5.10 **Ghyll Scaur** provides the highest quality VHSA roadstone and has an estimated reserve of 5.55Mt remaining at the end of 2023. It is the only operating quarry in England that produces roadstone to this standard.
- 5.11 The adopted CMWLP established that a policy approach for security of HSA supplies is required as the need to supply HSA from Cumbria may increase if supply of HSA from within the Yorkshire Dales National Park were to be restricted in the future, as implied by NPPF paragraphs 217 and 182, or if policies for European wildlife sites led to closures of existing quarries in or adjacent to such sites.
- 5.12 In the neighbouring Yorkshire Dales National Park, 4 out of the 6 working quarries produce high PSV gritstone which contributes to the HSA reserves available. Recent planning permissions have extended the operating period at Ingleton quarry to cease permanently by December 2025 (it was anticipated this would be sufficient time to extract the remaining permitted reserve from the site but there is currently an application for a further temporary period of 12 months to complete extraction and sale of the remaining reserves by 31 December 2026) and at Dry Rig until December 2034, as well as a lateral extension that would generate additional reserve. Horton quarry has permission until 2042 and is known to have significant additional resources. Arcow quarry has permission until 2029. The Yorkshire Dales Local Plan does include safeguarding areas

for sandstone which will protect the remaining HSA resource from sterilization. There is no VHSA reserve within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

- 5.13 If demand for this aggregate increases then, unless further permissions are granted, there is potential for the HSA reserves in the Yorkshire Dales National Park to be significantly reduced towards the end of our Plan periods. This would put more pressure on the HSA and VHSA reserves in Cumbria.
- 5.14 The Publication Draft of the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2025-2040 has now been submitted for Examination (Examination Hearings held in December 2025). Policy L1 on crushed rock extraction is intended to allow operators to continue to contribute to the national supply of high psv gritstone (sandstone) during the new Plan period, where relevant criteria are met (this includes proposals for new quarries/lateral extensions only being permitted in exceptional circumstances). Policy L5 on minerals safeguarding continues to safeguard the remaining reserves of high psv gritstone (sandstone) as well as high purity carboniferous limestone.

Managing supply and demand – LAA provision figures

- 5.15 Based on 2023 sales, the 10-year average sales figure of 0.46Mt for all higher specification aggregates (HSA and VHSA) equates to a landbank of 31.9 years that should last until 2055. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for this specific aggregate (the requirement in the NPPF is for all crushed rock) new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2045.
- 5.16 Given the importance of these resources for the UK and regional economy and anticipation of increased demand in the future, higher sales figures have also been taken into consideration. The highest sales level in the past ten years (0.57Mt) would equate to a landbank of 25.7 years ending in 2049 and pre-recession sales (0.7Mt in 2007) would equate to a landbank of 20.9 years ending in 2044.
- 5.17 If we consider sales scenarios solely in relation to the VHSA reserve (because this is the scarcer resource) applying the sales figures for all HSA and VHSA would be disproportionate. For reasons of confidentiality the sales of VHSA reserve cannot be reported in the LAA as there is only one quarry producing aggregate of this standard. Based on recent returns we estimate that VHSA accounts for approximately two-thirds of the total sales. Using this figure (around 0.27Mt for 2023 sales, 0.29Mt for 3-year average and 0.3Mt for 10-year average) based on 10-year average this equates to a landbank of 18 years that should end around the beginning of 2042. Applying this ratio

to the higher sales figures (around 0.47Mt based on pre-recession sales or 0.38Mt based on highest sales in last ten years) reduces the landbank to either 11.8 years that should end in 2035 or 14.6 years that should end in 2038. An increase to these higher sales levels is likely to be gradual but potentially the landbank for this particular aggregate could end shortly after the current Plan periods meaning additional reserves would be required to maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for VHSA alone.

- 5.18 With the reporting here that the VHSA-only landbank may fall below the minimum requirements at the end of the current CMWLP period, it is worth noting that the Local Plans for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness will be for a Plan period ending in 2045. Landbanks for all aggregates will be calculated for the 2045 Plan periods in the next LAA starting with the 2024 data.
- 5.19 Currently, based on 10-year average sales there is sufficient reserve of VHSA to maintain a landbank of at least 10 years to the end of the current CMWLP period but additional reserves would be required shortly afterwards (potentially in 2031) to maintain the landbank going forward. If sales were to increase sharply it may not be possible to maintain a landbank of at least 10 years' supply right to the end of the CMWLP period unless additional reserves can be provided. Given the scarcity of this igneous VHSA, significant infrastructure projects outside of the county are likely to impact on demand for the available reserve in Cumbria.
- 5.20 The NPPF requires a landbank of at least 10 years for all crushed rock supplies, and not for each individual aggregate type. However, it is acknowledged that the VHSA reserve is of national importance and the current supply of both VHSA and HSA within Cumbria will come under pressure from demand well outside the county for major highways and infrastructure projects. This pressure will be compounded if HSA reserves currently available within the Yorkshire Dales National Park cease to be available.
- 5.21 BGS published a Minerals Planning Factsheet in December 2025⁸ providing an overview of high specification aggregate in the UK, incorporating the results of a 2023 survey on permitted reserves, sales and declared testing values for all sites producing material with a PSV greater than 58. Prior to this, the only existing data for HSA/VHSA was from reports published in 1993 (based on 1992 survey data) and in 2004 (based on 2002 aggregate sales). The 4-yearly AM surveys do not distinguish HSA from other crushed rock aggregate in their reporting.

⁸ [Mineral planning factsheet : high specification aggregates - NERC Open Research Archive](#)

5.22 The 2023 survey data now available shows the following information for sales and reserves in the North of England and nationally. Sites in bold are those located in Cumbria.

For Material with PSV of 65 and above

Country/Region	Sites	Total permitted reserve at 31 December 2023	Total sales in 2023 (tonnes)	Lifetime of reserves based on 2023 sales
North of England	Dry Rigg Ghyll Scaur Horton	12.84 Mt	588,794	21.8 years
GB Totals	-	228.58 Mt	5.66 Mt	40.4 years

For Material with PSV between 60 - 64

Country/Region	Sites	Total permitted reserve at 31 December 2023	Total sales in 2023 (tonnes)	Lifetime of reserves based on 2023 sales
North of England	Arcow Ingleton Roan Edge Holmescales Stanton wks Templeborough wks	11 Mt	1.23 Mt	8.9 years
GB Totals	-	327.42 Mt	11.23 Mt	29.1 years

5.23 In the context of these figures, according to the 2023 data collated for this LAA, Cumbria holds around 43% of the permitted reserve for materials with PSV greater than 65 within the North of England and 2% of the permitted reserve held nationally (England, Scotland and Wales), noting that Ghyll Scaur has a PSV of greater than 68 and is the only resource of this quality located in England. For material with PSV of between 64 – 67 Cumbria holds around 80% of the permitted reserve within the North of England and 3% of the reserve held nationally.

5.24 In terms of supply, the BGS factsheet concludes that whilst GB as a whole, and both Wales and Scotland individually, appear to be in a healthy position with regard to ongoing supply of HSAs in both categories, the situation in England is different, in

particular the North of England where the lifetime based on 2023 permitted reserves and sales currently stands at 8.9 years.

