Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	Planning Policy Committee
Date:	15 January 2026
Subject:	Minerals Topic Paper
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Nicola Roberts (Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change)
Head of Service / Director:	Christian Branch Head of Regulation & Economic Development Service
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	John I. Williams (Planning Policy Manager) johnwilliams2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Applicable to all Elected Members

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 This report summarises the content of the topic paper on minerals which supports the preparation of the new Anglesey Local Development Plan (LDP). The paper:

- reviews the existing evidence base in relation to minerals development;
- addresses the requirement to maintain a minimum 10-year landbank of crushed rock during the entire plan period of each development plan;
- considers the effectiveness of current JLDP minerals policies; and
- identifies changes in circumstances that may necessitate amendments to policy or land allocations.

2.0 Decision required

2.1 The information, objectives and options reported in the paper are noted and accepted by the Committee as the basis for developing minerals planning policies for inclusion in the new LDP.

3.0 Minerals policy context

3.1 The paper sets out the policy context for minerals planning and lists the following hierarchy of national and regional policy documents and statutory requirements as the basis to inform the development of sustainable waste planning policies:

- Planning Policy Wales (PPW12)

- Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 1: Aggregates
- National Minerals Safeguarding Maps (NASM)
- North Wales Regional Technical Statement (RTS) 2nd Review

3.2 The current Anglesey and Gwynedd JLDP provides the local framework for determining waste-related planning applications and contains five minerals-specific policies. These are:

- **MWYN 1 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources** – designates and protects Category 1 and Category 2 aggregate resources from sterilisation.
- **MWYN 2 – Safeguarding Mineral Infrastructure** – protects wharves, railheads, and associated facilities critical to the handling, processing, and distribution of minerals.
- **MWYN 3 – Mineral Development** – supports proposals for mineral working within permitted sites and safeguarded areas, subject to strict environmental, amenity, and restoration conditions.
- **MWYN 4 – Criteria for New Mineral Sites** – sets out the criteria for assessing new mineral sites or extensions, including demonstrated need, environmental capacity, and community protection.
- **MWYN 5 – Buffer Zones** – defines buffer zones around permitted or allocated mineral sites to protect both sensitive uses and the operational viability of quarries.

3.3 In addition to national, regional and local policy documents, reports focusing on aggregates' production compiled by the North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (NWaRAWP) provide an overview of production to meet demand for aggregate products. The latest reports were published in 2023 and 2025.

4.0 Mineral production on Anglesey

4.1 Anglesey boasts a varied geology and this results in a wide range of mineral production. Aggregates make up the bulk of production whilst building and walling stone is also produced. Valid peat and marl extraction planning permissions exist as does the permission for extracting metalliferous ores at Mynydd Parys.

4.2 Coal deposits exist beneath Cors Ddyga, but these are economically unviable to extract with this situation unlikely to change in the short to medium term.

5.0 Apportionment

5.1 The RTS 2nd Review apportions an annual requirement of 321,000 tonnes of crushed rock per year to Anglesey, equating to 8.025 million tonnes to 2039. This apportionment was calculated using a Plan–Monitor–Manage methodology, drawing directly on data collected through the NWaRAWP Annual

Surveys. However, local operator evidence (February 2025) indicates that the three main aggregate producing sites collectively produced more than double the RTS apportionment.

5.2 Operators estimate that remaining permitted reserves stand at between 4.3 and 5.3 million tonnes which equates to approximately 5–7 years' supply at current extraction rates. This is significantly below the MTAN 1 minimum 10-year requirement, and far less than RTS2 assumptions of a 25-year landbank for crushed rock (10 years plus 15 years for the plan period).

6.0 Contextual changes since JLDP adoption

6.1 Several changes have been identified since the adoption of the JLDP in 2017, not least the concentration of production into a small number of quarries whilst other sites have been exhausted or mothballed. Additionally, there have been significant demand pressures from infrastructure and housing perspectives, impact of environmental constraints and the need to reconcile RTS2 assumptions with more recent, local evidence.

6.2 Reliance on the three main quarries risks depleting reserves at a faster rate, particularly if no replacement reserves are permitted in the interim. This could result in threats to supply resilience. Furthermore, demand from large-scale infrastructure projects could potentially increase aggregate demand over and above current apportionment levels.

7.0 Mineral supply

7.1 The preceding section of this report highlights the potential deficiencies that could arise in landbank provision if major infrastructure/construction projects proceed and demand for minerals increases as a result. Whilst RTS2 concludes that no new allocations for mineral extraction are required on Anglesey, evidence gleaned from operators demonstrate supply rates have exceeded apportionment rates in recent years meaning that reserves have depleted at a faster than expected rate and with no recent permissions granted to replace these reserves.

7.2 Environmental constraints prevent extension of existing limestone quarries given their proximity to the Corsydd Môn SACs. As such, the limited current resources are likely to further deplete with resultant impacts for maintaining built heritage and the repair of historic structures.

7.3 Given the above, the new LDP, in terms of mineral supply, should seek to:

- Maintain a minimum 10 year landbank;
- Require annual operator returns to maintain current reserve estimates;
- Exclude or caveat reserves that are constrained due to environmental designations;

- Plan for shortfall scenarios;
- Balance heritage needs;
- Prioritise extensions to existing sites over new sites;
- Coordinate sub-regional collaboration and cross-boundary flexibility;
- Recognise potential reactivations; and
- Consider allocating preferred areas or areas of search.

8.0 Buffer zones

8.1 MTAN1 applies a default buffer zones around mineral sites. These are set at 200m for hard rock quarries and 100m for sand and gravel sites. Although there are no sand and gravel sites on the island, the latter figure can be applied to peat and marl sites of which two currently exist. Buffer zones are applied to maintain amenity for neighbouring communities and can be applied to protect heritage and environmental interests at historical mining sites.

