

Policy Evidence Report

Policy 7: Chalk

**Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste
Local Plan 2040**

Hertfordshire County Council



Supporting Regulation 22(c)(iii)(iv)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Hertfordshire County Council is reviewing its adopted Minerals Local Plan, Waste Local Plan and supporting documents. These comprise the following documents (with adoption date):
 - Minerals Local Plan Review (March 2007)
 - Minerals Consultation Areas SPD (November 2007)
 - Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (November 2012)
 - Waste Site Allocations DPD (July 2014)
 - Employment Land Areas of Search SPD (November 2015)
- 1.2. The documents listed above are to be replaced by a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) covering the period to 2040. The new MWLP will set the overall spatial framework and development management policies for sustainable minerals and waste management development in Hertfordshire.
- 1.3. This Policy Evidence Report provides a context and justification for the creation of Policy 7: Chalk in the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

2. National Policy Context

- 2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) and National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provide the basis of national planning policy.
- 2.2. There is currently no national policy requirement to maintain a supply of permitted reserves because chalk previously extracted in Hertfordshire was not used as an industrial mineral. Due to the low use and unlikely requirement for further chalk supply in the county.

3. Local Context

- 3.1. Chalk extraction in Hertfordshire has historically been undertaken on a small scale and is not currently worked in the county. Chalk can be used as an industrial mineral in the production of cement, however in Hertfordshire it has predominantly been used as an agricultural lime on farmland.
- 3.2. The use of chalk is not assessed within the Hertfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment.

4. Minerals & Waste Local Plan Policy

4.1. Prior to the publication of the emerging MWLP, the Council was preparing separate Minerals and Waste Plans, which were at differing stages of production. The emerging Minerals Local Plan (MLP) was published for a Regulation 19 Proposed Submission consultation in 2019, and the emerging Waste Local Plan (WLP) was published for a Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation in 2021. These emerging Plans have now been brought together into a single MWLP. The Policy which this Evidence Report relates to has been formulated from one or more relevant policies in those previous emerging Plans, and takes into account the representations received at those previous stages of consultation.

Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan 2019

4.2. The Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan was published for a ten week Regulation 19 consultation from 14 January 2019 to 22 March 2019. This document included Policy 7: Chalk. The policy read as follows:

Policy 7: Chalk

Proposals for chalk extraction will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- there is a need for additional chalk supply for agricultural use; and
- the proposals are consistent with other policies within this Plan.

4.3. During the Regulation 19 consultation, 1 representation was made in relation to this policy. The representation is summarised below:

- a) The policy should include a set of criteria to prevent adverse impacts on neighbouring land uses, environment and the community.
- b) The policy should be consistent with local and neighbourhood plans.

4.4. The county council's response to the representations received is stated below:

- a) This policy does not include criteria for the prevention of adverse impacts as this is covered by the other plan policies. Any application for chalk extraction must be in accordance with all other policies in the plan.
- b) The policy in itself is not necessarily inconsistent with other Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Any application will be decided on its merits against the policies in the Development Plan for that area comprising the MWLP, the Local Plan and any Neighbourhood Plans.

5. Alternative Reasonable Options

5.1. The following alternative options have been considered (and fully assessed in the Sustainability Appraisal Report):

- Option 1 – No policy relating to chalk extraction
- Option 2 – A policy which supports proposals for chalk extraction where the need for additional chalk supply for agricultural use can be demonstrated (preferred)
- Option 3 – A policy which supports chalk extraction but does not limit it to agricultural use

6. Conclusion

6.1. This Policy Evidence Report demonstrates the justification for the inclusion of this policy in the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan Draft Plan. It summarises the national policy context and local context, along with the main issues raised through previous consultation and how the council has addressed those issues.

6.2. Any representations received on this policy at the Regulation 18 consultation stage will be carefully considered by the county council and used to inform any changes to the policy wording as appropriate.

6.3. This Policy Evidence Report was written to support the Draft Plan (Regulation 18) consultation. The next iteration of this report, to be published in support of the Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) version of the Plan, will summarise the main issues arising from the Regulation 18 consultation and will form part of the Regulation 22 statement, as set out by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.