- 5.25 In terms of future demand, the factsheet notes this is dependent in part on future road building and maintenance plans as well as on specifications relating to the provision and maintenance of skidding resistance. It is also acknowledged that overall demand will be strongly influenced by budgets in relation to new road construction. It is reported that figures from National Highways in England show a decrease in demand for HSA over the next 5 years and that maintenance budgets have also been declining.
- 5.26 This up-to-date national survey data and analysis is useful to inform consideration of future demand for these aggregates. The current position in respect of VHSA and HSA combined is that there is sufficient reserve to maintain a landbank of at least 10 years right to the end of the CMWLP period. It must also be borne in mind that, due to the commercial sensitivity of sales data and the fact only one quarry produces the VHSA, these future demand assumptions are based on an estimated figure (approximately two-thirds of total sales) rather than the actual sales figure for that quarry. However, this continues to be a reasonable basis on which to estimate the potential impact of future sales on the available reserve for the purpose of calculating landbanks for VHSA alone.
- 5.27 **Provision for HSA/VHSA will continue to be based on the 10-year average rolling sales level (0.46Mt).** This is consistent with last year's averages and reflects the fact that sales of HSA/VHSA have not yet returned to the higher levels of above 0.5Mt reported for 2018 and 2019. Given the scarcity of the VHSA resource in particular, it is important to manage release of the available reserve to ensure it is done in respect of actual demand rather than perceived demand. This approach seeks to avoid additional reserve being released prematurely and then being sold for projects that did not require aggregate of such a high specification.
- 5.28 This equates to a landbank of 31.9 years that should last until 2055. To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for these higher specification aggregates throughout the CMWLP period new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2045.
- 5.29 None of the currently permitted reserves are located within the Lake District National Park. Within the Lake District National Park, where there is potentially an alternative supply of VHSA, great weight is given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty. Within such areas, national planning policy states that permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it

can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. There is no permitted reserve for VHSA/HSA identified by the other mineral planning authorities within the NW AWP area.

- 5.30 The CMWLP identifies two site allocations for high specification roadstones only, both located within Westmorland and Furness: M16 Area of Search at Holmescales Quarry and M30 Area of Search at Roan Edge quarry.

Summary – high specification and very high specification aggregates

Current permitted reserves of HSA and VHSA for use as roadstone is 14.67Mt. This is sufficient to maintain the required at least 10 year land-bank throughout the Plan period (2015-2030). **Based on current 10-year average sales (0.46Mt) there is a landbank of 31.9 years.** To maintain a landbank of at least 10 years for all high specification aggregates throughout the CWMLP period new reserves would need to come on stream by no later than 2045.

If sales increase significantly, the need for additional reserve to maintain the 10-year landbank could occur sooner, within the next Plan period (potentially between 2034 and 2039).

There are four HSA quarries in the neighbouring Yorkshire Dales National Park. If in the future planning permission is not granted for any time extension that may be needed to extract all the permitted reserve there, or for additional reserve to be extracted where there is known to be a resource, there will be additional pressure on the supply in Cumbria.

Ghyll Scaur is the only operating quarry in England to produce the VHSA roadstone. This is a nationally important resource and therefore demand is likely to increase as a result of planned growth in housing and infrastructure across the UK, not just within Cumbria.

If we apply the current 10-year average sales proportionately to VHSA alone (this typically equates to about two-thirds of all sales), there should be sufficient reserve to maintain a 10 year supply of VHSA just to the end of the CMWLP period but new reserves would need to come on stream moving into 2031. The situation with VHSA will be closely monitored and landbanks for all aggregates in future LAAs will be calculated based on the new Local Plan periods ending 2045.

Site Allocations in the adopted CMWLP are made for two Areas of Search for HSA. There is potential for an Area of Search for VHSA to be made within the Lake District National Park but currently their policies would not permit extraction. Within such areas, national planning policy states permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.

6.0 Building stone and slate

6.1 There are around 20 building stone and slate quarries currently operating across the sub-region of Cumbria now that some permissions have recently expired and not been renewed. Two (Rooks and Pickering- both limestone) are now within the Yorkshire Dales National Park so are no longer reported in this LAA. Details of these quarries are set out in the table below. Most sites provide building stone only but some produce secondary aggregate from off-cuts (stone and slate). Both Snowhill No. 1 and Snowhill No.2 are known to produce some stone for aggregate use as well as building stone so are considered as providing crushed rock as well.

Quarries outside the Lake District National Park

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
Snowhill No.1 – limestone	Crag Nook – sandstone
Snowhill No.2 – sandstone	Scratchmill Scar – sandstone
Lambhill – sandstone	Red Rock Canyon – sandstone
Birkhams – sandstone	Bowscar – sandstone
Bank End – sandstone	Flinty Fell – sandstone
Grange – sandstone	Mousegill – sandstone
	Kirkby Slate Quarry - slate
	Baycliff Haggs – limestone
	Leipsic – sandstone
	West Brownrigg – sandstone

Quarries within the Lake District National Park

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
Low Brandy Crag – slate	Petts – slate
Honister – slate	Brathay – slate
	Elterwater (Lords) – slate
	Peatfield (Hodge Close) – slate
	High Fell (High Fellside or High Tilberthwaite) – Slate
	Bursting Stone (Coniston) – slate
	Broughton Moor – slate

- 6.2 During 2023 there were no planning permissions granted in respect of building stone quarries.
- 6.3 Currently planning permissions at the following sites have expired or are due to expire before the end of the CMWLP period (2030). In some cases operators will only seek to renew a consent when a specific local need for the material arises (e.g. when a building project is due to commence in the area).
- 6.4 Planning applications (3/24/9004 and 3/24/9005) were approved at **Flinty Fell** in August 2025 for extension of time for quarrying operations until 31 December 2039. It is of note that there were significant concerns raised about this due to impact on blanket bog habitat. Permission was granted as it was accepted that the unique characteristics and important conservation value of the stone could be accepted as exceptional circumstances that outweighed the environmental harm, with mitigation and compensation works required as part of the proposal.

Cumberland

Site	Permission end date
Low Brandy Crag – slate	2026
Grange – sandstone	2028
Snowhill Quarry 2 – sandstone	2020

Westmorland and Furness

Site	Permission end date
Brathay – slate	2018
Peatfield – slate	2026
High Fell- slate	2024
Flinty Fell – sandstone	2024 (time extension to 2039 granted August 2025)
Mousegill – sandstone	2016
Red Rock Canyon – sandstone	2025

- 6.5 With the exception of Kirkby, the remaining slate quarries are all within the Lake District National Park and the majority are not producing aggregates. **Broughton Moor**, **Elterwater** and **Kirkby** all produce slate waste for aggregate use which is recognized as a secondary aggregate in this LAA. **Honister** is also known to produce slate waste. **High Fell** produces green slate used in flooring and worktops.

- 6.6 There have been a number of variation of planning condition applications submitted recently within the Lake District National Park from developers requesting use of imported slate as an alternative due to perceived concerns over the availability of local slate. However, it is understood that local operators are continuing to invest in their quarries to secure long term supplies.
- 6.7 The Lake District National Park Local Plan was adopted in May 2021 and Policy 27 (Mineral extraction) supports the extension of an existing site or reopening of an old site where the mineral extraction would meet a local need for building stone and slate.
- 6.8 The Yorkshire Dales Local Plan (December 2016) also supports the quarrying of building stone and roofing slate, including by re-opening of existing quarries, in order to increase supplies of locally sourced materials for use in new developments and the repair and maintenance of traditional buildings. Policy L2 of the Publication Draft YDNP Local Plan continues this support. Pickering and Rooks (both within Cumbria – Westmorland and Furness) are identified in the Plan as the two building stone quarries within the YDNP, with the majority of building and roofing stone being obtained from quarries outside the National Park.
- 6.9 Due to the conservation value and sustainability benefits of allowing this local resource to be quarried within the two National Parks, the potential for aggregate provision from these quarries to contribute to the supply of aggregates within the sub-region of Cumbria is likely to remain throughout the Plan periods. Policy DC12 of the CMWLP gives support to proposals for building stone quarries where there is a need for local stone to match the local architectural style and for conservation and repair of heritage assets. The NPPF also requires local authorities to consider how to meet any demand for the extraction of building stone needed for the repair of heritage assets, taking account of the need to protect designated sites; and also the small-scale nature and impact of building and roofing stone quarries, and the need for a flexible approach to the duration of planning permissions reflecting the intermittent or low rate of working at many sites.