8.2 In terms of buffer zones, the new plan should look to:

- Retain default distances;
- Comprehensively map buffers;
- Integrate ecological protection;
- Embed buffers into the supply strategy;
- Allow flexibility for extensions; and
- Clarify the dual purpose of buffer zones.

9.0 Monitoring

9.1 Site monitoring is a statutory requirement and without direct, site-specific monitoring, the Council risks underestimating reserve depletion rates and missing early warning signs of supply shortfall. As such, the new LDP should contain a monitoring policy which should:

- Set the purpose of monitoring;
- Specify data sources – Mandate the use of:
    - NWaRAWP and RTS2 data for regional benchmarking.
    - Confidential annual operator returns for Anglesey-specific reserves, sales, and operational status.
    - Annual drone surveys to provide independent reserve depletion and stockpile volume estimates
- Define reporting – Commit to publishing both RTS2/NWaRAWP indicators and an Anglesey-only effective landbank in the AMR.
- Set action triggers – Establish clear thresholds for intervention
- Recognise heritage/dimension stone – Establish a parallel monitoring strand for small-scale sites, recording their operational status and reserves separately.

- Link to supply policy – Make clear that monitoring results will directly inform decisions on mineral supply allocations, safeguarded area release, and buffer zone adjustments.
- Ensure operational transparency – Use monitoring outputs to provide public updates on Anglesey's mineral supply position, while protecting commercially sensitive data from operators.

10.0 Conclusion

10.1 Anglesey offers a range of mineral products with numerous operational and dormant sites found on the island.

10.2 On the basis of operator information in terms of aggregate provision, there is a discrepancy between the apportionment figure provided for Anglesey in the RTS and recent annual production. This has the potential to accelerate the depletion rate of permitted reserves and threaten the resilience of supply.

10.3 Due to the closure and mothballing of some sites, pressure to meet demand is increasingly placed on a smaller number of sites with the result being that their reserves deplete at a faster rate.

10.4 Expected large infrastructure and construction projects have the potential to place disproportionate demand pressures on the remaining productive sites.

10.5 Current estimates, based upon operator provided information, suggest that reserves of hard rock on Anglesey falls short of the MTAN1 landbank requirement of a ten-year supply.

10.6 Buffer zones at default distances (100m and 200m) should be retained around mineral production sites and applied to any new consents that may be granted.

10.7 Regular site monitoring should be used to better understand resource depletion rates and to trigger the need to review landbank provision in line with MTAN1 requirements.

11.0 Recommendation

11.1 It is recommended that Members accept this report together with the findings of the topic paper and endorse as a basis for developing minerals planning policy for the new LDP.

CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

ynysmon.llyw.cymru
anglesey.gov.wales

Anglesey Local Development Plan 2024–2039

Topic Paper – Minerals

Draft v1.1

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg
This document is also available in Welsh.

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Document history

Version	Author	Reviewed	Authorised	Comments
1.0	RWW			First draft for circulation and observations
1.1	RWW			Incorporating amendments following first draft reviews

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Background

This is one of a range of topic papers prepared to offer more detailed information and explain the approach of the Plan to different topics and issues affecting the Local Development Plan Area. This paper will look specifically at Minerals. It will explain the background which will help to identify the issues, objectives and options for the Deposit Plan.

The Deposit Plan is the second statutory stage in the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP shapes the future growth of communities in the Local Development Plan Area and will set out the policies and land allocations against which planning applications will be assessed.

The Deposit Plan will be submitted to the Welsh Government, which will appoint an independent inspector to assess the soundness of the Plan in the Examination in Public. If the inspector considers the Plan to be sound it will be recommended for adoption. When adopted the LDP will supersede the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (2011) for the Ynys Môn Local Planning Authority.

This topic paper can be read in isolation or in conjunction with the other Topic and Background Papers that have been prepared to give a full picture of the Local Development Plan Area.

You may refer to the Topic Paper as a basis for making comments about the Deposit Plan. It must be noted that only comments on the Deposit Plan will be considered by the Inspector at the Examination in Public rather than specific comment made on the Topic Papers.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the Topic or Background Papers with a member of the Planning Policy Team, you can contact us:

planningpolicy@anglesey.llyw.cymru

or in writing to:
Planning Policy Team (LDP)
Anglesey County Council
Llangefni
Anglesey
LL77 7TW

Tel: 01248 752428

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Minerals Background Paper supports the preparation of the new Anglesey Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018–2033. It reviews the existing evidence base for mineral supply, considers the effectiveness of the current Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) policies, and identifies changes in circumstances that may require amendments to policy or site allocations. It builds upon the foundation of Topic Paper 11 (Minerals) prepared for the JLDP (2015), but is updated to reflect Anglesey's specific circumstances and evidence as a single authority preparing a new LDP.

1.2 Minerals are an essential component of the Island's economy and infrastructure delivery. Anglesey has long been a net exporter of crushed rock aggregates to the wider North Wales and North-West England markets, with several strategically important quarries located on the island. Minerals not only underpin the construction of new housing, roads, and major infrastructure, but also play an important role in the conservation of the island's built heritage and cultural identity, through the supply of distinctive dimension and architectural products. The island is also notable for its metalliferous mining heritage, most prominently at Mynydd Parys, which was of worldwide importance as one of the largest copper mining centres during the 18th century. In addition, there are live permissions for peat and marl extraction at Brynteg, reflecting the historic and ongoing diversity of mineral activity on Anglesey.

1.3 The current JLDP includes the following key minerals policies:

- MWYN 1 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources
- MWYN 2 – Safeguarding Mineral Infrastructure
- MWYN 3 – Mineral Development
- MWYN 4 – Criteria for New Minerals Sites
- MWYN 5 – Buffer Zones

1.4 These policies align with the requirements of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (MTAN 1), focusing on safeguarding, sustainable supply, and minimising environmental impacts. They remain a robust starting point but require review to ensure they reflect the latest evidence and challenges facing Anglesey's minerals sector.

