Script for Review of the Need for Quarrying West of the A38 at Alrewas

1. Introduction

I would like to address the whole issue of the perceived need for quarrying west of the A38 at Alrewas. This includes the selection of some site extensions and not others, the presentation of land designated as the Area of Search, immediately adjacent to workings on the A38, and the non-allocation of any new sites in Staffordshire, other than the Area of Search.

2. Position in 2010

This topic has been the subject of much discussion over the last 5 years. I have looked back to 2010 in order to establish the basic Level of Land Bank. In 2010, SCC produced the following figures for sand and gravel:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Land Bank</td>
<td>82.88 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Strategic Sites Seeking Extensions*</td>
<td>71.75 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Sand and Gravel Total of</td>
<td>154.63 mt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There were 18 sites listed by SCC as those that were a potential extension to existing quarries.

In addition, in 2010, SCC listed 10 new strategic sites excluding any options in the area between Alrewas, Kings Bromley, Fradley and Wychnor (the Area of Search).
The total of reserves in these new sites was stated as 38.6 mt.

In the MLP under review the annual extraction demand for sand and gravel is 5 mt. for the life of the plan.

Therefore, taking the total of existing Land Bank as above with Strategic site extensions, at 154.63 mt and divided by the annual extraction rate of 5 mt this would give a total supply of 30 years.

From the year 2010 this would be sufficient until 2040.

If the 10 new strategic sites mentioned above, with 38.6 mt reserves were also included, this would give an additional 7 years of supply taking the end date to 2047.

In 2010 SCC stated that Staffordshire had a fixed capacity of 500,000 tonnes for the processing of recycled aggregates. This represents a modest 10% of the annual demand of 5 mt. In 2010 central government were recommending that targets of more like 27% should be achieved.

Nevertheless, taking into account even the modest levels of Staffordshire’s recycling capacity, an overall supply end date of 2052 could be achieved, if recycling substitution was applied.
3. Comparison of 2010 and 2015

A comparison of the strategic sites extension options in 2010 was made with the list of site options that are extensions in the MLP 2015-2030 (Appendix 3, Table 2). Similarly, a comparison was made between stand-alone new site options in 2010 and those in the MLP (Appendix 3, Table 3). There is still a close correlation, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITES</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>M. Tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Sites</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>71.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Sites</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If anything, the position is slightly improved in 2015, perhaps because of more accurate assessments of reserves in some sites.

Therefore, given that the only change in 2015 will have been the 5 years reduction in original Land Bank, which would be 82.88 mt, minus 5 x 5 mt per year demand, i.e. 82.88 – 25 = 57.88 mt, the identified end date for sand and gravel should remain largely unchanged.

So this would be: Land Bank 57.88 mt plus Extension Sites at 78.3 mt gives a total supply of 136.18 mt. At a 5 mt per year extraction rate this gives 27 years supply from 2015, i.e to \textbf{2042}.

If the 10 New Sites at 41.2 mt (excluding the Area of Search) were also included, this would add a further 8 years i.e. to an end date of \textbf{2050}.

If the modest recycling capacity of 500,000 tonnes was also included, this would move the end date out to \textbf{2054}.  


None of the above calculations include any quarrying in the Area of Search.

4. MLP Reductions in Aggregate Reserves

Now for the difficult part, which is hard to understand. Having reached the above conclusions based on SCC data from 2010 and as detailed in the MLP, the Plan then reduces the total of reserves significantly in both the list of planned extensions as well as in New Site options. Extension sites are reduced from 18 to 10 (+ Cranebrook) and the aggregate reserve falls by 44.25 mt to 34.05 mt. The remaining sites are shown in MLP Chapter 7, Policy 1 Para 1.1.

This would reduce the end date by 9 years to **2033**.

In the New Site options, none of the sites have been allocated, other than those in the Area of Search. Therefore this takes out 10 complete sites with a total of 41.2 mt (excluding Bancroft Farm) of aggregate reserves (over 8 years supply) and puts unfair pressure on the area between Alrewas, Kings Bromley, Fradley and Wychnor.

5. Conclusions

The conclusion is that there is more than enough Land Bank, extension reserves and other new site reserves to last well into the 2050’s, (particularly with a recycling contribution) without the need to open up new holes West of the A38.

Also, the MLP, 2015-2030 puts unfair and undue pressure on the so-called Area of Search through a significant and arbitrary reduction of extension sites and allocations, as well as de-allocating 10 new site options. This represents a loss of over **17 years** of aggregate reserves.