7.0 Recycled and secondary (alternative aggregates)

- 7.1 The term alternative aggregates is used to describe both recycled and secondary aggregates. Recycled aggregates are produced by recycling construction, demolition, excavation and other wastes; secondary aggregates are by-products of other mining or quarrying operations (including stone off-cuts and slate waste), or of other industrial processes. There are no landbanks required for recycled or secondary aggregates.

- 7.2 In Cumbria, examples of recycled aggregates include railway track ballast as well as the more typical construction waste of bricks and concrete. Examples of secondary aggregates are slate waste and old blast furnace slag banks.
- 7.3 As well as those quarries already identified as producing aggregates from quarry waste, there are around 20 main processing plants in Cumbria producing aggregates from recycled or reused materials. They are situated in a variety of locations: aggregate quarries, building stone quarries, on industrial estates, railway land or at landfill sites. Few of the slate quarries, which are predominantly situated in the National Park, provide significant quantities of waste material that can be used for secondary aggregates. Location of these facilities across the two new unitary authorities and the materials they recycle for aggregate use is set out in the table below for context.

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
Silvertop quarry – inert construction waste	Sandside quarry – inert construction waste
Hespin Wood landfill – secondary aggregates	Flusco quarry – HIC and construction waste
Derwent Howe slag bank – slag extraction and recycling of wastes	Roosecote quarry – construction materials
McKay Plant & Skip hire, Lillyhall – construction and demolition waste	Goldmire quarry – construction and demolition waste
Phillip Carruthers Ltd, Lillyhall – concrete, rubble and bricks	Bonnie Mount quarry – inert building waste
Ashcroft Demolition (Cumbria) Ltd, Flimby – construction waste	Roan Edge landfill – inert wastes
Thompson's Plant Hire Ltd, Flimby – construction waste	Tony Brown Aggregates Ltd, Diamond Yard, Lindal-in-Furness – stone, brick etc.
North West Recycling, Kingmoor, Carlisle – construction and demolition waste	
Cubby Construction Ltd, Kingmoor, Carlisle – construction waste, road planings	
Lawson's Recycling centre, Beckermest – construction waste	
DA Harrison, Silloth Airfield – inert waste	
Harry Barker Properties Ltd, High Greenscoe – construction waste	
Kingmoor Marshalling yards, Carlisle – concrete rail sleepers and spent ballast	
Overby sand quarry – inert waste	

Demand for recycled and secondary aggregates

- 7.4 It can be difficult to obtain reliable information on the amounts of alternative aggregates that are produced as it tends to be only the key known operators who are sent out a survey, and of those many do not provide a return. This year only 3 out of around 20 surveys were returned. Therefore for many years sales figures for recycled and secondary aggregates have been estimated based on returns for previous years. In addition the figure for production of slate waste (a secondary aggregate) has been set at around 220,000 for a number of years but with no recent evidence of actual sales levels. It has also been assumed that around 100,000 tonnes of railway ballast is processed each year for recycled aggregate but recorded figures have not previously been monitored.
- 7.5 Taking into account the limitations outlined above, the following figures are reported for overall sales of recycled and secondary aggregates across the sub-region of Cumbria from 2017 onwards. In 2022 figures were provided by the operators on 3 out of the 4 sites known to produce aggregate from slate waste so this is included the figure reported. The 2023 figures for slate are estimates as no returns were received.

Recycled/Secondary aggregate sales (Mt)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Figure recorded in LAA	0.315	0.396	0.456	0.541	0.516	0.466	0.027
Estimated slate sales	0.148	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.227	0.220
Aggregate sales excluding slate	0.167	0.176	0.235	0.235	0.296	0.239	0.242
<i>Cumberland Council</i>						<i>0.142</i>	<i>0.003</i>
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>						<i>0.097</i>	<i>0.024</i>

- 7.6 From 2021 data onwards it was decided to try a different approach to assessing the supply of recycled and secondary aggregates, using the Guidance on Assessing Levels of Recycled Aggregates that has been produced by the Chairs of the National Waste Technical Advisory Boards and Aggregate Working Parties. This is considered to be more reliable than assessing supply based on sales figures alone and also identifies quantities of railway ballast.

Supply of recycled and secondary aggregates

- 7.7 The NPPF makes it clear that planning policy should take into account the contribution that secondary/recycled materials and minerals waste can make to the supply of materials before considering extraction of primary materials.

- 7.8 Precise figures cannot be provided about reserves of these alternative aggregates because they will only arise as the waste feedstock material becomes available. Figures from the operator surveys relate to the sales of recycled aggregate from a particular site and are not necessarily a reflection of the amount of recycled aggregate that is or could be produced at that site.
- 7.9 Analysis of the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) can provide another means of assessing supply of recycled aggregate by looking at the amounts of construction and demolition waste that are received at treatment facilities and are recorded with an end fate of recovery/re-use rather than an end fate of disposal (e.g. landfill, incineration). This can provide a more up-to-date picture of the number and range of sites that are processing construction and demolition waste that is suitable for use as aggregate. However, some care is needed with the filtering of the data in the WDI as not all types of construction and demolition waste will be suitable for use as aggregate; not all recorded end fates of 'Recovery' will imply use as an aggregate, and there is also a risk of double-counting if waste is transferred from one facility to another.
- 7.10 Guidance on Assessing Levels of Recycled Aggregates has been produced by the National Waste Technical Advisory Board Chairs and Aggregate Working Party Chairs which considers the risks and benefits of different data collection methods and includes some guidance on appropriate filtering of data within the WDI. Given the minimal amount of data on recycled aggregate sales that is currently available from use of operator surveys, it is considered that use of the WDI to look at the potential for supply of recycled aggregates within Cumbria would give a more realistic indication of the contribution they can make. Use of the WDI data also gives more specific figures on the amount of railway track ballast being processed, rather than relying on a standard estimate. Where an operator survey has been provided for the data year giving amounts of aggregate sold, that figure has been used instead.
- 7.11 Following the method in this guidance, the WDI has been filtered for the following waste codes (01 04 04; 01 04 09; 17 01 01; 17 01 02; 17 01 03; 17 01 07; 17 03 03; 17 05 08; 17 09 04) on sites classified as either treatment or transfer facilities with an end fate recorded on the WDI as Recovery (this means the waste went on to be re-used/recycled for another purpose, rather than being disposed of as waste). A simple calculation of subtracting the amount of waste removed from the amount of waste received gives a figure of 161,346 tonnes potential supply of recycled aggregate for 2023.

- 7.12 However, some sense checking is required as where an operator survey has been returned the sales figure provided for recycled aggregate is often considerably higher than that would otherwise have been calculated for that site. Knowledge that some waste transfer stations are recognised as suppliers of recycled aggregate and others are not has also been taken into account. Applying this sense check to the initial WDI analysis creates an estimate of **201,048 tonnes**. This approach to considering the contribution that recycled aggregate can make to the supply across Cumbria is therefore considered to be reasonable and justified at this time.
- 7.13 Using data from the WDI (and cross-referencing with operator survey returns where received) the following amounts of recycled aggregate (from inert waste) are estimated to be available. Data using this methodology is available from 2020 onwards. For context, the total amount is shown distributed between the two new councils starting from 2022. It can be assumed that all the track ballast is generated within Cumberland as that is where the Kingmoor marshalling yards are located, on the rail sidings at Carlisle. Network Rail import large quantities of old rail ballast here to process and then export around the UK.

Potential supply of recycled aggregate (tonnes)	2020	2021	2022	2023
Track ballast	120,666	77,995	55,990	79,258
Other construction waste (e.g. bricks, cement, tiles)	285,511	214,252	183,153	121,790
Total	405,777	292,247	239,143	201,048
<i>Cumberland Council</i>			142,126	144,364
<i>Westmorland and Furness Council</i>			97,017	56,684

- 7.14 It is worth noting here for context that the recently commissioned Waste Needs Assessment (prepared jointly for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness councils) reports an operational recycled aggregate capacity across Cumbria as a whole of just under 1.16 million tonnes per annum, based on information from the WDI 2023. This is done by applying the mass balance of construction, demolition and excavation (CDE) waste received and removed at facilities known to have recycled aggregate processing facilities. However, the purpose of analysis in the Waste Needs Assessment was to assess the *capacity* of facilities to receive and recycle CDE waste. The process outlined above for the Local Aggregates Assessment attempts to estimate the *amount* of recycled aggregate that is actually produced by filtering specific waste codes within the CDE waste stream.

