

HERTFORDSHIRE MINERALS

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

2002-2016

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MINERALS POLICY 4 ~ APPLICATIONS OUTSIDE PREFERRED AREAS

Applications to develop land for aggregate extraction outside of the Preferred Areas will be refused planning permission unless:

- i) the landbank is below the required level and there is a need for the proposal to maintain the County's appropriate contribution to local, regional and national need that cannot be met from the identified areas; and**
- ii) it can be demonstrated that the proposals would not prejudice the timely working of Preferred areas; or**
- iii) the sterilisation of resources will otherwise occur.**

3.6 Mineral Sterilisation

3.6.1 Mineral resources are essential to the wider community. To prevent their permanent loss, and in accordance with national and regional guidance, the Structure Plan, the Minerals Local Plan and most of the district local plans include policies to resist the sterilisation of minerals when other development is proposed, by encouraging its prior extraction. Mineral extraction proposals at these sites would still have to accord with all other relevant policies of this plan.

3.6.2 Minerals Policy 5 seeks to ensure that the appropriate weight is accorded to the prior extraction of minerals which would otherwise be sterilised, or which would enhance land use proposals by improving despoiled land. It also seeks to ensure that such areas are accorded priority ahead of extraction outside the identified areas in the Plan to ensure timely working of the mineral in co-ordination with other development. To assist with the implementation of this policy, as an interim measure until such time as Development Plan Documents are prepared, the County Council will identify Mineral Consultation Areas as a Supplementary Planning Document, for subsequent inclusion in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

MINERALS POLICY 5 ~ MINERAL STERILISATION

Mineral extraction will be encouraged prior to other development taking place where any significant mineral resource would otherwise be sterilised, or where despoiled land would be improved following restoration.

The County Council will object to any development proposals within, or adjacent to areas of potential mineral resource, which would prevent, or prejudice potential future mineral extraction unless it is clearly demonstrated that:

- i) the land affected does not contain potentially workable mineral deposits; and/or**
- ii) there is an overriding need for the development; and**
- iii) the mineral cannot practically be extracted in advance.**

3.7 Other non-energy minerals

3.7.1 Whilst sand and gravel deposits provide the main mineral resource for the county there are limited brickclay resources, together with chalk which is predominantly worked for agricultural lime. Existing consents for these minerals will ensure a continued supply up to and beyond the end of the Plan period.

3.7.2 Current national guidance does not require the maintenance of a stock of planning permissions (or landbank) in the same way as for aggregates. In policy terms any applications for chalk or brick clay within the county are judged on general considerations common to every type of mineral development. Although many of the policies within the Plan are relevant to the working of other minerals, Minerals Policy 6 provides an overarching policy in respect of proposed clay and chalk workings.

3.7.3 Much of the County's clay and chalk is in the Chilterns AONB and so any application would be carefully considered against Minerals Policy 17 and all other policies of 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.**

3.8 Secondary and recycled materials

3.8.1 The County Council is committed to promoting the use of alternative materials to primary land-won aggregates in order to make the most sustainable use of scarce resources. Policies in the Adopted Waste Local Plan reinforce this commitment and district councils are being encouraged to include policies