1.5 Updated evidence from the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) 2nd Review (2020), the North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (NWaRAWP) Annual Report 2023, Natural Resources Wales Waste Permit Returns, and direct engagement with local operators in February 2025 indicates that the supply position for Anglesey is more constrained than previously assumed. Operator meetings have provided vital site-level information on actual reserves, production levels, and operational constraints, which in many cases differ from the headline RTS figures. To improve transparency, operators are now asked to complete monitoring forms, supported by site visits and data returns coordinated by the Council/Service. This approach, combined with new

surveying technologies, will strengthen the evidence base for the new LDP and ensure that the landbank and apportionment figures reflect operational reality rather than outdated assumptions.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

National Policy Framework

2.1 Minerals planning in Wales is guided by:

- **Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12** – which sets the overarching policy framework for the sustainable management of mineral resources, balancing supply with environmental and community considerations.
- **Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 1: Aggregates** – which requires Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) to maintain a minimum 10-year landbank for crushed rock and a 7-year landbank for sand and gravel throughout the plan period, calculated against apportionments in the Regional Technical Statement.
- **National Minerals Safeguarding Maps (NASM)**, produced by the British Geological Survey (BGS) – which define Category 1 (nationally important) and Category 2 (regionally important) aggregate resources. These maps underpin safeguarding policies that protect mineral resources from permanent sterilisation by non-mineral development.

Current JLDP Policy Overview

2.2 At the local level, mineral planning policy in Anglesey is currently guided by the Anglesey & Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP), which contains five specific mineral policies:

- **MWYN 1 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources** – designates and protects Category 1 and Category 2 aggregate resources from sterilisation.
- **MWYN 2 – Safeguarding Mineral Infrastructure** – protects wharves, railheads, and associated facilities critical to the handling, processing, and distribution of minerals.
- **MWYN 3 – Mineral Development** – supports proposals for mineral working within permitted sites and safeguarded areas, subject to strict environmental, amenity, and restoration conditions.
- **MWYN 4 – Criteria for New Mineral Sites** – sets out the criteria for assessing new mineral sites or extensions, including demonstrated need, environmental capacity, and community protection.
- **MWYN 5 – Buffer Zones** – defines buffer zones around permitted or allocated mineral sites to protect both sensitive uses and the operational viability of quarries.

RTS 2nd Review (2020) Position

2.3 The RTS 2nd Review apportions an annual requirement of 321,000 tonnes of crushed rock per year to Anglesey, equating to 8.025 million tonnes to 2039. This apportionment was calculated using a Plan–Monitor–Manage methodology, drawing directly on data collected through the North Wales RAWP Annual Surveys. The RAWP provides the baseline evidence by reporting 10-year and 3-year rolling sales averages and permitted reserves for each authority. The RTS2 then uses the higher of these sales averages, applies a 30% uplift to reflect anticipated construction and housing demand, and distributes the national requirement regionally and then to local authorities using a mix of past sales patterns, housing completions, and professional judgement. For Anglesey, the calculation was based on 2016 reported reserves of 8.015 Mt, which at that time appeared sufficient to meet the apportionment requirement. On this basis, RTS2 concluded that no new allocations were required to be provided in Anglesey.

Updated Evidence – NWaRAWP 2023 & 2025 Operator Data

2.4 The NWaRAWP Annual Report 2023 records 1,212,563 tonnes of crushed rock sales for Anglesey and Gwynedd combined (merged for confidentiality). This figure is almost four times the RTS2 apportionment for Anglesey alone, suggesting much higher production levels than anticipated.

2.5 Anglesey-only output is not separately published, but local operator evidence (February 2025) indicates that the three main sites (Bwlch Gwyn, Cae'r Glaw, and Gwyndy) collectively produced more than double the RTS apportionment of 321,000tpa and reflects Anglesey's role as a net exporter of aggregates to the wider North Wales and North West England markets.

2.6 Operators estimate that remaining permitted reserves (excluding Hengae, which has a 18,000 t/year output restriction) stand at between 4.3 and 5.3 million tonnes. At current extraction rates, this equates to only 5–7 years' supply. This is significantly below the MTAN 1 minimum 10-year requirement, and far less than RTS2 assumptions of a 25 year landbank for crushed rock (10 years plus 15 years for the plan period).

Policy Implications

2.7 While current JLDP minerals policies remain broadly aligned with national and regional guidance, the new Anglesey LDP will need to consider whether:

- Additional allocations or extensions are necessary to maintain a compliant landbank;
- Safeguarding boundaries should be refined to focus on viable, deliverable reserves;

- Monitoring arrangements should be strengthened to ensure up-to-date, site-specific reserve and production data informs decision-making.

In addition to aggregates, the new LDP must also consider safeguarding of non-aggregate minerals. This includes metalliferous resources such as Mynydd Parys, which remains safeguarded under JLDP policy, and live peat and marl permissions at Ynys Uchaf and Ynys Ganol, Brynteg. These require appropriate safeguarding and buffer policies given their current extant status, even though national policy is moving towards restricting peat extraction.

3.0 FINDINGS OF ANNUAL MONITORING REVIEW (AMR)

3.1 Annual monitoring for Anglesey draws on NWaRAWP survey returns, supplemented by local authority site visits and direct discussions with operators. This dual approach ensures that published regional data is cross-checked against site-specific information.

3.2 The RTS 2nd Review (2020) sets the following annual crushed rock apportionments:

- Gwynedd – 0.955 million tonnes/year
- Isle of Anglesey – 0.321 million tonnes/year
- Combined total – 1.276 million tonnes/year

3.3 The NWaRAWP Annual Report 2023 records 1,212,563 tonnes of crushed rock sales for Anglesey and Gwynedd combined (merged for confidentiality reasons). This is slightly below the combined RTS2 apportionment by around 63,000 tonnes/year, suggesting—on paper—that supply is broadly in line with projected need.