- 7.15 In addition to the supply of recycled aggregate, there is a supply of secondary aggregate from slate waste from at least 3 of the slate quarries within Cumbria. This year returns were not received from any of the slate operators so an estimated figure of 220,000 tonnes has been used. These sites have a combined maximum production capacity of 385,000 tonnes per annum. Slate waste continues to be available as a recognised source of secondary aggregate for Cumbria at this time. Combined with the figures above this gives **an estimated 0.42Mt total recycled and secondary aggregate provision across Cumbria for 2023**
- 7.16 A planning application was submitted in 2021 at **Esk Quarry** which includes an element of inert waste recycling to produce aggregate. This was approved in February 2023 subject to a S106 Agreement; decision now issued in October 2023.
- 7.17 As well as the sites identified in this chapter, there are a number of operators with mobile plant who travel to demolition sites to process waste. This suits the dispersed settlement pattern in Cumbria and incidentally cuts down 'waste miles' as well as 'minerals miles'.
- 7.18 The supply of recycled aggregate from construction and demolition waste will be linked to the amount of development and redevelopment taking place. Many of the planned infrastructure projects set out in *Appendix 1 - Other Relevant Local Information* - may generate large amounts of inert waste that could be recycled and re-used for aggregate purposes.
- 7.19 Currently the following permissions for facilities to provide recycled aggregate (typically through recycling of inert waste) are due to expire before the end of the Plan periods:

Cumberland

Site	Permission end date
High Greenscoe quarry	2024
Overby quarry	2026

Westmorland and Furness

Site	Permission end date
Stoneraise quarry	2029

Managing supply and demand

- 7.20 Policy 06 (Design and Development) in the adopted LDLP includes a requirement that developers should use construction methods that allow disassembly rather than

demolition and facilitate the re-use of materials. It is also intended to encourage provision of on-site facilities to create recycled aggregates from materials that cannot be re-used. The production of alternative aggregates is encouraged in the adopted CMWLP and policy DC9 (Criteria for waste management facilities) proposes that suitable industrial estates are appropriate locations for such facilities, plus aggregate quarries and non-inert landfills if the facility permission is tied to the active life of the site

- 7.21 Derwent Howe slag bank at Workington is identified as a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) - reference M24 in the CMWLP - as it is an important resource of secondary aggregates. However, it is now established for recreational use, including part of the English Coastal Path, and also hosts a significant colony of the small blue butterfly. Further extraction from this site therefore may not be supported. In previous drafts of the Plan it was suggested that both Millom and Barrow slag banks, which are also owned by Cumberland Council, could be similarly safeguarded as MSAs. At present, neither resource is likely to be accessible: Millom is now a Local Nature Reserve that also falls within the Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar, whilst Barrow is located adjacent to the same SPA and Ramsar, as well as the Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation. There are no such slag resources located in the Lake District National Park.
- 7.22 There is an MSA identified for slate in the CMWLP. This is a fairly localised MSA, of the Wray Castle formation, which encompasses Kirkby Slate Quarry, a producer of secondary aggregate. The LDLP also has an MSA for slate, which encompasses both Elterwater and Honister quarries, the other slate waste producers.

Summary – recycled and secondary aggregates

Alternative aggregates will continue to have an important role in the provision of aggregate supply. There is no landbank requirement for alternative aggregates and reserve figures cannot be provided as they only arise when the waste material becomes available.

In Cumbria the main source of alternative aggregates is recycled aggregate from inert waste; predominantly construction and demolition waste but a significant proportion (in 2023 around 39%) of the estimated supply is from railway track ballast. Slate waste is recognised as a source of secondary aggregate in Cumbria as at least 3 of the operating slate quarries are known to produce this and have confirmed supplies continue to be available.

Previous analysis of sales of recycled aggregates, based on operator surveys with heavy reliance on estimated figures, has shown a steady increase over the previous 3 years. However, using

analysis of the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) is considered to provide a more realistic assessment of the available supply of recycled aggregate and since 2022 the methodology set out in the national guidance note has been followed. WDI analysis for 2023 indicates a potential supply of 0.2Mt recycled aggregate, slightly lower than previous years' calculations. In combination with the estimated slate sales this gives a **total estimate of 0.42Mt for recycled and secondary aggregates across Cumbria.**

Trends in sustainable construction methods mean that demand for alternative aggregates should continue. Actual supply will be linked to the amount of development taking place.

Mineral Safeguarding Areas are identified in the CMWLP for Derwent Howe slag bank as an important resource of secondary aggregates (although there is some doubt over its suitability for future extraction) and for slate at Kirkby Quarry. The LDLP also has a Mineral Safeguarding Area for slate at Elterwater and Honister.

8.0 Infrastructure for aggregates and minerals safeguarding

- 8.1 The NPPF also states that planning authorities should safeguard existing, planned and potential rail heads and wharfage in their Local Plans. In the adopted CMWLP site allocations policy SAP5 identifies the following existing and potential rail head/sidings for safeguarding for aggregates use:

Cumberland Council	Westmorland and Furness Council
AL18 -Port of Workington and railhead	BA26 – Barrow Port and rail sidings
AL32 – Siddick potential rail sidings	M35 – Shap Beck quarry rail sidings, Shap
AL39 – Silloth Port	M36 – Shapfell quarry rail sidings
M34 – Kingmoor rail sidings, Carlisle	M37 – Shap Blue quarry rail sidings
	M38 – Kirkby Thore gypsum works rail sidings

- 8.2 The potential site, AL32 at Siddick, near Workington, was put forward originally as a rail head for a conveyor link to a coal extraction site. Although the coal extraction site is not an allocation the rail head could still be used for other economically viable mineral or waste operations in the area.
- 8.3 The Lake District National Park does not contain any rail heads, but two within Cumbria serve quarries whose extraction area lies within the Park and these need to be safeguarded; these are M35 Shap Beck Quarry and M37 Shap Blue Quarry in the CMWLP. Shapfell Quarry is in the same area, but lies wholly outside the Park; it also has rail sidings that are safeguarded in policy SAP5, as site M36. Kingmoor sidings near Carlisle are also identified (site M34), as Network Rail Infrastructure import large quantities of old rail ballast here, process it and then export the recycled aggregate around the UK.
- 8.4 In addition to these safeguarded facilities, planning permission was granted in January 2018 to Burlington Aggregates for a rail loading facility at Cavendish Dock, Barrow (6/17/90100). This has been successfully operated on several occasions fulfilling aggregate orders by rail to the north of the county to support a major infrastructure project. This facility will also need to be safeguarded in accordance with the NPPF.
- 8.5 There are no wharves in the Lake District National Park, as there is only a very small coastal section on their boundary. Two working ports and their rail sidings have been identified in the CMWLP: BA26 Barrow Port and AL18 Workington Port. Barrow in particular, handles limestone, sand, aggregates (including marine landings) and granite. Workington is situated on the river Derwent, and the channel is regularly dredged to

maintain its access to deeper drafted ships. Silloth Port no longer has rail connection, but is identified for safeguarding as a working port with potential to support sustainable transport of waste and minerals.

- 8.6 Both the CMWLP and the Lake District Local Plan have minerals safeguarding areas identified and policies for assessment of proposals for non-minerals development within these areas to consider whether prior extraction of the mineral should be carried out prior to the proposed development takes place. Previously Cumbria County Council , as the minerals planning authority, would be consulted by the district councils on planning applications they receive for non-minerals development that could potentially affect the winning and working of minerals. Going forward, minerals safeguarding will be incorporated into the work of the two new councils as unitary authorities with minerals planning responsibilities.

