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Chapter Eight

Minerals

In August 2005, Government Office for the South East (GOSE) published Proposed Changes to the minerals policies in RPG9. The Proposed Changes have been accepted by the Regional Assembly except for some amendments to improve the associated implementation framework. In view of the timing of the GOSE consultation, with the closing date for views by 11 November, this 2005 monitor will follow the pattern of previous years. Monitoring will have an extended coverage in the report for 2006 to reflect the changes when confirmed.

RPG9 Policy:

- M1** – Adequate provision for supply of minerals through extraction and recycling. Early review of regional contribution to supply of aggregates required.
- M2** – Environmental impact of minerals extraction should be minimised.

IRF Objective(s):

Objective 16:

To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products.

Target(s):

Year on year increase in use of recycled and secondary aggregates.

Indicators:

81 Amount of secondary aggregates and recycled material used (tonnes)

82 Amount of secondary materials and recycled aggregate used (tonnes) as a proportion of South East production.

Indicator 81
Amount of secondary aggregates and recycled material used (tonnes)
2001: 6.6 million tonnes
2003: 6.6 million tonnes

01
Annual monitoring returns.

02
0.4mt destination unallocated.

Source:
South East England Regional Assembly

Indicator 82
Amount of secondary materials and recycled aggregate used (tonnes) as a proportion of SE production
2001: 30%
2003: 36%

Table 10: Aggregates production and consumption, South East 2001-2003

	South East Production				South East Consumption	
	Sand and gravel	Crushed rock	Marine sand and gravel ⁰¹	Total production	Net imports	Total Consumption
2001	12.4	2.4	7.2	22	11.4 ⁰²	34.7
2002	11.5	1.6	7	20.1	n/a	n/a
2003	10.7	1.2	6.6	18.5	n/a	n/a

Key Findings:

- In 2003 the use of secondary materials and recycling (6.6mt) appears to have contributed an amount equivalent to a third of South East production from other land-won and marine sources and nearly 20% of South East consumption.
- The 2003 survey showed that opportunities to increase this figure remain, primarily from mixed construction demolition and excavation waste and through improving on-site separation of these materials (concrete, bricks, tiles, stone etc) from soil and other unsuitable materials.
- In 2003 production of aggregates in the South East continued to fall from 22mt in 2001 and 20.1mt in 2002 to 18.5mt in 2003.

M1
M2

Commentary

The use of secondary materials and recycling in place of primary aggregates was established as some 6.6 million tonnes in 2001 in ODPM commissioned reports, and an update on construction, demolition and excavation waste suggests a similar figure has been maintained for the use of such materials in 2003.

However, the production of primary aggregates in the region in 2001-2003 continues to fall (2004 data from the industry has not been received). The proportion of alternatives to primary aggregates has therefore continued to rise.

The ODPM 2001 reports on construction and demolition waste and secondary materials identified that, in the South East, approx 4.9mt and some 0.6mt of secondary materials (including spent railway ballast, pulverised fuel ash and bottom ash from power stations) were used as recycled aggregate. ODPM has also estimated that approximately 1.1mt of road planings were recycled in 2001.

The conclusions of the ODPM 2003 report on construction, demolition and excavation waste are that statistically the results are essentially the same, as there is a +/-14% range for the regional figures. The 6.6mt for the region should therefore be treated with caution and not as a precise figure. The next ODPM report is due to take place on 2005 data.

Implication for Policy and Implementation

The proposed alterations to RPG9 in relation to minerals are expected to be adopted by the Secretary of State during 2006, and have been based on a thorough review of regional objectives and targets. The priority for the next 12 months will be to ensure that these policies are now reflected in emerging Local Minerals Developments Documents.

