

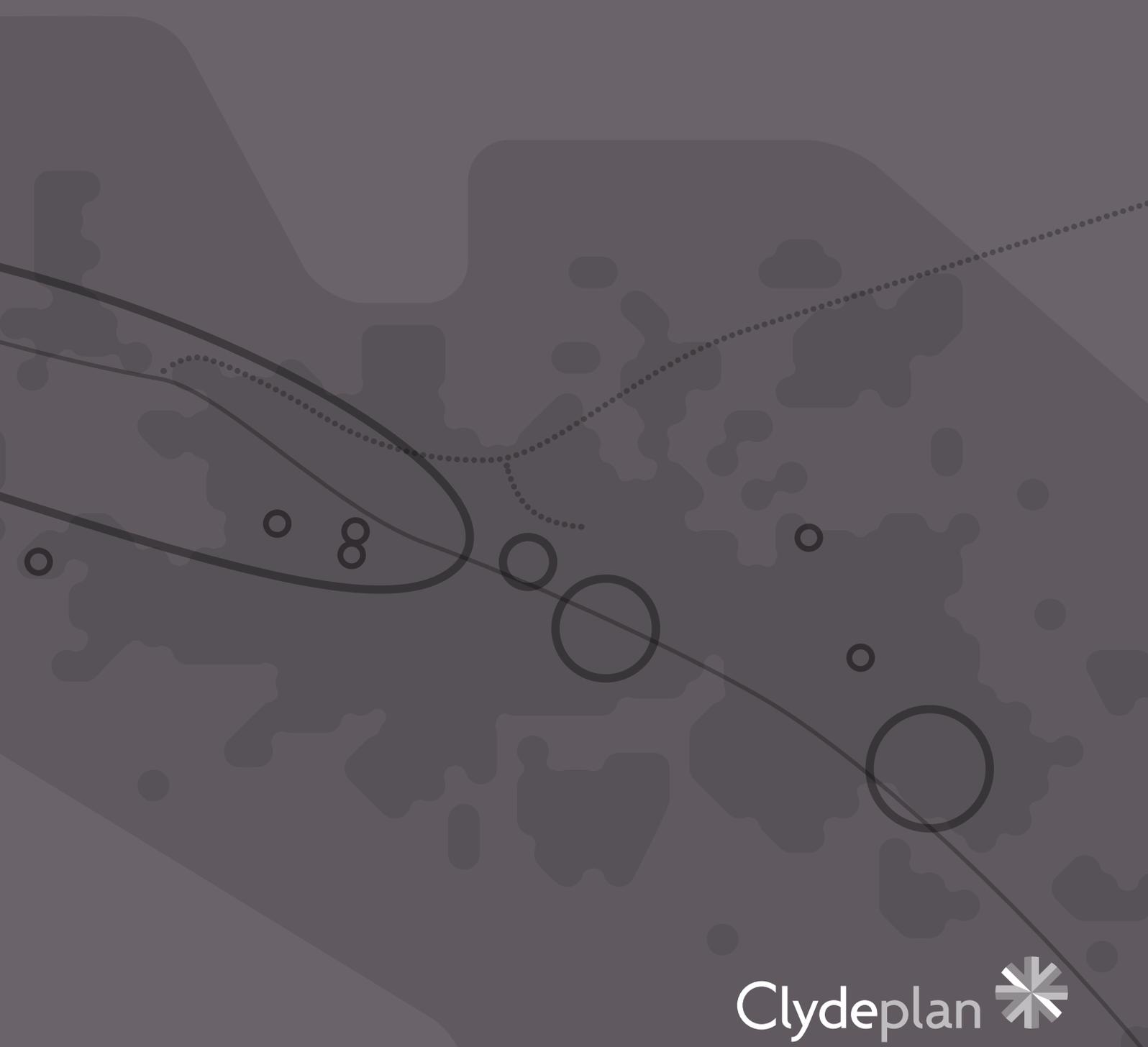
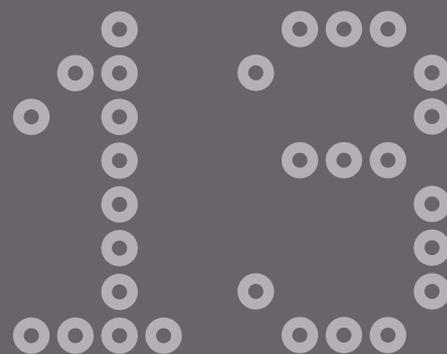
# Strategic Development Plan