9.0 Imports and exports

Supply patterns

- 9.1 The location and size of Cumbria, its dispersed settlement pattern and the layout of road and rail networks, have implications for how it meets its needs for minerals. Not only does the county as a whole tend to be self-sufficient, but there are also recognisable areas within the county, which have traditionally met their own needs from local sources. The locations of Cumbria's quarries are not dispersed uniformly around the county because of geology. There are very few hard rock quarries in the north of the county and only two operating sand and gravel quarries in the south west.
- 9.2 In the context of the two new unitary authorities formed as a result of LGR in April 2023, 8 sand and gravel quarries are located in Cumberland Council (currently holding 60% of the reserve and generating 80% of the sales) and 3 are located in Westmorland and Furness (currently holding 40% of the reserve and generating 20% of the sales). For crushed rock, 7 quarries are located in Cumberland (currently holding 24% of the reserve and generating 36% of the sales) and 15 are located in Westmorland and Furness (currently holding 76% of the reserve and generating 64% of sales).
- 9.3 To some extent the old, traditional supply patterns of minerals within the county still exist. This pattern mainly arises from the small operators, often with a local niche market, but the rising cost of transport of minerals is also a contributory factor. It is more usual for the national, conglomerate or international companies to operate across a wider area, often sending their minerals to their own processing/production plants around the UK.
- 9.4 Of the three crushed rock quarries that have specialised national and regional markets, Ghyll Scaur is the only operating quarry in England that produces very high skid resistance roadstones; Roan Edge and Holmescales produce high skid resistance ones. Because of geology other parts of the North West and also other parts of the UK rely on supplies of aggregates from Cumbria. The county has traditionally supplied far more crushed rock than it needs for its own use.

How much aggregate does Cumbria need?

- 9.5 The latest DCLG-BGS aggregates survey (AM2023) collates national data for primary aggregates for 2023 in England and Wales, and for the first time also in Scotland. This shows, for England and Wales, a 'consumption'⁹ of 49.9Mt of sand and gravel (lower than the 50.35Mt recorded in AM2019) and 98.6Mt of crushed rock (slightly lower than

⁹ 'consumption' includes use of aggregates imported from outside England and Wales, in addition to sales

the 99.49Mt recorded in AM2019). Including the figures for Scotland gives a total consumption for Great Britain of 54Mt for sand and gravel and 110Mt for crushed rock. Based on ONS population figures for England and Wales in 2023¹⁰ and the AM 2023 survey data, this would equate to 0.82 tonnes/person of sand and gravel and 1.62 tonnes/person of crushed rock in England and Wales.

- 9.6 Using the mid-2023 population estimates for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness against the per head consumption figures reported in the AM2023 survey, this would mean a requirement of 0.41Mt of sand and gravel per annum across the whole of Cumbria and 0.82Mt of crushed rock.
- 9.7 In 2023, Cumbria's quarries sold 0.73Mt of sand and gravel and 2.51 Mt of crushed rock, which equates to over one and a half times as much sand and gravel and more than three times as much crushed rock as is needed within the county based on consumption per head calculations.
- 9.8 For context, the requirement per head is set out for each council below.

	Mid-2023 population estimates	Sand and gravel @ 0.82 tonnes per head	Crushed rock @ 1.62 tonnes per head
Cumberland	276,876	227,038 0.23Mt	448,539 0.45Mt
Westmorland and Furness	228,187	187,113 0.19Mt	369,663 0.37Mt
CUMBRIA	505,063	414,152 0.41Mt	818,202 0.82Mt

- 9.9 For the North West region, the AM2023 survey shows consumption of 2.16Mt for sand and gravel, and 11.51Mt for crushed rock. Using the same formula based on ONS mid-2023 population figures for the North West region (7,600,126) this gives a consumption rate for the North West of 0.28 tonnes/person for sand and gravel and 1.51 tonnes/person for crushed rock. So whilst crushed rock consumption per person is slightly lower, sand and gravel consumption is approximately a third of that calculated for the whole of England and Wales.

¹⁰ 61,806,682 at mid-2023: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/population-estimates-for-england-and-wales-mid-2023>

9.10 Compared to previous LAAs, the latest 2022 SNPP population projection figures for Cumbria (combining both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council figures) show a slight increase throughout the Plan periods but with the revised consumption per head figures from AM2023, the predicted annual consumption of aggregates remains consistent with that previously reported. The table below shows the estimated requirements for sand and gravel and for crushed rock (based on the national consumption per head calculations) at these intervals in the Plan period (CWMLP ending 2030; Lake District National Park Local Plan ending 2035), and how this compares to recent sales trends. The LAA provision figures set for sand and gravel and crushed rock in this LAA will therefore continue to provide for well in excess of the amount of aggregate required within Cumbria based on population growth alone. Going forward each council will develop its own growth strategy based on updated population forecasts for their area as they progress work on new Local Plans for their area. This will inform assessment of demand for aggregates across the sub-region of Cumbria in future LAAs.

	Estimated population ¹¹	Sand and Gravel Mt (0.82 tonnes per person)	Crushed Rock Mt (@ 1.62 tonnes per person)
Estimated consumption within Cumbria (Mt) (mid-2023 ONS figures)	499,800	0.41	0.82
Sales 2020		0.75	2.59
Sales 2021		0.85	2.86
Sales 2022		0.8	2.66
Sales 2023		0.73	2.51
Predicted consumption by 2025	507,989	0.42	0.82
Predicted consumption by 2030	513,517	0.42	0.83
Predicted consumption by 2035	518,694	0.43	0.84

9.11 *Appendix 1 – Other Relevant Local Information* provides details of major infrastructure projects, including housebuilding, that are planned in Cumbria over the next few years. Significant developments currently underway or anticipated to commence within the next

¹¹ 2022 SNPP population projections -

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandz1>

5 years or so are the A66 dualling and the A595 Grizebeck Improvement Scheme, as well as some initial phases of the St. Cuthbert's Garden Village (subject to the granting of planning permission). Construction of the Carlisle Southern Link Road is now complete.

- 9.12 Highway projects in particular are likely to impact on demand for HSA and VHSA roadstone. As a nationally significant resource, the supply of HSA and VHSA roadstone will be affected by major infrastructure requirements from across the UK and not just within Cumbria.

Movement of primary aggregates by sub-region

- 9.13 The majority of sales have been within Cumbria itself, with exports primarily within the North West region or the neighbouring North East. The exception to this is the High/Very High Specification Aggregates (HSA/VHSA), which have a national market.
- 9.14 The national survey AM2023¹² collated by British Geological Survey shows that Cumbria does help to meet the mineral needs of other parts of the region (AM2023 – Table 9). Together, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council account for 52% of sand and gravel sales within the North West AWP area, and 27% of crushed rock sales. However, much of the North West region's shortfall is met from other regions - for example, quarries in Derbyshire and North Wales supply Greater Manchester due to their proximity, whilst many Cumbrian quarries serve other regions, especially the North East, as well as supplying national markets, including Wales and Scotland.
- 9.15 The tables below show the tonnage sold in each of the Cumbrian councils and exported to other regions, as reported in the AM2023 survey. This is the first time that Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council are reported as separate MPAs in this 4-yearly report so it is difficult to make direct comparisons with previous reports. It should also be noted that for Cumberland, much of its sales to the North West could in fact be to Westmorland and Furness (formerly all reported as Cumbria sales) and similarly those for Westmorland and Furness will be to Cumberland.

