

Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2040

Mineral Safeguarding Area Methodology

Hertfordshire County Council



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to provide information on the methodology for formation of the Hertfordshire Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in support of Policy 5: Mineral Safeguarding Areas of the Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (the Plan).
- 1.2. In December 2014 LUC and Cuesta Consulting were appointed by Hertfordshire County Council to review the Council's methodology for the identification of MSAs and Minerals Consultation Areas (MCAs). This work was carried out alongside site selection work in support of the emerging Minerals Local Plan, and is found at Chapter 5 of the document titled '*Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Site Selection Report: Final Report (updated) (August 2018)*'.
- 1.3. The 2018 report reviewed the Council's previous mineral site selection methodology (developed in 2015), amending and updating it where required, and then applying the methodology to identify suitable sites for the extraction of sand and gravel and brick clay in the county.
- 1.4. In December 2021 however, the Council formally withdrew the emerging Minerals Local Plan, alongside the emerging Waste Local Plan, and agreed to bring the work on those documents together into a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 1.5. The new Plan carries forward the preferred mineral allocations, and therefore the 2018 Site Selection Report forms part of the evidence base for the new Plan. However, for clarity and ease, the content of that 2018 report which relates specifically to Mineral Safeguarding (Chapter 5), has been re-drafted within this document, and updated where appropriate, e.g. where changes may have occurred to national policy and guidance, or to local circumstances, such as references to the Plan currently being prepared.
- 1.6. This document therefore summarises the methodology used in the 2018 report to identify the MSAs within the county. The 2018 report is available to view in full on the council's website at hertfordshire.gov.uk/mwlp.

2. Methodology

Sand and Gravel and Brick Clay

- 2.1. Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Consultation Areas are fundamental in ensuring the availability of minerals for use by future generations and to prevent their needless sterilisation. The safeguarding of these resources also helps to ensure that a steady and adequate supply can be maintained in order to support economic growth.

Definitions:

Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) – an area designated by a Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) which covers known deposits of minerals which are desired to be kept safeguarded from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development.

Minerals Consultation Area (MCA) – a geographical area, based on a Mineral Safeguarding Area, where the district or borough council should consult the MPA for any proposals for non-minerals development.¹

- 2.2. The basic procedures for minerals safeguarding are set out in the BGS guidance². This is explicitly referenced in the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (most recently revised in March 2014) and is therefore a formal expectation of national policy.
- 2.3. The procedures comprise the following sequential steps:
- Step 1: Identify the best geological and mineral resource information.
 - Step 2: Decide which mineral resources to safeguard and the physical extent of MSAs.
 - Step 3: Undertake Consultation on MSAs.
 - Step 4: Decide on the approach to safeguarding in the Local Plan.
 - Step 5: Include Development Management Policies in the Local Plan.
 - Step 6: Include safeguarding in District-level Local Plans.
 - Step 7: Include mineral assessments in the local list of information requirements.

¹ NPPF 2021, paragraph 210

² Mineral Safeguarding in England: Good Practice Advice. Wrighton et. al., 2011.

- 2.4. Step 1 comprised the BGS digital resource information together with relevant material (including borehole data) from the Industrial Mineral Assessment Unit (IMAU) reports and any other readily available information which was able to be used to refine the BGS maps, following the advice set out in section 4.1 of the BGS guidance. In practice, this primarily involved excluding areas of resource which have already been worked.
- 2.5. The starting point for Step 2 was that the MSAs should cover only sand and gravel and brick clay resources. The physical extent of those resources has been based on the detailed information identified in Step 1. In accordance with paragraphs 4.2.9 to 4.2.11 of the BGS guidance, the MSAs cover the whole of the mapped resource areas and do not exclude areas which are already subject to other designations or those which are already sterilised by existing urban development. Rather, they are defined purely by the physical boundaries of the resource itself (including areas concealed beneath overburden, where this is shallow enough to permit economic extraction of the mineral) together with a suggested 'buffer' of 100 metres (constituting the MCAs).
- 2.6. The Step 3 consultation formed part of the public consultation alongside the Draft Minerals Local Plan in 2017. However, this methodology, as with all supporting documentation, will also form part of the Regulation 18 consultation on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Draft Plan, in order to give the public further opportunity to comment on the continuing validity of this approach.
- 2.7. Steps 4 to 6, relating to the development of corresponding policies etc. are beyond the scope of this study. Policy 4: Site Safeguarding and Consultation Areas, Policy 5: Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Appendix 3: Safeguarding of Minerals and Waste Infrastructure and Resources of the Draft Plan, set out the approach to safeguarding in the Plan (both for MSAs and minerals related development).
- 2.8. Step 7, relating to the determination of planning applications within MSAs, is also beyond the scope of this site selection study.