Proposed Plan - Background Report

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January 2015

Minerals



# **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

## **BACKGROUND REPORT 13 MINERALS**

**January 2016**

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# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 Clydeplan covers the local authority administrative areas of East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire, excluding that part of West Dunbartonshire that lies within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. It houses approximately a third of Scotland's population and is Scotland's biggest economic region.

## Clydeplan Minerals

- 1.2 The city region needs minerals for the construction of transport and renewable energy infrastructure, housing and other buildings that form part of the city regions future investment plans. Clydeplan is required to ensure a steady supply of material is maintained to meet the needs of the city region (and sometimes beyond) in a sustainable and acceptable way. The British Geological Survey's (BGS) Mineral Planning Factsheet: Construction Aggregates<sup>1</sup> provides further information on the supply and demand of aggregates in the UK.
- 1.3 The demand for aggregates is influenced by demand in areas with high population density where access to suitable local reserves can be restricted, and market areas can extend beyond local authority boundaries.
- 1.4 The Scottish Government promotes a landbank approach to maintain both an adequate supply for construction aggregates and a stock of reserves with planning permission over a minimum 10 year period based on current production levels. The 10 year period recognises the likely timescale between an operator deciding that there is a need for a new site, securing planning permission and bringing the site to full production.
- 1.5 Development plans are required to support a landbank of permitted reserves equivalent to a minimum 10 years extraction at all times for all market areas.

## The Scottish Aggregate Survey 2012 (published 2015)

- 1.6 The Scottish Aggregate Survey (SAS) 2012<sup>2</sup> collates Survey returns to support strategic development planning policy. It recognises the difficulties of defining market areas in a country like Scotland with considerable variation on population density and geology.
- 1.7 Aggregate production recorded by SAS for West Central Scotland A (or Clydeplan), for 2012 is 26% of all Scotland's Hard Rock and Sand & Gravel, supplying demand of 34% of Scotland's population. This shows that production levels and population levels are unmatched and is indicative of a densely populated region where there is significant demand for aggregates but restricted access to resources. Therefore, the city region is required to import any shortfall.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/planning/mineralPlanningFactsheets.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/5687>

## **Hard Rock**

- 1.8 In relation to hard rock, SAS shows that 88% (2,938 thousand tonnes) of hard rock is retained within the city region where it was produced. SAS reports that Clydeplan exports 113 thousand tonnes to Forth Valley, 200 thousand tonnes to SESplan and 76 thousand tonnes to West of Scotland B and Dumfries and Galloway.
- 1.9 SAS reports that the reserves for hard rock are likely to be more secure than sand and gravel. At 2012 there was an average 25 year supply for hardrock in Clydeplan from active sites.

## **Sand and Gravel**

- 1.10 Distribution of sand and gravel shows 77% of product is retained within the city region. The remaining 23% of total production is exported to SESplan, 200 thousand tonnes, with 143 thousand tonnes exported to West of Scotland B and Dumfries and Galloway. Exports also go further afield such as the Lanark Red Granite chips which are in demand within Western Europe for road infrastructure projects. Within the region, due to increasing infrastructure projects, differing types and requirements for specific sand and gravel products and industry contracts, Clydeplan is a considerable importer of sand and gravel. With 30% of total demand, or 448 thousand tonnes, being supplied from sites outwith the region.
- 1.11 For sand and gravel, the average years supply from Clydeplan's active sites is 12 years.

## **2. Clydeplan Extraction of Resources**

### **Promoting Responsible Extraction of Resources**

- 2.1 The planning system has a responsibility to safeguard workable mineral resources and facilitate their responsible use, ensuring that they are not sterilised by development. At the same time, there is a need to address restoration of past minerals extraction sites in and around the city region.