¹² 2023 Aggregate Minerals Survey for Great Britain, British Geological Survey, 2025

Cumberland

Aggregate type	Total sales (Mt)	Sold within Cumberland	Sales to North West	Sales elsewhere
Sand and gravel	0.54	0.4	0.1	0.04
Crushed rock	0.91	0.45	0.32	0.13

Westmorland and Furness

Aggregate type	Total sales (Mt)	Sold within Westmorland and Furness	Sales to North West	Sales elsewhere
Sand and gravel	0.14	0.01	0.11	0.02
Crushed rock	0.64	0.56	0.02	0.06

- 9.16 According to the survey (AM 2023 -Table 10), in 2023 the Cumbrian councils imported around 200,000 tonnes of sand and gravel (compared to between 67,000 and 192,000 tonnes for other identified MPAs in the North West) and 1.13 Mt of crushed rock (compared to between 358,000 and 2.95 Mt tonnes for other identified MPAs in the North West, with the Greater Manchester authorities importing much higher amounts than those recorded for Cheshire and Lancashire authorities). However, this apparent spike in imports of aggregates for Cumbria compared to previous AM reports (in 2019 it was 3,000 tonnes for sand and gravel and 196,000 tonnes for crushed rock) must be treated with caution as much of the imports will be between the two councils so a direct comparison with previous import figures for Cumbria cannot be made.
- 9.17 The AM2023 survey is the most up-to-date comprehensive assessment of aggregates sales destinations and incorporates the information provided by Cumbrian operators for that year. Information provided by operators in on the 2023 annual survey returns confirms that sand and gravel sales include exports outside of Cumbria and the North West to the North East (Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear). Crushed rock sales outside Cumbria within the North West include to Cheshire East and Greater

Manchester, with sales outside the region to Yorkshire, Durham and Tees Valley. Sales of secondary aggregates are predominantly local within Cumbria. Some slate sales are more regional and there is a national market for decorative slate.

- 9.18 Exports of the HSA/VHSA roadstone include sales further afield. The 2023 returns record sales to areas beyond the North West and neighbouring North East in North, South and West Yorkshire, as well as Leicestershire, Derbyshire and the Peak District. As a national resource, such exports are likely to rise as demand increases with various national infrastructure projects coming forward such as investment in new roads, airport expansion projects and new nuclear plant facilities.

Future demand from outside Cumbria

- 9.19 Information on planned infrastructure requirements within other NW authorities - and also those outside the region identified as importing materials from Cumbria - can be found in their LAAs and this information needs to be taken into account when predicting future demand. Growth in housebuilding generally is common across all authorities. This is now more pronounced by the higher housing delivery targets set by government across all local planning authorities following changes in 2025 to the standard method for calculating housing requirements as part of revised national planning policy. Details of other key projects are outlined below with anticipated timescales where known. Until recently, the planned creation of a HS2 route up to the North West has impacted on expected aggregate requirements for the Cheshire authorities in particular. Following the announcement in October 2023 that HS2 will not extend beyond Birmingham this is no longer a factor. However, the subsequent announcement of the Network North proposals could result in additional or accelerated road building programs coming forward which will create additional demand for aggregates within the North West and beyond, in particular the high and very high specification roadstones.
- 9.20 The 2020-2023 LAA for Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton, and Warrington identifies a number of major infrastructure projects, including - in Merseyside large regeneration projects at Liverpool Waters and Wirral Waters. There are also a number of other strategic proposals currently progressing across the Liverpool City Region including urban extension with mixed residential/employment use and several urban garden villages. It is unclear at this stage whether significant imports from Cumbria would be required.
- 9.21 In Greater Manchester, major projects include upgrade works to the M60 and M62 as well as continuing developments at Media City and Port Salford; no estimates on aggregate requirements are currently available. The Places for Everyone Plan adopted

in March 2024 covers the 9 councils within Greater Manchester and plans for a total of 198,888 dwellings up to 2039 (over 20,000 on site allocations); over 2 million sq,m of new office floorspace and at least 3.5 million sq,m industrial and warehousing floorspace. Although historically material has been supplied to this area from outside of the North Wes, the scale of growth now being planned for, along with that of other authorities, could put more pressure on aggregate resources within the region.

- 9.22 In Warrington a new strategic relief road, the Warrington Western Link is still being progressed, as well as the Omega employment site at Warrington/St.Helen's.
- 9.23 Looking ahead, development of the proposed Mersey Tidal Barrage will lead to increased demand for aggregates in the region. At this stage project timescales and funding are not certain. In March 2024 it was announced that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority had agreed to begin the formal planning process for this scheme.
- 9.24 The Lancashire 2023 LAA refers to significant investment in the transport network through the Lancashire City Deal (Preston Western Distributor, Fylde Heyhouses/M55 Link and the East-West Link Road) which will in turn unlock sites for delivery of housing and commercial developments. Other sites coming forward through the City Deal and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership growth agenda will also increase demand for aggregates, such as the Cuerden strategic site and a large number of housing development proposals. Details on the amount of aggregate required and likely duration of the works are uncertain at this stage.
- 9.25 The 2025 LAA for Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) identifies a number of planned regeneration projects in Winsford, Northwich and Chester which, together with proposed Site Allocations for employment use and housing, will demand provision of primary aggregates. Cheshire West and Chester has been deemed a Priority 2 area for Levelling Up purposes and through this has secured funding for transformation of Ellesmere Port town centre.
- 9.26 In addition, the programme of offshore wind farms in the Irish and Celtic seas and the proposed new nuclear plant at Wylfa, Newydd will potentially drive up the demand for aggregates in this part of the region.
- 9.27 Neighbouring Cheshire East LAA 2025 references the Middlewich Eastern Bypass (planned for 2024-2027) with major infrastructure projects within Cheshire East including the planned Leighton Hospital rebuild (2028 – 2032) and proposed Peak Cluster carbon capture and storage pipeline which includes land in their area, as well as some land in Cheshire West and Chester.

- 9.28 Significant projects in Cheshire are potentially more likely to impact on reserves in Cumbria as the Cheshire MPAs do not have their own reserves of crushed rock. However, the CEC LAA reports that the East Midlands is a significant provider of crushed rock to the Cheshire sub-region with Derbyshire County Council being the primary supplier, followed by the Peak District National Park and Leicestershire. North Wales also supplies significant amounts of aggregate to both Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East. Cumbria providing between 1-10% of their crushed rock. Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council are reported as supplying between 1-10% of Cheshire East's crushed rock consumption, but zero contribution to Cheshire West and Chester. Cumbria's 2023 operator returns identify 44,200 tonnes of crushed rock being exported to Cheshire East; around two-thirds of this was very high specification roadstone exported from Cumberland Council.
- 9.29 Looking at planned infrastructure requirements outside of the North West region, recent LAAs produced by Durham County Council and Northumberland County Council identify a number of major road widening proposals both within the county and the wider North East, including works to the A1 and A19, as well as the A66 dualling. Some of these schemes are now complete and the A1 dualling in Northumberland was cancelled in the October 2024 spending review. Funding for the A66 dualling (which also affects Cumbria) was confirmed again in July 2025.
- 9.30 Major schemes such as these could potentially require supply of HSA and VHSA from Cumbria. However, it should be noted that Durham do not identify a significant pattern of imported material from Cumbria being required to support these projects and much of the aggregate required for highways projects is identified as coming from the south of the county or in neighbouring North Yorkshire. Similarly, Northumberland do not consider the amounts of aggregate imported from Cumbria to be significant.
- 9.31 Cumbria's 2023 operator returns records sales of over 22,000 tonnes of crushed rock to County Durham (all VHSA) and just 500 tonnes of sand and gravel. None of the surveys received identified Northumberland specifically as a sales destination for aggregates.
- 9.32 The North Yorkshire Sub-Region LAA (9th Review - 2024) references major road upgrades still ongoing or planned at A1 (Darrington) near Selby and a new road section on the A59 at Kex Gill. The document also notes the issue of continued supply of HSA as one that needs monitoring through ongoing discussions with Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.
- 9.33 Planned infrastructure projects outside of Cumbria could lead to increased demand for exports from Cumbria. Some of the non-highways schemes outlined above are currently anticipated to commence within the next 5 years. Cumbria currently has a 39 year

landbank of crushed rock and many of the major infrastructure projects proposed within Cumbria are also anticipated to start within the next 5 years. The situation regarding timescales for these strategic non-highways projects will need to be kept under review in forthcoming LAAs, including liaison with the relevant MPA and AWP to assess whether additional aggregate will be required from Cumbria. It may be necessary to adjust provision figures in future LAAs if more certainty can be provided on the timescale of works and amount of imported aggregate that will be required.