Chalk

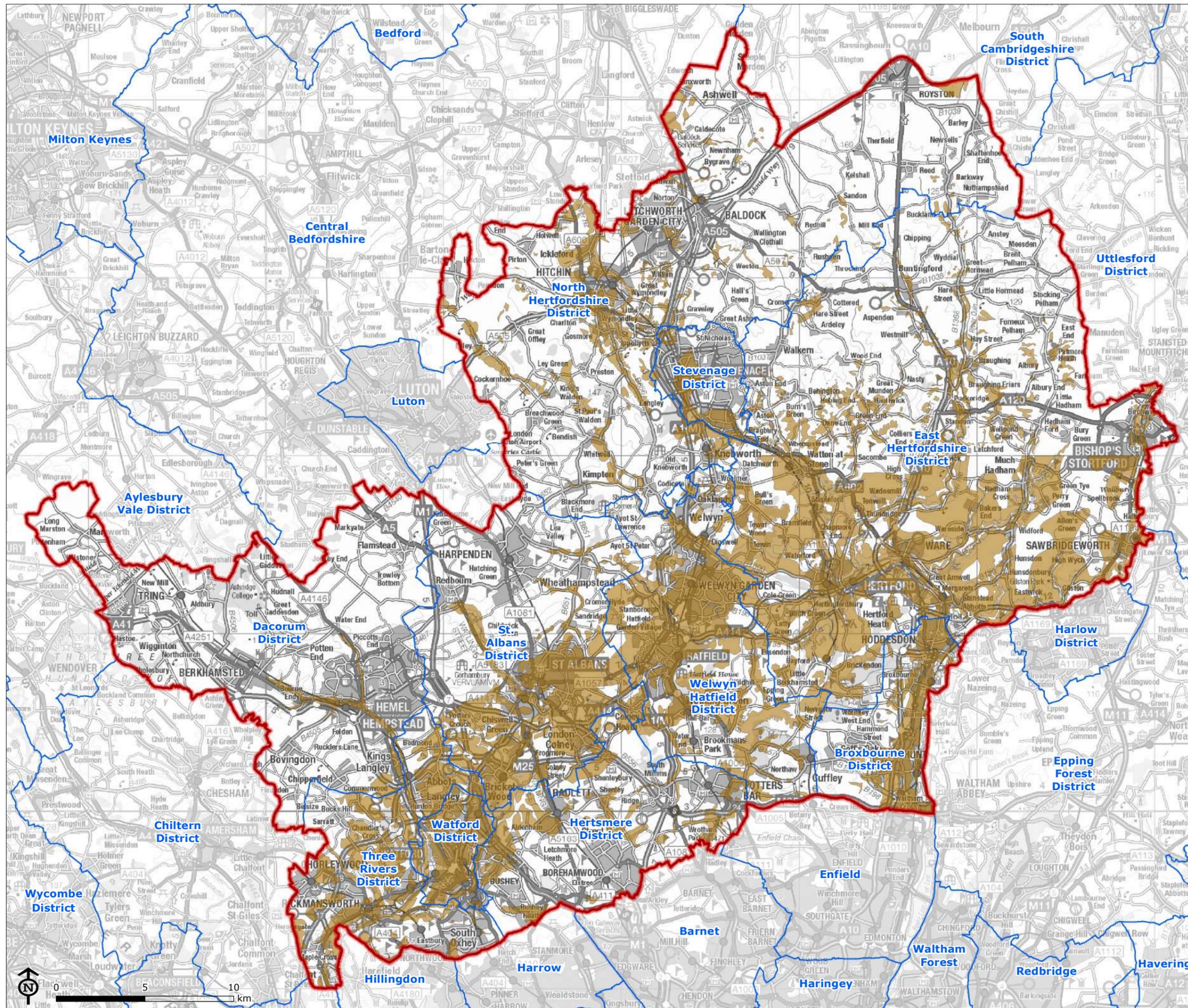
- 2.9. The scale of working for chalk has historically been relatively small. Chalk has been quarried at a small number of sites to the north and west of the sand and gravel belt for use as an agricultural lime on farms. Currently there is only one chalk working in the county, at Bedwell, and this is used for agricultural purposes.

- 2.10. There are no national policy requirements to maintain a supply of permitted reserves because chalk previously extracted in Hertfordshire was not used as an industrial mineral. Owing to the low use and unlikely requirement for further chalk supply in the county, no MSA or MCA is identified for chalk resources.