### **Coal**

- 2.2 The continuing contribution that coal can play in supplying energy to the national economy is recognised in NPF3 which states:

*"The Electricity Generation Policy Statement sets out a continued and important role for thermal generation in Scotland's future energy mix. There will be a requirement for new or upgraded efficient fossil fuel thermal generation capacity, progressively fitted with carbon capture and storage (CCS)."*<sup>3</sup>

- 2.3 NPF3 highlights that indigenous fossil fuel supplies will continue to be of importance including the continuing need for thermal generation plant in order to provide continued and secure electricity generation for many years to come. Therefore coal fired generation will continue to form an important part of Scotland's energy generation mix.

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<sup>3</sup> NPF3, June 2014, page32, paragraphs 3.10- 3.11

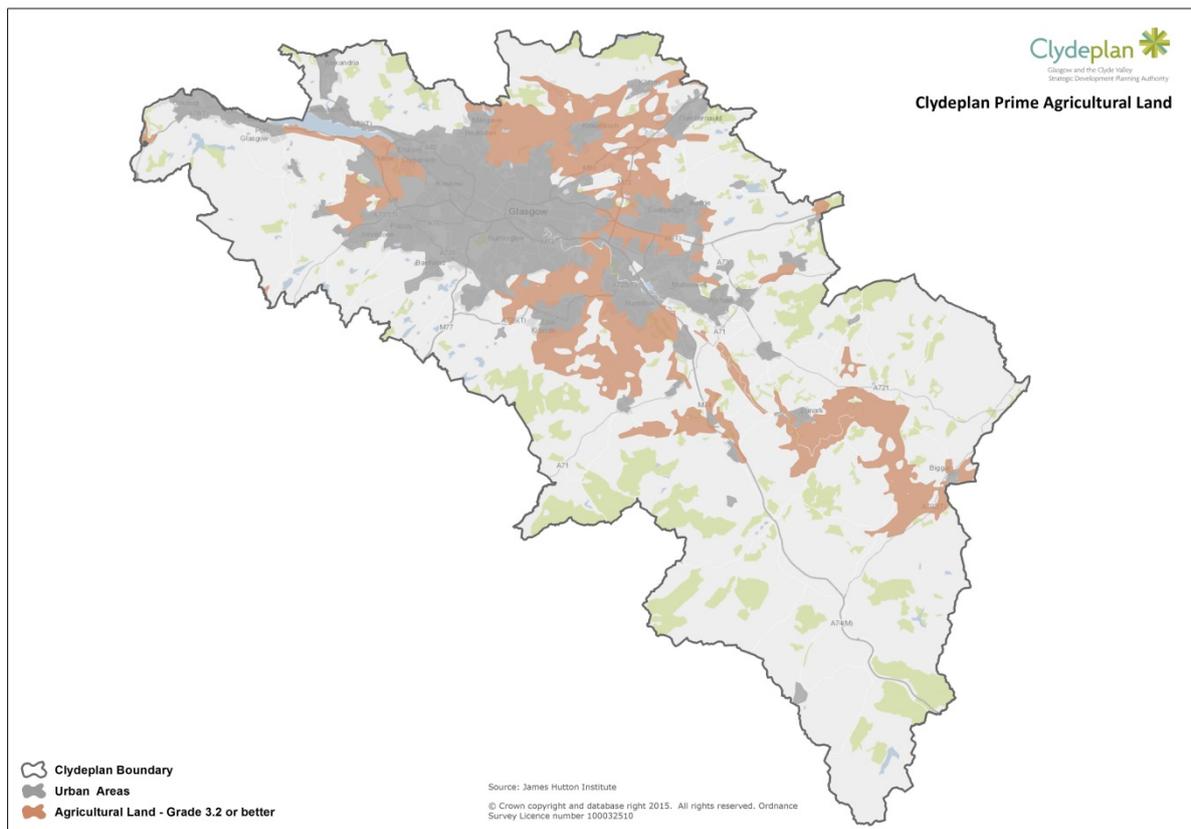
## Aggregates

- 2.4 There are sufficient hard rock and sand and gravel operational reserves to meet demand in the SDP area, but consented reserves of sand and gravels are forecast to be constrained beyond 2024. As a result additional locations will be required across the city region to ensure that distances from source to market are minimised. This report sets out a city region wide approach to sustainable minerals extraction.