- 9.34 A number of highways schemes are identified, mainly in the North East region, that are expected to commence within the next 5 years. As Cumbria is an important supplier of HSA and VHSA roadstone there is a strong likelihood that demand for this particular aggregate will increase in the near future as a result. The need to monitor the situation regarding supply and demand of VHSA in particular is already addressed in Chapter 4 of this LAA. As these schemes progress the minerals planning authorities will liaise with the Highways Agency to establish the quantities of aggregate required to deliver these schemes, when these amounts will be needed and where they will be sourced from. This will help to build up a greater understanding of the impact of major highways schemes on demand for aggregates within the sub-region of Cumbria and to understand which other projects are likely to create significant additional demand over and above the levels captured in previous sales figures. Details currently available are included within *Appendix 1 – Other Relevant Local Information*.

Mode of transport

- 9.35 The BGS survey (AM2023 – Table 8) provides some data on the principal transport method for primary aggregates sales by region. For the North West there is a record of 7,746,000 tonnes (7.75Mt) of aggregate being transported by road with 266,000 tonnes of crushed rock being transported by rail (around 3% of all aggregate movements). There is no other record of aggregates being moved by rail or water.
- 9.36 Within Cumbria, there are a number of rail sidings and wharves that are used for transportation of aggregates. The ports at Workington, Maryport and Barrow provide opportunity for transportation of minerals to some destinations outside of the county by water but not necessarily for the main export destinations identified for Cumbria in the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside. Aggregate Industries bring aggregate by sea into Barrow Port from its quarry at Glensanda, near Oban on the West Coast of Scotland.
- 9.37 Increased use of rail and, if appropriate, water is to be encouraged. The 2023 annual survey forms used for this LAA did include a request for information on transportation methods used. Although previously both Shap Beck and Shap Blue reported that around

a third of their sales were transported by rail, none of the 2023 returns reported use of rail. As noted in Chapter 8, there are existing established rail facilities within both council areas and the recently approved rail loading facility at Cavendish Dock, Barrow has been used for some transportation of aggregates. At Kingmoor Marshalling Yards, Carlisle the materials being processed for recycled aggregate are brought in and exported out by rail.

Appendix 1 – Other Relevant Local Information

Planned infrastructure projects

- A1. Following LGR in April 2023, the two new unitary authorities of Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council will each be preparing a new Local Plan for their area. Work on preparing these Local Plans will include reviewing the economic growth aspirations for each area and planned housing and infrastructure requirements will evolve to support this. Currently there are a number of infrastructure projects already committed. Housing delivery figures are now significantly higher than those in the Local Plans previously prepared by the six district councils and the Lake District National Park Authority, due to changes to the standard method for calculating housing requirements introduced with the new NPPF in 2025.
- A2. Previously reported highways proposals are now completed (Carlisle Southern Link Road - CSLR) or underway (A595 Grizebeck Improvement Scheme). Government funding for the A66 dualling was confirmed in July 2025.
- A3. It is understood that the aggregate requirement for the A66 dualling will be around 1.6Mt for the earthworks and roadworks, with an additional 140,000 tonnes of aggregate required for the concrete. The majority of this will be required within the next 3-4 years. Of the 1.6Mt, approximately 25% will be required for the west side of the A66 and sourced from Shap quarry in Westmorland and Furness, with the remainder being required for the east side of the A66 and sourced from quarries in County Durham. The high specification roadstone required for the surface dressing will be sourced from outside of the sub-region of Cumbria. There is also a commitment to use recycled/secondary aggregate where appropriate (including quarry material that would not be sold as primary aggregate) to try and reduce the total requirement for primary aggregates on this project where possible.
- A4. The M6 Lune Gorge (Tebay) Bridge Structures Replacement project (which involves the replacement of the decks of seven bridges on a six-mile stretch of the M6 motorway between junctions 37 and 38) is currently scheduled to take place between Spring 2027 to summer 2031. National Highways' appointed contractor for this project is currently seeking tenders for Formwork Reinforcement & Concrete Works associated with the project. The mineral needs from the sub-region for this replacement/refurbishment project are not anticipated to be significant. Due to its location, the mineral needs for non pre-cast elements of this scheme are anticipated to be met from South-Cumbria and North-Lancashire.

- A5. The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (2022 – 2037)¹³ sets out a range of ambitions for transport which, alongside measures to decarbonise the transport networks, include a number of road and rail network improvements across the county. Some of these schemes are already referenced above; others include the potential Kendal Northern Access Route. The impact of HS2 (which had included some rail improvements around Carlisle and would have required track ballast aggregate) is no longer a consideration following the announcement in October 2023 that the route will not extend beyond Birmingham. The subsequent announcement of the Network North proposals for transport improvements could accelerate delivery of road and rail improvements within the sub-region of Cumbria.
- A6. The CSLR was developed to enable the strategic growth to the south of Carlisle. An urban extension – St Cuthbert’s Garden Village – is proposed which could accommodate up to 10,000 new homes along with new schools and community facilities. The St.Cuthbert’s Local Plan was submitted for Examination in October 2025. The Plan period is 2025 – 2055. This will comprise a significant part of housing and infrastructure development for the new Cumberland Council.
- A7. Plans for a new underground metallurgical coal mine to the south west of Whitehaven in Cumberland (Woodhouse Colliery, to be operated by West Cumbria Mining) now seem unlikely to progress. Following an initial granting of planning permission on Appeal in 2022 and subsequent legal challenge, a High Court ruling in September 2024 overturned and quashed this decision so the scheme does not currently have consent.
- A8. Looking further ahead, the nuclear and green energy industry will feature in Cumbria’s plans for future growth. Decommissioning of Sellafield has commenced and there are a number of new nuclear opportunities being progressed nationally which may potentially locate within that area although no proposals are confirmed as yet. The siting process for the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) has commenced and there are currently two Areas of Search identified within Cumberland (Mid Copeland and South Copeland). With the community partnership in Lincolnshire now withdrawn, Cumberland is currently the only area of interest. A government decision on whether to progress site investigations further within the Mid Copeland area is expected in March 2026. Timescales currently projected for the GDF are late 2030s for siting and design approval and early 2040s for construction to commence.

¹³ [Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan](#)

- A9. Capping of the vault 8 at the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumberland will require importation of aggregate over the next few years.
- A10. Ambitions to develop the 'Energy Coast' (between Silloth and Barrow-in-Furness) transforming the economy of West Cumbria to support the energy sector will potentially see significant new development and associated infrastructure requirements both on and off-shore in the future, including 'Pioneer Park' – for new clean energy development on land adjacent Sellafield. This will impact on both Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness councils.
- A11. In Westmorland and Furness major growth is anticipated in and around Barrow due to new contracts awarded at BAE Systems Ltd requiring a substantial increase to the workforce and associated housing and infrastructure requirements to support this, including a current Site Allocation for Marina Village with potential to accommodate up to 800 houses in total. More detail on the scale and nature of developments will emerge as work progresses on the new Local Plan.