3. Minerals Consultation Area Extent

- 3.1. The 2018 report included a set of maps created by LUC with BGS mineral data. These maps are repeated below and highlight (for both brick clay and sand and gravel) the extent of the mineral resource, along with the proposed Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA). These MSAs (and the data supporting them), which incorporate the 100m buffer zone surrounding the resource, have been used in the Draft Plan and are shown on the Policies Map.

Figure 5.1: Sand & Gravel Resources in Hertfordshire



- Hertfordshire County boundary
- District boundary
- *Sand & gravel resources

* Derived from 1:50,000 scale BGS digital data under Licence 2000/035, British Geological Survey © NERC'

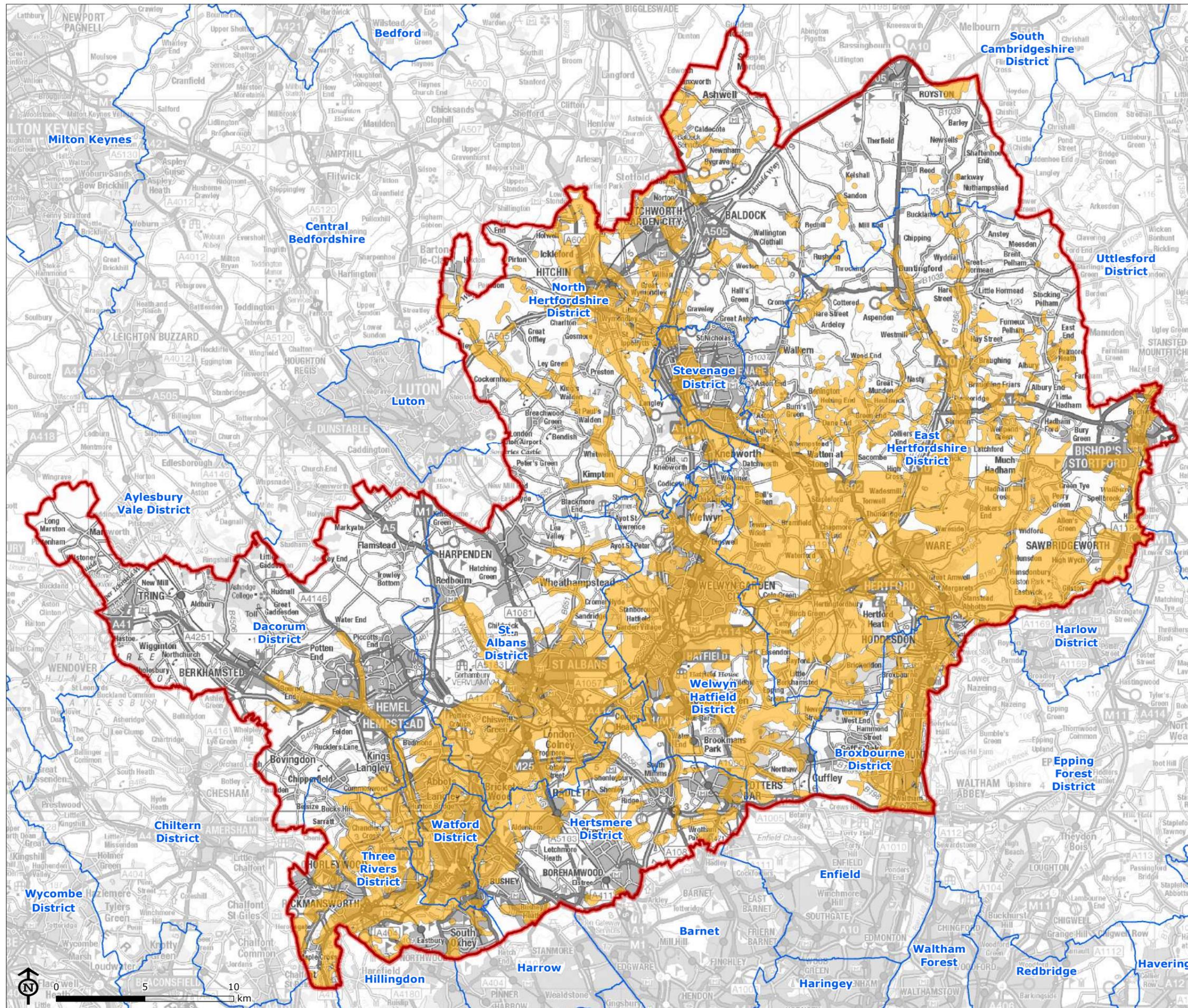
Map Scale @ A3: 1:210,000



Figure 5.2: Proposed Mineral Safeguarding Areas for Sand & Gravel Resources in Hertfordshire

