

## **Chalk and Clay in Hertfordshire** Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

November 2017 (version 3)

### **Q1. What is Chalk and Clay?**

**Chalk** is a soft, fine grained white limestone. It originates from a build up of planktonic algae and now occurs as bedrock throughout most of the county. In Hertfordshire the chalk acts as a major aquifer and is an important source of groundwater.

**Clay** is a fine grained soil which results from the decomposing of rocks. Clay has a structure which allows the mineral to be impermeable to water. The thickness and quality of the deposit varies considerably across Hertfordshire.

### **Q2. How is Chalk and Clay extracted and processed?**

Chalk and clay are quarried in different parts of the county. They are extracted from the ground in a similar way to sand and gravel. The top soil is removed before the excavation of mineral through mechanical machinery. The extraction of clay and chalk in Hertfordshire is a much smaller scale operation than sand and gravel.



### **Q3. What are the uses of Chalk and Clay?**

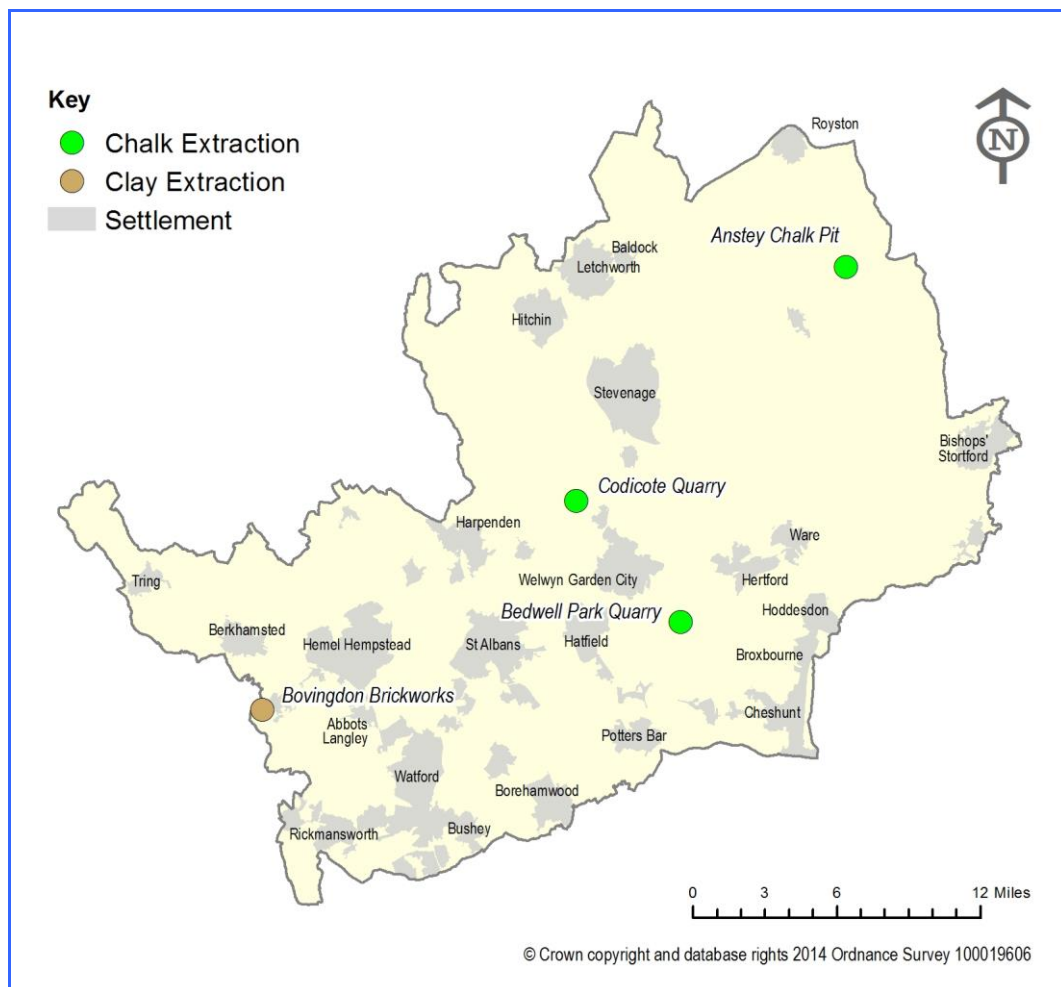
**Chalk** is primarily used for agriculture to raise the pH level in soils with high acidity.

**Clay** is used for brick making in Hertfordshire. The brick works in Bovington near Hemel Hempstead is a small works that produces mechanically made 'soft mud' facing bricks, although about 20% of production is in the form of hand-made stock bricks.

### **Q4. Chalk and Clay in Hertfordshire**

There are three chalk quarries in Hertfordshire and one brick clay quarry. The map below shows the locations of Hertfordshire's existing chalk and clay quarries.

The sole worked deposit of clay is in area close to Hemel Hempstead in Bovington. The deposit of brick clay in Bovington is not typical for Hertfordshire; the depth of the deposit can be up to 20m deep which is unusual



Map of Chalk and Clay sites in Hertfordshire

## Q5. Current planning policy in Hertfordshire

### **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 7.

Chalk and clay extraction is included within Minerals Policy 6 of the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016. The existing sites for chalk and clay are also included within the plan.

#### **MINERALS POLICY 6 – OTHER NON-ENERGY MINERALS**

**Proposals for chalk or clay extraction will only be permitted if:**

**i) it can be demonstrated that need for the mineral cannot be met adequately from existing permitted reserves or other sources; and**

**ii) The need for the mineral in question can clearly be demonstrated to outweigh all adverse effects of the proposed development.**

#### **Q6. Monitoring and enforcement: If planning permission were to be granted for chalk and clay extraction, how would it be monitored?**

Any planning permissions for chalk and clay extraction granted by Hertfordshire County Council will be subject to monitoring. Monitoring helps to ensure that all development is compliant with any planning permissions (and associated conditions or legal agreements) granted. If required, the County Council has powers to take enforcement action to ensure compliance with planning permissions granted by the County Council.

#### **Q7. Where can I find more information?**

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has information on the geology of Hertfordshire as well as specific documents about chalk and clay resource.  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>

The Minerals Products Association is the national trade association for the aggregates industry and has information online on agricultural and industrial lime. <http://www.mineralproducts.org/index.php>

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:

The 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 (2016)

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

Authority Monitoring Report [https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-](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)

[library/documents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-in-hertfordshire/authoritys-minority-report/minerals-and-waste-development-framework-authoritys-monitoring-report-2017.pdf](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:

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