

Background to Minerals Planning

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

November 2017 (version 3)

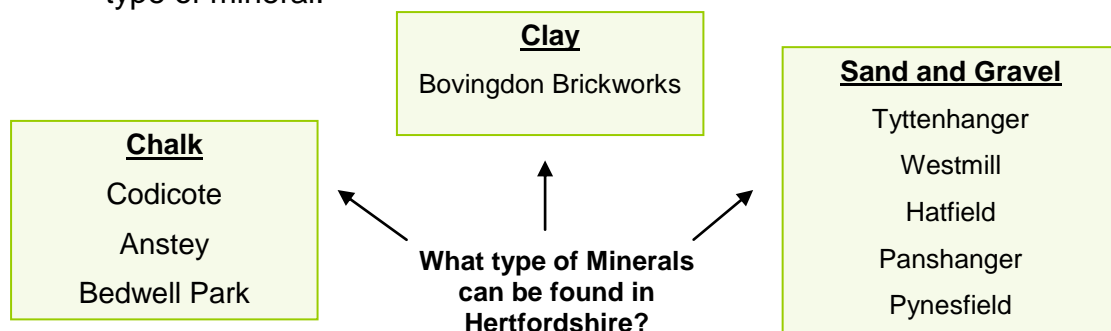
Q1. What is the Planning Framework for Minerals Planning?

Planning for minerals in Hertfordshire is guided by National Policy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 sets out the Government's policy for planning. Section 13, 'Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals' provides advice to mineral planning authorities. In addition the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was published in March 2014 as online guidance. The NPPG also highlights specific policy considerations for mineral planning and provides signposts to other guidance.

Planning in Hertfordshire is split between the district and borough councils and the county council. The county council is responsible for minerals and waste local plans which cover the entire county. The ten districts are responsible for district local plans in their area which set out policies for all development apart from minerals and waste.

Q2. What is the existing Minerals Local Plan?

- The existing Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan was adopted in March 2007
- The Minerals Local Plan sets out the planning framework for future minerals extraction and associated development whilst providing for environment protection.
- It relates to the whole of Hertfordshire and its provision covers the period 2002-2016
- The existing plan is divided into four key parts:
 1. An introduction and context for the national and local need for aggregates
 2. Strategic Policies relating to aggregate supply
 3. Operational Policies relating to how mineral extraction should take place
 4. Proposal Map and Inset Maps which identify existing sites and preferred areas for future working.
- Hertfordshire contains three main types of naturally occurring worked minerals as outlined below along with the existing active sites for each type of mineral:



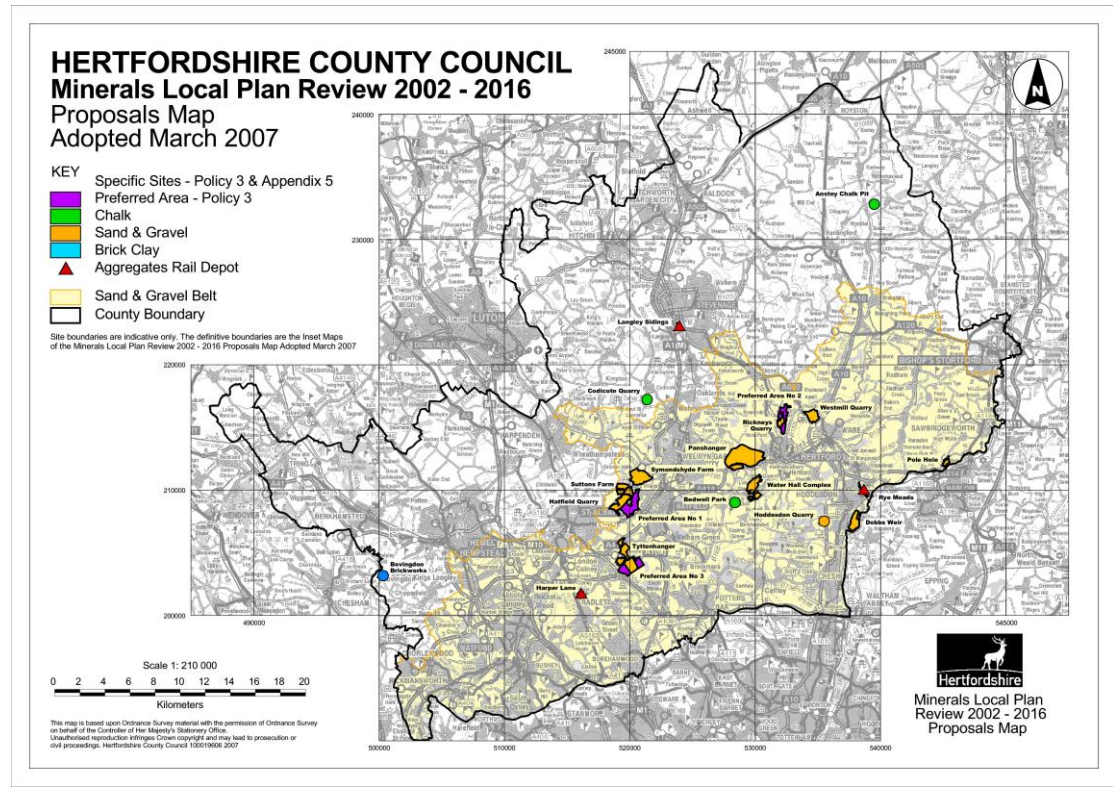
Sand and gravel in Hertfordshire is mostly used by the construction industry and chalk is extracted for use as an agricultural lime on farms both within and outside the county.

