

BALLAST SUPPLY STRATEGY

The report focuses on the logistics of ballast supply within England and Wales.

The study achieved three objectives:

- A thorough investigation of current ballast supply practices, plans and ideas.
- Development of a detailed costing model, which will enable calculation of the transport costs associated with using specific quarries.
- An evaluation of alternative transport and supply options.

Two possibilities were not considered in the scope of the report, these being, recycled ballast and the operational and resource requirements of specific train services.

A selection of the key conclusions identified by the study are summarised below.

- Generally using fewer quarries in a given area will not save cost.
- Overall there may be scope for reducing rail transport costs by up to a third, without route changes.
- Transport costs are very sensitive to the class of locomotive used and to their maintenance costs.
- The scope for using road is likely to be very limited.
- In general, use of stock piles will not reduce transport costs.