3.4 However, local operator evidence from February 2025 shows a different reality for Anglesey:

- Output from the three main quarries (Bwlch Gwyn, Cae'r Glaw, and Gwyndy) is more than double the RTS2 apportionment for Anglesey alone (321,000 t/year).
- Remaining permitted reserves at these three sites (excluding Hengae, inactive with an 18,000 t/year cap) are estimated at 4.3–5.3 million tonnes.
- Cae'r Glaw has recently been reassessed, with surveys identifying additional reserves.
- Rhuddlan Bach, heavily worked to the end of 2024, is almost exhausted..
- Nant Newydd contains limited reserves but is currently mothballed.

3.5 Even including Rhuddlan Bach, Anglesey's total effective reserves equate to only 5–7 years' supply at current extraction rates. If Nant Newydd were reactivated,

this could extend the landbank to 9–10 years, but this remains marginal against the MTAN 1 minimum requirement.

3.6 This highlights a significant inconsistency between:

- RTS2 assumptions (8.015 million tonnes of reserves in 2016, equating to average 25 years at the apportionment rate),
- NWaRAWP combined sales data, which masks Anglesey's higher extraction rates by merging them with Gwynedd's, and
- Local operator and LPA information, which shows much higher recent output and far lower remaining reserves than RTS2 suggests.

3.7 Recycled and Secondary Aggregates - NRW Waste Permit Returns for 2022 confirm Anglesey receives over 160,000 tonnes of inert and construction/demolition (C&D) wastes annually. Of this, approx. 27,000 tonnes were treated while more than 100,000 tonnes were landfilled. Limited treated wastes are exported to other regions, but much of the recycled aggregate produced is unrecorded once it passes the "end-of-waste" test. This explains the discrepancy between "waste in" and "waste out" figures in the datasets. Updated data from 2024 indicates broadly similar trends to the 2022 returns. However, for consistency and until further verification and assessment of the 2024 data have been completed, the 2022 dataset will remain the baseline for this Topic Paper. Future updates will reflect the latest confirmed evidence once clarified and confirmed.

3.8 The true contribution of recycled aggregates to supply cannot be precisely quantified. This makes it impossible to accurately calculate their role in prolonging the landbank or meeting apportionment levels.

3.9 The AMR therefore concludes that relying solely on RTS2 and NWaRAWP datasets risks underestimating the urgency of Anglesey's mineral supply issue. For the new LDP, frequent direct engagement with quarry operators, combined with improved monitoring of recycled aggregate outputs, will be critical to maintaining an accurate and timely reserve picture.

4.0 CONTEXTUAL CHANGES

4.1 Since the adoption of the current JLDP, a number of changes in Anglesey's minerals sector have direct implications for the new LDP. These include the concentration of production into a small number of sites, the exhaustion or mothballing of others, significant demand pressures from infrastructure and housing, the impact of environmental constraints, and the need to reconcile RTS2 assumptions with more recent, local evidence.

Production Concentration

4.2 Anglesey's supply is already concentrated in three main active sites – Bwlch Gwyn, Cae'r Glaw, and Gwyndy – which collectively produce more than double

the RTS2 apportionment for Anglesey (321,000 t/year). This heavy reliance on three quarries increases the risk that supply resilience will be undermined if reserves deplete or operational restrictions arise.

4.3 Rhuddlan Bach has been heavily worked up to late 2024, with an remaining reserves now approaching exhaustion. Once worked out, its output will need to be absorbed by one or more of the other three main quarries, increasing pressure on their reserves and shortening the effective landbank. Historic production data indicates that Rhuddlan Bach typically supplied material over the decade before exhaustion. This average output provides context for how its closure will increase pressure on other sites. The loss of this output also has longer-term implications for supply resilience, as it increases dependency on a limited number of larger sites.

4.4 Nant Newydd retains a reserve but is currently mothballed. If reactivated, it could partially offset the loss of production from other sites, but the timing and feasibility of reopening remain uncertain. The site has limited scope for extension, so its contribution is likely to be short-lived within the LDP period.

4.5 At Cae'r Glaw, updated surveys have identified additional reserve capacity within the permitted boundary. While this improves the short-term landbank, it does not fundamentally alter the medium- to long-term supply picture, as overall reserves remain finite and concentrated.

Demand Pressures

4.6 Large-scale infrastructure and development projects such as Holyhead Freeport, Wylfa Newydd, the proposed third Menai Strait crossing, and major coastal defence schemes could significantly increase aggregate demand beyond current apportionments.

4.7 Local housing delivery, transport improvements and utility upgrades are also expected to require substantial quantities of aggregate. This is important because RTS2 apportionments are partly based on housing completions data and a 30% uplift to reflect future construction activity, embedding housing growth directly into supply calculations. It is therefore essential that LDP housing trajectories are aligned with mineral supply planning.

Reserve Depletion vs RTS2 Assumptions

4.8 RTS2 (2020) assumed 8.015 million tonnes of crushed rock reserves in Anglesey (2016 baseline) and extraction close to the 321,000 t/year apportionment, implying a 25-year supply.

4.9 Current operator evidence (Feb 2025) suggests effective permitted reserves are around 4.3–5.3 Mt at the main active sites, with limited remaining reserves at Rhuddlan Bach and Nant Newydd. Even including these smaller sites, this equates to only 5–7 years' supply at current output. Without new consents, the landbank could fall below the MTAN 1 minimum 10-year requirement well before the end of the LDP period.

4.10 This inconsistency between RTS2 assumptions, NWaRAWP combined data, and operator intelligence highlights the importance of strengthening local monitoring to ensure that landbank calculations reflect reality.

