Analysis of Sand and Gravel Requirement in Hampshire – 2001 to 2040

The following analysis has used data extracted from the following Hampshire County Council (HCC) documents: -

Hampshire Monitoring Reports - 2012 to 2019
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – 2013
Hampshire Minerals Background Study - August 2021
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Draft Plan – October 2022

Summary

Over the last 30 years we have seen a clear pattern of HCC consistently overestimating the need for soft sand and gravel (SSG). This has resulted in the original timescales for existing extraction sites having their operations extended time and time again, well beyond the original timescales. The need for SSG to be extracted from valuable agricultural land in close proximity to dwellings is unnecessary to meet the actual need for SSG as the below analysis clearly shows. Since 2001 there has been a reduction of 26% in the use of recycled and secondary aggregate production and this is inexcusable, as recycling should have increased markedly, reducing the need for extraction and the inert landfill requirement. The need for land won SSG should therefore be in the region of 5% of the current HCC forecast for the period to 2040.

Need

SSG requirements, above current reserves, from now and to 2040 is shown by HCC to be 9.67 million tonnes (mt), that's an annual requirement of 0.51 mt.

There are 9 new extraction sites proposed in the October 2022 HMWDP with a total of 16.8 mt potential yield to 2040, that's 0.88 mt per annum.

Analysis of actual usage in the various categories since 2001 has indicated the following changes and the extrapolated targets for the period to 2040: -

Category	Change	Target for 2040
Land won SSG from 2001 to 2010	**reduced by 10%**	**reduce to 5%**
Marine won SSG from 2001 to 2010	**increased by 5%**	**remain at 35%**
Recycled Aggregate, increased by 13% 2001 to 2010 Recycled Aggregate, decreased by 39% 2012 to 2020 Combined	**reduction 26%**	**increase to 55%**
Hard Rock (Rail & Marine),	**reduced by 8%**	**reduce to 0 5%**
		Total 100%

(See attached spreadsheets for actual data and sources)

Alternative Extraction Sites

In 1976 and again in 1992, HCC were urged to review its mineral plans as, at that time, it was demonstrated that 'land won' mineral extraction was unsustainable.

The Verney Report in 1976 said: -
"By the early 1990s almost all the gravel bearing land in the southeast which is not agriculturally valuable or environmentally precious will have been worked out".

To continue with the traditional method of mineral extraction is not acceptable in the 2020's. It has been made very clear to extraction companies and HCC, for almost 50 years now, that the current methods are unsustainable. To destroy productive arable farm land, to excavate minerals and replace with landfill (which potentially can be recycled), which in most part can be treated to be used in place of those minerals.

This situation makes no sense and will lead to a major deterioration of the following: -
Environmental

- Disfigurement of the countryside
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Loss of agricultural land
- Disruption of hydrology in the extended area

Pollution

- Noise
- Fumes
- Dust
- Hazardous waste

Amenities

- Loss of important footpaths
- Views of the New Forest due to footpath removal
- Access to Ringwood Forest
- Walkers, Horse riders, cyclists, etc.

Road Safety

- 100s of HGV movements on unsuitable roads/lanes every day
- Gravel and mud on roads and lanes
- Pedestrians having to cross on footpaths vs HGVs

Prepared by John Dean

Harbridge Protection Society