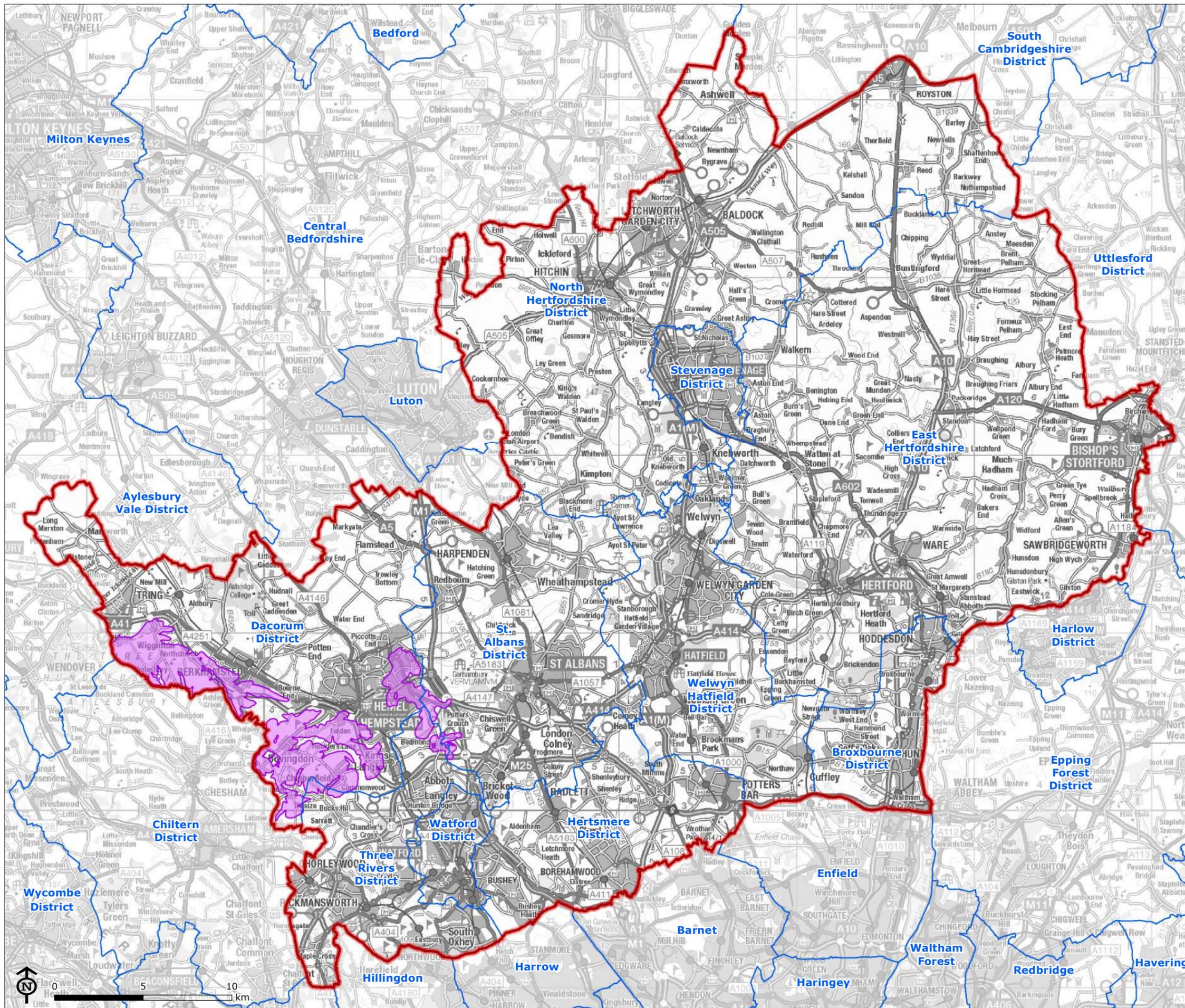
-  Hertfordshire County boundary
-  District boundary
-  *Proposed Mineral Safeguarding Area (Sand & Gravel), includes 100m buffer

*Derived from 1:50,000 scale BGS digital data under Licence 2000/035, British Geological Survey © NERC