Environmental and Heritage Constraints

4.11 A significant proportion of Anglesey's high-quality limestone resource is located within, or adjacent to, Corsydd Môn Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and associated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), restricting its availability for future working. Safeguarding must therefore distinguish between constrained and workable resources.

4.12 Beyond its role as aggregate, Anglesey limestone has enduring heritage significance, being used extensively for walling, building stone, and conservation works. The exhaustion of accessible limestone quarries could therefore have cultural as well as supply consequences.

Infrastructure and Distribution

4.13 Anglesey benefits from strategic transport links via the A55, Holyhead Port, and potential rail connections at Penrhos, supporting both local supply and exports to regional and national markets. In addition, there is potential for the Valley–Wylfa railway siding to be repurposed for alternative uses such as general freight and mineral movement. This could provide a valuable rail-based outlet for aggregates, reducing pressure on the road network and improving the sustainability of mineral distribution. However, while exports are economically valuable, they risk accelerating depletion of local reserves if not balanced with the need to maintain a reliable landbank for the island's own requirements.

Policy and Monitoring Implications

4.14 Current JLDP policies safeguard key resources and infrastructure, but the new LDP may need to incorporate trigger-based allocation mechanisms, enabling extensions or new sites to be brought forward once reserves fall below a defined threshold.

4.15 Strengthening real-time monitoring with operators – through annual data returns, drone surveys, and liaison meetings – will be essential to track reserve depletion accurately and to anticipate the operational status of mothballed sites such as Nant Newydd.

5.0 SAFEGUARDING

5.1 The current Joint Local Development Plan includes two key safeguarding policies:

- Policy MWYN 1 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources – identifies and protects Category 1 and Category 2 aggregate resources from permanent sterilisation by non-mineral development.

- Policy MWYN 2 – Safeguarding Mineral Infrastructure – protects wharves, railheads, and other facilities important for the storage, handling, and processing of minerals.

5.2 These policies are consistent with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12, MTAN 1, and the National Aggregate Safeguarding Map (NASM) prepared by the British Geological Survey (BGS).

Resource Categories

5.3 The NASM identifies: This approach follows the methodology for other Local Authority LDP work and associated technical work, which remains relevant to Anglesey.

- Category 1 – nationally important resources, including high-purity limestones and high-specification aggregate (HSA) igneous rocks.
- Category 2 – regionally important resources such as other hard rock deposits and lower-specification limestones.

Hard rock

5.4 On Anglesey, safeguarded areas include extensive deposits of limestone, sandstone, and igneous rock in the central and north-western parts of the island. However, a significant proportion of high-quality limestone lies within, or adjacent to, sensitive nature conservation designations, notably the Corsydd Môn SAC and associated SSSIs. These constraints reduce the volume of safeguarded limestone that is realistically workable. At the same time, limestone has a unique heritage importance as a traditional building and walling stone, meaning its safeguarding has cultural as well as supply implications.

Coal

5.5 The JLDP also noted the Malltraeth Coalfield. While safeguarded nationally, it is not considered viable for future working and is excluded from Anglesey's resource base.

Metals

5.6 Mynydd Parys is safeguarded as a metalliferous resource under JLDP Policy MWYN 1, recognising both its potential for re-working and its significant industrial heritage.

Peat and marl

5.7 Live permissions to win and work peat and marl at Ynys Uchaf and Ynys Ganol, Brynteg, should also be acknowledged in safeguarding, even though national policy is moving towards restricting peat extraction. These permissions remain valid until 22 February 2042 and therefore require safeguarding protection until such time as policy or consent status changes.

Sand & Gravel

5.8 Category 1 and 2 sand & gravel deposits are also mapped but are generally small, isolated, and often constrained by environmental designations such as

floodplains or coastal protection zones. The RTS 2nd Review (2020) concluded that there are no commercially viable, unconstrained deposits capable of supporting large-scale extraction in Anglesey. Earlier technical work, including studies undertaken for the JLDP, reached similar conclusions. These deposits are safeguarded to retain long-term flexibility, but their future contribution is likely to be limited. Detailed studies by Capita Symonds and Liverpool University were undertaken for the JLDP to assess sand & gravel. These confirmed deposits are highly constrained, reinforcing RTS2's conclusion.

Link to Supply Position

5.9 Under the current JLDP, safeguarding is primarily a long-term protection measure. However, updated evidence shows that safeguarded resources may need to be considered for release much sooner than RTS2 anticipated, particularly if:

- Rhuddlan Bach is exhausted in the short term.
- Nant Newydd remains inactive and does not contribute to the landbank.
- Output from Bwlch Gwyn, Cae'r Glaw, and Gwyndy increases further to absorb shortfalls, accelerating reserve depletion.

There has also been uncertainty around site ownership and operation, further complicating the likelihood of reactivation at Nant Newydd. Road access to Hengae also poses challenges, and while a direct haul route has been suggested, no scheme is currently in place. This evidence highlights the need to link safeguarding more explicitly to trigger-based allocation policies in the LDP.

Infrastructure Safeguarding

5.10 In addition to geological resources, key mineral infrastructure to be safeguarded includes:

- Holyhead Port – strategic marine import/export facility.
- Penrhos Industrial Estate railhead – with potential for future minerals handling.
- Valley–Wylfa railway siding – with potential for reuse in general freight and mineral transport, supporting sustainable distribution.
- On-site processing, coating, and batching plants at operational quarries.

Future Policy Direction for the new LDP

5.11 Safeguarding will remain a core policy approach in the LDP, but given emerging reserve constraints, it should be explicitly linked to potential future allocation decisions. This would allow safeguarded areas to be brought forward for working where monitoring shows the landbank falling below MTAN 1 requirements, ensuring continuity of supply for both local needs and regional exports.