The existing plan also identifies three **Preferred Areas**. These are areas which are identified in the Plan as the locations favoured for the mineral working needed to meet the Plan's requirements. The precise boundaries of extraction within the Preferred Areas will be determined through the development management process, to ensure protection to adjacent areas and residents.

The current three preferred areas for sand and gravel are:

1. Land at BAe near to Hatfield Quarry
2. Land adjoining Rickneys Quarry
3. Land at Coursers Road near to Tyttenhanger Quarry

Since the Plan was adopted two of the preferred areas have been subject to planning permission; Land at Coursers Road and Rickneys.



Minerals Local Plan Review

The County Council is currently in the early stages of reviewing the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016. As the Minerals Planning Authority for Hertfordshire, the County Council is required to plan for future Minerals supply and maintain an up to date document, which reflects the existing opportunities for Mineral Developments within the County.

Whilst the Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016 is under review, it will continue to be used to determine Minerals applications until the adoption of the updated document has taken place. Each of the Policies within the Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016 have been 'saved' by a Direction under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 of the Secretary of State in March 2010 and therefore remain part of the Development Plan for Hertfordshire.

If you would like to know more about the production stages of the Minerals Local Plan Review or would like further information about the review process, please follow the useful links below Question 4.

Q3. What is the issue of mineral sterilisation?

Minerals can only be worked where they are found, therefore it is important to prevent the minerals being sterilised from other built development. Once non-mineral development or land-use changes occur on mineral bearing land it prevents the future extraction opportunities of the mineral resource, this is termed '**mineral sterilisation**'.

Avoiding mineral sterilisation through prior extraction is a key issue covered by Policy 5 of the existing Minerals Local Plan. In terms of working with the Local Planning Authorities, it is important to understand their local plan allocation and the impact this could have on minerals resource. All local planning authorities have a responsibility to safeguard minerals.

Q4. Where can I find more information?

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

For more information regarding the review process of the Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016, follow the link below, which takes you to the Minerals Local Plan Review Page on Hertfordshire County Council's Direct Website:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/planning-in-hertfordshire/minerals-and-waste-planning/minerals-planning/minerals-local-plan-review/minerals-local-plan-review.aspx>

Other County Council Documents Include:

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (2016)

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/environment-and-planning/planning/minerals-and-waste-development-scheme-november-2016.pdf>

The Local Aggregates Assessment (2017)

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-in-hertfordshire/minerals-planning/local-aggregate-assessment.pdf>

Authority Monitoring Report (2016/17)

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-in-hertfordshire/authoritys-minority-report/minerals-and-waste-development-framework-authoritys-monitoring-report-2017.pdf>

Contact Information

The Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team are also available to answer any specific queries you may have, our contact details can be seen below:

Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team

CHN 216

County Hall

Pegs Lane

Hertford, Hertfordshire

SG13 8DF

Email: minerals.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01992 556 227