Map Scale @ A3: 1:210,000





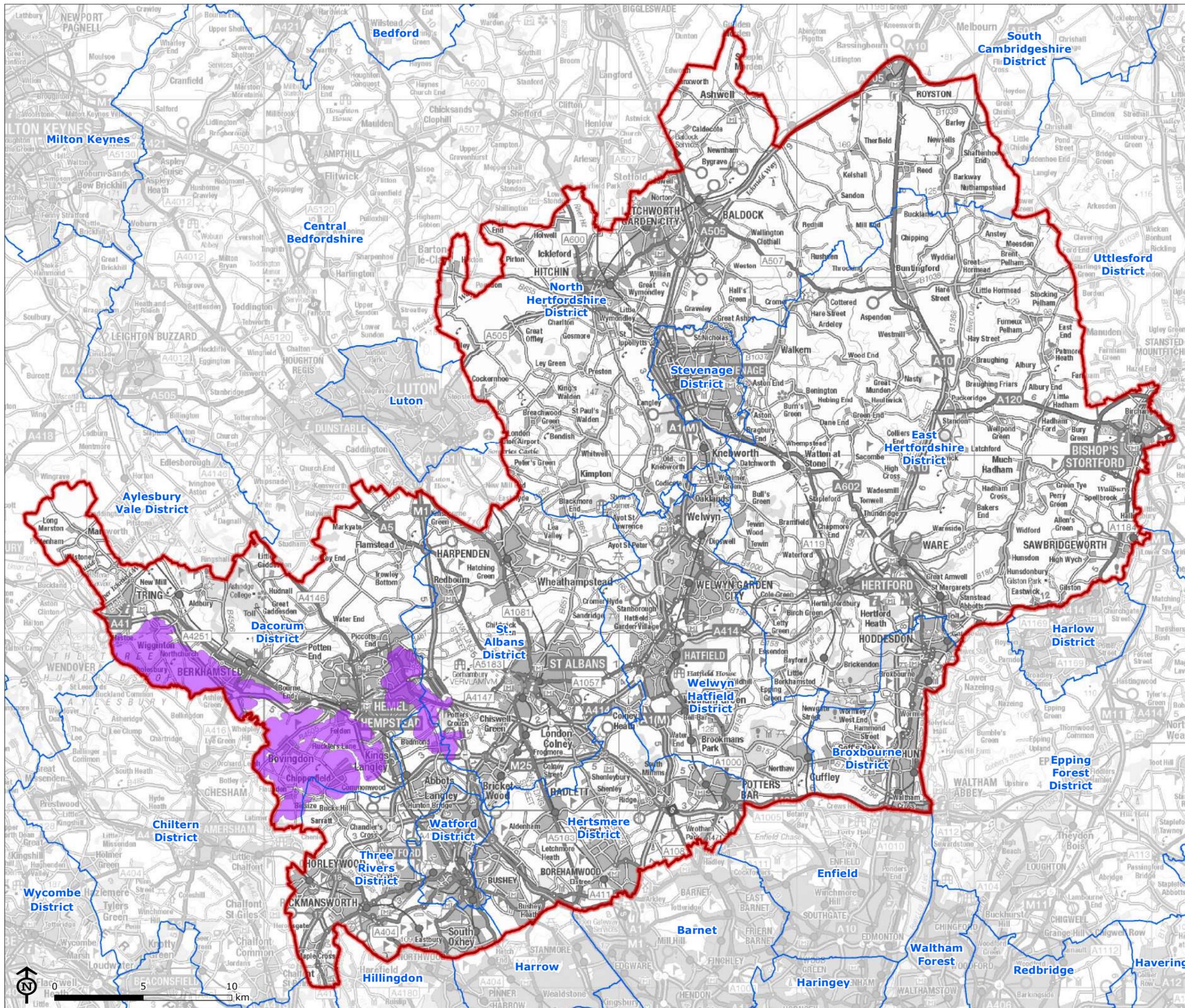
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Figure 5.3: Brick Clay Resources in Hertfordshire

- Hertfordshire County boundary
- District boundary
- *Brick clay resources

*Derived from 1:50,000 scale BGS digital data under Licence 2000/035, British Geological Survey © NERC'

Map Scale @ A3: 1:210,000



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Figure 5.4: Proposed Mineral Safeguarding Areas for Brick Clay Resources in Hertfordshire

- Hertfordshire County boundary
- District boundary
- *Proposed Mineral Safeguarding Area (Brick Clay), includes 100m buffer

*Derived from 1:50,000 scale BGS digital data under Licence 2000/035, British Geological Survey © NERC

Map Scale @ A3: 1:210,000

LUC

Cuesta Consulting Limited.

Hertfordshire