6.0 MINERAL SUPPLY

RTS 2nd Review Position

6.1 The RTS 2nd Review (2020) sets the following annual crushed rock apportionments:

- Gwynedd – 0.955 Mt/year
- Isle of Anglesey – 0.321 Mt/year
- Combined total – 1.276 Mt/year

6.2 RTS2 (2020) used 2016 reserves of 8.015 Mt for Anglesey and concluded no new allocations were required, on the assumption that extraction would remain close to the apportionment rate. However, this assumption has proven unrealistic, as extraction has consistently exceeded the apportionment.

NWaRAWP 2023 Monitoring

6.3 The NWaRAWP Annual Report 2023 records 1,212,563 tonnes of crushed rock sales for Anglesey and Gwynedd combined (merged for confidentiality). On paper, this is slightly below the combined RTS2 apportionment, but it masks significant variation between the two counties.

6.4 In reality, production on Anglesey is well above the level assumed in the apportionment. Operator evidence (February 2025) indicates that the island's main active quarries continue to produce at a significant rate, though individual reserve capacities vary. Recent survey work has provided revised estimates for several operational sites, confirming that the overall reserve position is limited in duration. Given discrepancies between RTS assumptions, NWaRAWP data, and operator evidence, future monitoring must incorporate independent verification. Drone surveys of active quarries should be undertaken annually to calculate stockpiles and extraction face progress, providing a robust basis for landbank calculations.

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Effective Landbank Calculation

6.6 Total effective reserve: 5.9–6.9 Mt, equating to only 8–9 years' supply at current output (~750,000 t/year). If Nant Newydd reactivates promptly, the landbank could increase somewhat, but this remains marginal against MTAN 1 requirements. It should also be noted that if the estimated reserve at Dinmor were to be added into this calculation, the apparent landbank could increase by less than one year (approximately 0.6–0.7 years at current output rates). This could create a false ceiling, as Dinmor is highly constrained and unsuitable for bulk aggregate production. Its reserves should therefore be carefully caveated as potential heritage/dimension stone supply rather than relied upon for meeting crushed rock apportionment requirements.

Constraints on Future Allocations and Production

6.7 Large parts of Anglesey's high-quality limestone resource lie within or adjacent to the Corsydd Môn SAC and associated SSSIs, reducing the proportion of safeguarded limestone that can be worked.

6.8 Certain limestone quarries also supply heritage-quality stone for walling, architectural detailing, and conservation. The loss of these could impact not only aggregate supply but also the preservation of Anglesey's built character. Historically, sites such as Rhuddlan Bach and Nant Newydd supplied building and walling stone following the exhaustion of other sources (e.g., Bryn Engan during construction of the A55). This dual role must be reflected in policy. For example, Aberstrecht has historically produced high-quality architectural limestone, illustrating the importance of safeguarding heritage sources.

New LDP Policy Requirements – Mineral Supply

6.9 The new LDP mineral supply policy should:

- **State the supply objective** – Maintain a minimum 10-year landbank for crushed rock in line with MTAN 1, based on both RTS/RAWP and Anglesey-specific effective reserve calculations.
- **Integrate site-specific intelligence** – Require annual operator returns and drone surveys to maintain up-to-date reserve estimates, recognising revisions such as the Cae'r Glaw uplift.
- **Account for constrained reserves** – Exclude or caveat reserves that cannot be worked within the plan period due to environmental designations or operational restrictions (e.g., Hengae's cap).
- **Plan for shortfall scenarios** – Introduce trigger-based mechanisms to bring forward extensions or safeguarded areas for allocation when the effective landbank approaches 10 years or is projected to fall below within two years.
- **Balance heritage needs** – Where quarries supply both aggregate and heritage-grade limestone, ensure continuity of supply for both uses, potentially via targeted extensions or retention of small-scale working.
- **Prioritise extensions over new sites** – Allocate extensions to existing operational quarries where possible, maximising use of existing infrastructure and minimising environmental impacts.
- **Coordinate sub-regional collaboration and cross-boundary flexibility** – Work jointly with neighbouring North Wales authorities to address shared mineral supply issues by balancing shortfalls and surpluses across administrative boundaries. Support import/export arrangements under RTS principles where this helps maintain an adequate landbank while ensuring Anglesey retains sufficient supply for its own needs.
- **Recognise potential reactivations** – Treat mothballed sites like Nant Newydd and Hengae as part of contingency planning but only count towards the landbank if there is a credible prospect of reactivation during the plan period.

- **Consideration of preferred areas or areas of search**

Current and Emerging Planning Applications

6.10 In addition to the reserve assessments set out above, it is important to note that there is a live planning application for an extension at Cae'r Glaw Quarry. This application (ref: MIG/2024/1), submitted in 2024, seeks to extend the quarry to release an estimated 3.4 million tonnes of additional crushed rock. If permitted, this would significantly improve the island's effective landbank position and contribute to maintaining a 10-year supply in line with MTAN 1 requirements.

6.11 There have also been early-stage operator enquiries regarding potential extensions at other existing sites. While no formal applications have yet been submitted, these enquiries indicate that operators are actively considering how to maintain production capacity in response to emerging supply pressures. Together, these potential extensions represent the most likely future sources of supply continuity for Anglesey within the new LDP period.

Dimension and Heritage Stone (Aberstrecht and Dinmor Quarries)

6.12 These sites are not included in the landbank table as their outputs are specialist and related to heritage/dimension stone rather than bulk aggregate supply.

Aberstrecht Quarry (Moelfre) is an operational small-scale limestone quarry supplying dimension/architectural stone. Output is capped at 4,000 tonnes per annum by condition, with no blasting, working above the water table, and progressive restoration. Its reserves serve a specialist heritage/conservation market rather than the bulk aggregate market. A key question for the new LDP is whether these reserves should be caveated for dimension stone purposes only or excluded from the crushed rock landbank and apportionment figures altogether.