Planned housing growth

- A12. The former six district councils previously had commitments to deliver over 30,000 new homes through their Local Plans, with an annual provision target of 1,663 across the county and the latest Plan period ending 2035. Following changes to the standard method for calculating housing requirements that were introduced with proposed changes to the NPPF in 2025, Cumberland Council now has a requirement for 22,500 homes (1125 per annum) and Westmorland and Furness Council has a requirement for 26,600 homes (1330 per annum). The figures quoted include the Lake District National Park Authority area within each council. Currently both councils are working to a Local Plan period of 2025 -2045.
- A13. The Mineral Products Association estimate that 200 tonnes of aggregate are required for the construction of each new dwelling. This would give an overall aggregate requirement of 9.8Mt for 49,100 new homes in total across the 20 year Plan periods now being worked on. Unfortunately, the figure of 200 tonnes per dwelling does not differentiate between crushed rock and sand and gravel which would be helpful given the reported lack of sand and gravel supply within this LAA. Whilst this LAA (reporting on 2023 data) calculates landbanks based on the 2030 end date of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, future LAAs (starting with 2024 data) will calculate the landbanks based on a 2045 Plan period.

Planning constraints in neighbouring Mineral Planning Authorities

- A14. As mentioned in the main report, the Yorkshire Dales National Park contains four high specification roadstone quarries, some of which have planning permissions that will expire shortly and well before the end of the Plan periods. At this stage it is considered likely that applications for time extensions to continue extracting the permitted reserve would be permitted. If applications are not forthcoming there will be additional pressure on the reserve in Cumbria.
- A15. The Lake District National Park Authority has been asked to consider designating an Area of Search for very high specification roadstone on land near to Ghyll Scaur. This was not taken forward in its Local Plan and the current policies would not permit extraction at this time.
- A16. Force Garth dolerite quarry in County Durham provides an exceptionally hard and durable roadstone aggregate but the majority of the permission is within the Moor-House Upper Teesdale SAC and North Pennine Moors SPA. A ROMP application (8/IDO/6/1/2) was submitted in 2011 and still remains undecided. There has been some concern that it may not be able to continue operating to its original capacity due to revisions required to avoid any adverse effect on qualifying features of the designated areas. Again, any reduction in capacity would impact on demand for the reserve within Cumbria.

Market commentary

- A17. The Mineral Products Association¹⁴ report that sales of primary aggregate fell by 5% during 2023, with the market facing a third year of decline in 2024. This reflects the backdrop of unfavourable conditions, escalating costs, rising interest rates and a diminishing pipeline of new construction projects. A marked slowdown in housebuilding activity has coincided with faltering demand from other major construction markets. A recovery is expected to begin in 2025 driven by a gradual rebound in the housing market and cautious growth in infrastructure.
- A18. The sales trends in Cumbria are broadly consistent with the national picture. Based on 2023 figures, sales of crushed rock (2.51Mt) have dropped since 2022 (2.66Mt) and are considerably lower than the peak in 2019 (3.01Mt), in fact the lowest sales in the past 10 years. Sand and gravel sales in 2023 (0.73Mt) have dropped since 2022 (0.8Mt) and again are lower than 2019 and 2020 (0.77Mt and 0.75Mt).

¹⁴ [MPA Regional overview of construction and mineral products markets in GB 2024.pdf](#)

- A19. Regionally, sales of crushed rock in the North West fell by 13.7% in 2023 from 2022 (compared to a fall in sales of 4.1% for Great Britain as a whole). In the sub-region of Cumbria the drop in sales was 5.6% (compared to last year's drop of 0.75%). For sand and gravel, sales in the North West fell by 15.5% in 2023 from 2022 (compared to a fall in sales of 7.1% for Great Britain as a whole). In the sub-region of Cumbria the drop in sales was 8.75% (compared to last year's drop of 5.9%).
- A20. Cumbria continues to produce more aggregates than it requires and exports mainly to elsewhere in the North West, but also to other regions including the North East, Yorkshire & Humberside and Scotland.
- A21. Cumbria has the only quarry in England which produces very high specification roadstone (Ghyll Scaur) and consequently there is a national market for this resource which will be affected by major infrastructure developments across the UK and not just within Cumbria.

Appendix 2 – Schedule of comments made during consultation with North West Aggregates Working Party

Council	Comments	Response/Action	Completed
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	Para. 9.20 you refer to the GMMHWLAA 2020-2023 – I would suggest deleting reference to the football stadium as this is now built out and operational	Reference to football stadium deleted.	✓
	Para 9.5 – interested to note the use of aggregate per head and population estimates/projections to calculate future consumption. Would be interested to discuss this further.	Noted.	-
Cheshire East	Para 2.2 – pg 12 – Survey rather than society	Amended.	✓
	Para 5.5, pg 39 – Draft rather than Daft	Amended The final RIS 3 has now been published in March 2026 so para 5.5 has been updated to reflect this.	✓
	Para 9.16/9.17, pg 60 – Query whether the sentence mentions crushed rock sales outside the region include: Yorkshire....Cheshire East and Greater Manchester....might be reordered to say sales outside the region Yorkshire.....and sales within the region including Cheshire East and Greater Manchester	Sentence amended to reflect sales within the NW and sales outside the NW region (cp to sand and gravel sales where all MPAs noted were outside of the NW): <i>Crushed rock sales outside Cumbria within the North West include to Cheshire East and Greater Manchester, with sales outside the region to Yorkshire, Durham and Tees Valley</i>	✓
	Para 9.25/9.27 , pg 62 – just to note that the Peak Cluster carbon capture and storage pipeline also includes land within Cheshire West and Chester Council	Added reference to also including land within CWaC: <i>proposed Peak Cluster carbon capture and storage pipeline which includes land in their</i>	✓

		<i>area, as well as some land in Cheshire West and Chester.</i>	
Lancashire County Council	The LAAs main output is a consideration of the adequacy of the landbank, and the identification of a tonnage required to maintain the landbank, rather than the forward looking forecast of demand envisioned by the NPPF	Noted. But we need to have regard to future demand when taking into account planned housing and infrastructure growth and providing that information for context. Our provision rate is still based on either 10 year or 3 year average sales.	-
	The section on aggregate per head of population is in my opinion an inappropriate measure for the prediction of future need or current demand, and as it does not inform the reports conclusions I would suggest it should be removed. As minerals can only be worked where they are found, and these minerals are not distributed evenly throughout the region/nation's mineral planning authority administrative areas, it is inevitable that some MPA area will have to plan for more minerals than others. It is difficult to see how this proposed methodology could do anything other than drive down the need figure and result in an under provision both locally and nationally.	This information has been included in our LAA for many years for context. It demonstrates that we are providing more than our own 'per head' requirements and therefore contributing to the export of aggregates in other areas. It is not used as justification to reduce our provision rate in anyway. This is still a useful point to make for context but perhaps including the detailed working out of the data is unnecessary. Propose to leave the detail in this version as the latest position and provide a more concise reference to this issue in the next LAA 2025.	-
	In terms of presentation, the report is very long, and it is sometimes time consuming to find the relevant information, which can be in paragraphs, tables or boxes.	Report authors have discussed the length of our LAA reports in previous years and concluded that we found the narrative around the purpose of LAAs and what	-

	I would question how much of the content actually informs the output.	they should contain was helpful to the reader, rather than having to point people towards background information elsewhere to understand the purpose of the LAA if this was not included in the report. We have over the years introduced summary boxes for key chapters, and a detailed Executive Summary to make the headline information more accessible. Reporting is now more complicated given we are trying to explain the sales, reserves and landbank position for two separate MPAs (Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council) whilst still planning for the landbank jointly across the sub-region of Cumbria as a whole. We will give some consideration to how headline information can be more clearly and consistently presented within future LAAs.	
	Comments relating to ratification of the LAA should be included as an Appendix to the LAA.	Agreed. Schedule of comments received and response/amendments made will be included as an Appendix to this LAA (Appendix 2)	✓
Geoff Storey, HOLCIM UK Limited	Please find attached the BGS High Specification Aggregates factsheet which may assist in updating that section of the LAA and development of Local Plan policies.	The BGS factsheet provides up-to-date 2023 survey data and analysis for the high specification aggregates (HSA/VHSA) which is relevant context to our LAA given the significance of this resource within Cumbria.	✓

		Additional text has been added (see paras 5.21 – 5.26) providing an overview of this document and a link to the full document added as a footnote.	
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