## Mineral Resources in the City Region

- 2.5 Rather than identify areas of search or develop a specific spatial framework, Clydeplan considers that the whole area should be treated as an "Area of Search" due to the extensive range and geographical location of economically viable mineral resources within the city region. However, it should be noted that within the city region there are areas which are either unsuitable for minerals development or suitable for only limited minerals development because of their environmental sensitivity and proximity to settlements and communities.

**Figure 1: Clydeplan Prime Agricultural Land**



## Protecting the Environment

- 2.6 Clydeplan recognises the importance of protecting the environment and amenity of local communities and wildlife habitats. SPP directs planning authorities to take a broader approach to landscape and natural heritage than just conserving designated sites and species. This plan seeks to protect the wider environment of the city region by introducing a series of policies aimed at protecting the natural and built environment.

- 2.7 Clydeplan contains a diverse range of environments ranging from urban areas to remote rural areas. Each of these distinct areas has a variety of characteristics which require varying levels and types of protection. Some areas have the benefit of being protected by International or National Designations as a result of their rarity, fragility, biodiversity or sensitivity to development.
- 2.8 SPP identifies prime agricultural land as a finite resource which should be protected. Mineral extraction may be acceptable where restoration proposals will return the land to its former status (SPP paragraph 97). Mineral development should not result in a permanent and irreversible damage to prime agricultural land. The extent of prime quality agricultural land is shown on Figure 1.

### **Clydeplan Policy Position**

- 2.9 Clydeplan seeks to promote and facilitate mineral development to support continued economic growth and at the same time protect the environment and communities. This overarching approach is reflected in Policy 15 Natural Resource Planning.
- 2.10 Future mineral development proposals should be considered in the context of Strategic Development Plan Policy 15: Promoting Responsible Extraction of Resources, this Background Report and Strategic Development Plan Diagram 11: Assessment of Proposals. Local environmental considerations should be examined alongside the availability of mineral resources to explore the most suitable areas for new mineral extraction developments.

## **Strategic Development Plan Policy 15**

### **Natural Resource Planning**

#### **Mineral Resources Spatial Framework**

Clydeplan will seek to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals and to maintain a land bank for construction aggregates equivalent to at least 10 years extraction.

Proposals for mineral extraction will be supported where they are in accordance with the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy and with Local Development Plans. Proposals should balance economic benefit aligned to the protection of the environment and local communities from the potential impacts.

#### **Unconventional Oil and Gas extraction**

Any proposals for unconventional oil and gas extraction should be considered against Scottish Planning Policy and accord with the policies of the relevant Local Authority. The relevant local authorities will seek to ensure a consistent approach is taken in areas where licenses extend across Local Authority boundaries.