Dinmor Quarry (Penmon) is currently inactive/mothballed under IDO conditions. If recommenced, it has a permitted cap of 30,000 tonnes per annum and a working end date of 2042 (restoration by 2044). Reserves have been estimated at around 0.5 million tonnes, but the site is constrained by access and is not suitable for high-volume aggregate supply. However, Dinmor could contribute to walling and conservation stone supply, especially as Rhuddlan Bach and Nant Newydd close. Again, the policy question for the new LDP is whether its reserves should be recognised as a safeguarded heritage resource but excluded from the aggregate landbank.

6.16 Policy Implications: Both Aberstrecht and Dinmor are strategically important to heritage and conservation supply in Anglesey but are unlikely to contribute materially to the aggregate landbank. The new LDP must decide whether to:

- Safeguard these quarries for their heritage stone role;
- Caveat their reserves as dimension stone only within the evidence base; or
- Exclude them entirely from landbank/apportionment calculations.

Their exclusion ensures that aggregate reserve figures remain realistic and are not artificially inflated by resources unlikely to be worked for bulk aggregate purposes.

Metalliferous and Other Non-Aggregate Minerals

6.17 ***Metalliferous Ore – Mynydd Parys.*** Mynydd Parys has a long history of mineral extraction, being one of the most significant copper mining sites in Europe during the 18th century. The site remains of major industrial heritage importance. A valid planning consent exists to work metalliferous ore at Mynydd Parys until 2028. Ongoing discussions have taken place between the operator, the Local Planning Authority, and the Minerals Service regarding the potential re-working of the site under a modified application. Policy Context: Within the current JLDP, Policy MWYN 1 (Safeguarding Mineral Resources) identifies Mynydd Parys as a safeguarded metalliferous resource, protecting it from sterilisation by non-mineral development. In addition, Policy MWYN 3 (Mineral Development) supports proposals for mineral working within permitted sites and safeguarded areas, subject to environmental and amenity considerations. The RLDP will therefore continue this safeguarding approach, recognising both the historic importance of Mynydd Parys and its potential for re-working under future modified applications.

6.18 ***Peat and Marl – Brynteg (Ynys Uchaf and Ynys Ganol).*** There are two live permissions to win and work peat and marl at Ynys Uchaf and Ynys Ganol, Brynteg. These materials are primarily used for agricultural and horticultural purposes rather than for aggregates. However, national policy is moving towards restrictions and potential bans on peat extraction and sale, reflecting climate change, habitat protection, and biodiversity priorities. The RLDP evidence base should therefore acknowledge the existence of these permissions, while also making clear that future policy constraints may limit their contribution during the plan period / or consent status changes.

7.0 BUFFER ZONES

Current JLDP Policy Framework

7.1 The current JLDP baseline is contained in Policy MWYN 5 (Buffer Zones) and identifies separation distances around mineral sites to:

- Protect residential amenity from adverse impacts such as noise, dust, and vibration.
- Safeguard public safety by controlling development near active extraction areas.
- Preserve the operational viability of permitted and allocated mineral sites by avoiding incompatible development.

7.2 Complementing this, Policy MWYN 2 (Safeguarding Mineral Infrastructure) ensures that strategically important facilities such as Holyhead Port, the Penrhos

railhead, Valley Railhead and on-site plants at quarries are protected from sterilisation by non-mineral development. Safeguarding infrastructure in parallel with buffer zones is essential to maintain operational flexibility, particularly if imports are needed in the future or if mothballed sites are reactivated.

National Policy Guidance

7.3 The JLDP adopts the MTAN 1 approach of applying indicative buffers around mineral sites and potential allocations, with distances reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Paragraphs 40–43 of MTAN 1 advise:

- A default 200 metre distance from the site boundary for hard rock quarries.
- That buffers protect the amenity of sensitive land uses and reduce the potential for conflict between minerals operations and neighbouring communities.
- That distances may be varied where topography, screening, or mitigation measures change the potential for impact.

7.4 Furthermore, Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12 (Section 5.14):

- Requires that local planning authorities protect both the function and the amenity of mineral sites by preventing nearby development that could prejudice their operation.
- Encourages clear definition of buffer zones on the proposals map, so all parties are aware of potential development constraints.
- Supports flexible, evidence-led distances to balance mineral working with the wellbeing of communities and the environment.

For non-aggregate minerals, buffer zones should also be applied. Mynydd Parys requires buffer protection not only for amenity but also to protect its heritage and environmental setting. Peat and marl sites at Ynys Uchaf and Ynys Ganol should be treated in a similar way to sand and gravel, with a default 100m buffer adjustable for hydrology, ecology, and site-specific mitigation measures.

Link to Current Supply Position

7.5 The three main producers (Bwlch Gwyn, Cae'r Glaw, and Gwyndy) are expected to operate well into the new LDP period. Extensions to maintain a 10-year landbank will need buffer protection now to prevent sterilisation by incompatible development.

7.6 Rhuddlan Bach is nearing exhaustion and its production will shift to the other main sites, increasing their output and associated environmental impacts.

7.7 Nant Newydd could be reactivated. Its safeguarded buffer must be retained to avoid sterilising this reserve and to ensure the option of reactivation remains open.

7.8 Both Rhuddlan Bach and Nant Newydd lie close to Corsydd Môn SAC and SSSIs. Buffer zones here must protect ecological integrity and site hydrology in addition to human amenity.

7.9 Potential reactivation of sites such as Bryn Engan must also be considered. Buffers for exhausted or dormant sites should remain until permissions are relinquished, ensuring that future heritage or small-scale supply options are not inadvertently sterilised.

New LDP Policy Requirements – Buffer Zones

7.10 The new LDP buffer zone policy should:

- **Retain default distances** – Apply the MTAN 1 indicative 200 m buffer for hard rock quarries, with scope for adjustment based on site-specific evidence (e.g. topography, bunding, environmental controls).
- **Comprehensively map buffers** – Apply to:
  - Existing permitted quarries.
  - Likely extension areas identified through monitoring and supply assessment.
  - Viable inactive or dormant sites, including exhausted sites where reactivation may be considered.
- **Integrate ecological protection** – Ensure buffers around SAC/SSSI or other designated sites protect biodiversity, habitats, and hydrology.
- **Embed buffers into the supply strategy** – Buffers should support operational continuity and avoid unnecessary sterilisation of workable reserves, particularly where extensions are likely.
- **Allow flexibility for extensions** – Modify buffer lines where evidence shows that mitigation measures can protect amenity and environmental quality.
- **Clarify dual purpose** – Make explicit that buffer zones safeguard both community amenity and the viability of mineral operations. Proposals within buffer zones should be carefully assessed for compatibility with mineral working.

7.11 In summary, buffer zones are a critical tool to protect amenity and safeguard the operational viability of quarries. MTAN 1 recommends a default 200m for hard rock, adjustable for site-specific factors. PPW Edition 12 reinforces their dual role in protecting both site function and community wellbeing. For Anglesey, buffers should cover existing sites, likely extensions, and viable mothballed sites, while also protecting SAC/SSSI from ecological impacts. Flexibility must be retained to adjust buffer boundaries where robust evidence and mitigation measures demonstrate that amenity and environmental quality can be safeguarded.

8.0 MONITORING

Current JLDP Baseline

8.1 Monitoring currently occurs via the **Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)**, drawing on RAWP/NWaRAWP survey returns and local authority site intelligence. No stand-alone monitoring policy exists, but monitoring is a statutory requirement across the plan as a whole.

Issues Revealed by Recent Evidence

8.2 RTS2 and NWaRAWP datasets are reliable for regional benchmarking but lag behind operational reality. For example, in 2023 Anglesey sales were merged with Gwynedd's, masking Anglesey-specific figures and obscuring the much higher production rate on the island.

8.3 Operator intelligence gathered in February 2025 materially shifts the picture: Cae'r Glaw has gained additional reserves, Rhuddlan Bach is virtually exhausted, and Nant Newydd, though mothballed, retains limited reserves that could be reactivated.

8.4 Without direct, site-specific monitoring, the Council risks underestimating reserve depletion rates and missing early warning signs of supply shortfall. Drone surveys, for example, could independently confirm how much reserve remains at Bwlch Gwyn, Cae'r Glaw, and Gwyndy.

Strengthened New RLDP Monitoring Approach

8.5 **Annual confidential operator returns** should be submitted to the Council, reporting:

- Reserves by site (proved & probable).
- Extraction and sales by product.
- Operational status (active, mothballed, inactive).
- Expected three-year output profile.

It is acknowledged that quarry output is not linear and that producing one type of aggregate (e.g. 10 mm clean stone) can generate by-products (e.g. dust or scalpings) that may not sell at the same rate. Monitoring must therefore take account of these complexities.

8.6 **Annual drone surveys** of each operational quarry should be undertaken to verify permitted extraction boundaries, measure stockpile volumes, and monitor face progress against permitted plans. This would provide independent estimates of reserve depletion and stock balance.

8.7 **Triggers** should be activated when the landbank is less than 11 years, or where a key site changes status (e.g. Rhuddlan Bach closure, Nant Newydd reactivation).

8.8 **Dual reporting** in the AMR should ensure that:

- RTS2/NWaRAWP indicators are included for regional comparability.
- An Anglesey-only "effective landbank" is calculated, excluding reserves that are not realistically workable within the plan period.
- The potential contribution of **recycled aggregates** is acknowledged, while recognising that their true output is unrecorded once materials pass the "end-of-waste" test.

Trigger Thresholds Tied to Policy Response

8.9 The following actions should apply when trigger levels are reached:

- **Landbank <10 years (crushed rock)**: initiate site search and extension feasibility, and prepare a focused call for sites (safeguarded areas first).
- **Projected <9 years within 24 months**: begin preparatory work on allocation(s) or extensions in the new LDP (or SPG) so applications can be determined in time.
- **Loss of capacity** (e.g. Rhuddlan Bach closure without compensatory reactivation at Nant Newydd): escalate to cross-boundary dialogue with Gwynedd and other authorities under RTS collaboration principles.

New RLDP Policy Requirements – Monitoring

8.10 The new RLDP monitoring policy should:

- **Set the purpose** – Ensure compliance with MTAN 1 landbank requirements and enable early intervention where reserves are approaching critical thresholds.
- **Specify data sources** – Mandate the use of:
  - NWaRAWP and RTS2 data for regional benchmarking.
  - Confidential annual operator returns for Anglesey-specific reserves, sales, and operational status.
  - Annual drone surveys to provide independent reserve depletion and stockpile volume estimates.
- **Define reporting** – Commit to publishing both RTS2/NWaRAWP indicators and an Anglesey-only effective landbank in the AMR.
- **Set action triggers** – Establish clear thresholds for intervention, including <10 years effective landbank, projected <9 years within 24 months, or significant capacity loss.
- **Recognise heritage/dimension stone** – Establish a parallel monitoring strand for small-scale sites (e.g. Aberstrecht, Dinmor), recording their operational status and reserves separately. These figures should not be added into the crushed rock landbank but should be safeguarded in policy to ensure continuity of supply for walling, conservation, and architectural purposes.

- **Link to supply policy** – Make clear that monitoring results will directly inform decisions on mineral supply allocations, safeguarded area release, and buffer zone adjustments.
- **Ensure operational transparency** – Use monitoring outputs to provide public updates on Anglesey's mineral supply position, while protecting commercially sensitive data from operators. Monitoring indicators will be reviewed to ensure consistency with RTS 3 regional guidance once available.