### **Other issues**

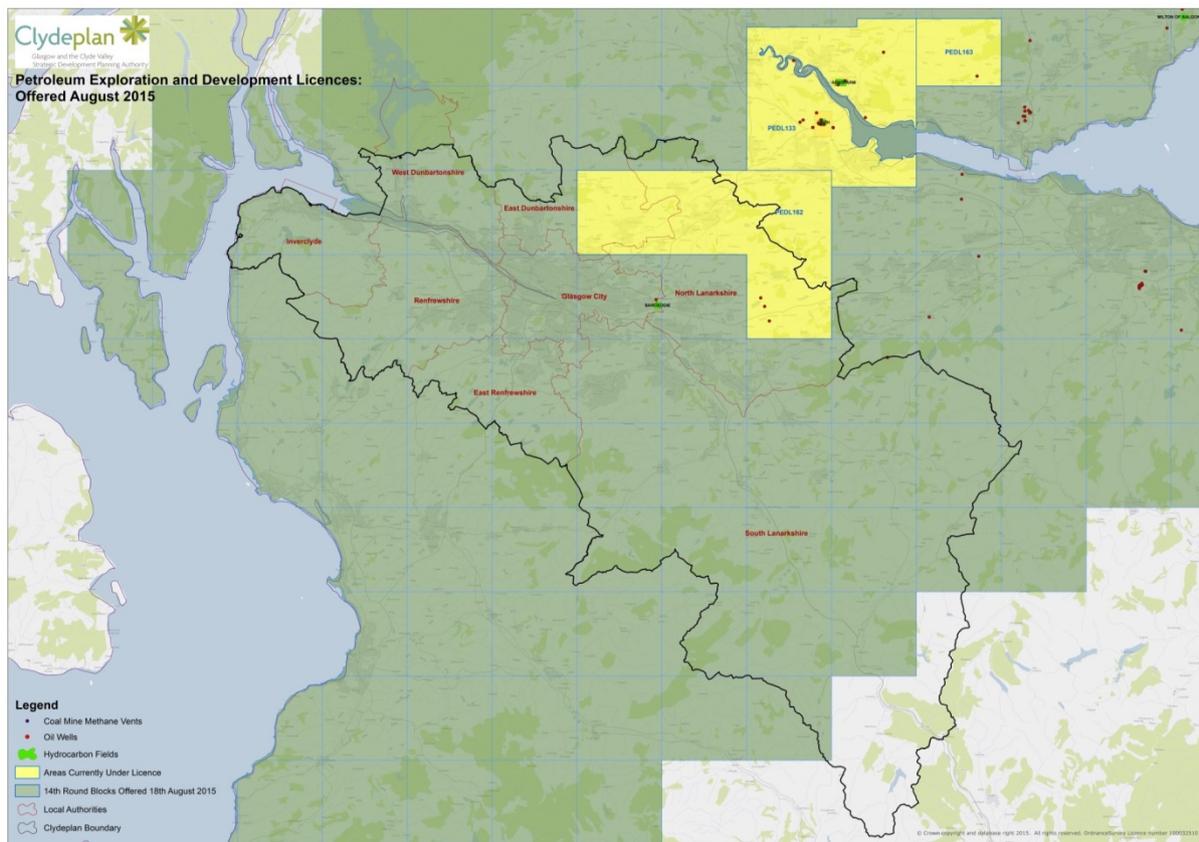
- 2.11 Restoration obligations associated with opencast coal in Clydeplan require intervention to ensure they are properly restored and the Scottish Mines restoration Trust assists communities restoring open-cast coal sites to develop viable restoration plans.

## Unconventional Onshore Oil and Gas Extraction

2.12 There is a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) area covering the north east part of the city region covering parts of East Dunbartonshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council. The Scottish Government issued a moratorium on onshore unconventional onshore oil and gas developments including hydraulic fracturing and underground coal gasification. This moratorium will remain in place until at least Spring 2017 when the Scottish Government concludes its consultation and evidence gathering on these issues. It is anticipated that Scottish Planning Policy will be updated as required at some point beyond this date. Future development proposals should be considered in the context of any updated SPP and also in terms of Diagram 11 Assessment of Development Proposals of the Strategic Development Plan. The potential exploitation of unconventional gas, such as coal bed methane, is recognised within NPF3 which highlights how it could contribute to indigenous energy supply in the medium term:

*“Reserves of coal bed methane in the Scottish midland valley (Central Belt) could contribute to secure energy supplies in the medium term but will require careful planning to avoid negative environmental and community impacts from extraction activities. A framework for this is set out in the Scottish Planning Policy. There is also a continuing need to actively address the impacts of past uses of the land, including minerals extraction, through restoration and enhancement.”<sup>4</sup>*

**Figure 1: Petroleum Exploration and Development (PEDL) Licences in Clydeplan**



<sup>4</sup> NPF3, June 2014, page48, paragraph 4.26



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