

Chalk

6.110 Chalk is plentiful in Hampshire⁽¹⁵⁴⁾ and was widely used in the past. However, there is now only limited demand, mainly for use in agriculture or industry⁽¹⁵⁵⁾. This means that chalk resources do not need to be safeguarded. Hampshire has a number of existing and active chalk extraction sites which are sufficient to meet Hampshire's current and expected future demand for chalk. These sites will be safeguarded to protect production capacity. This is considered in more detail in the section on 'Safeguarding mineral infrastructure'.



6.111 Although Hampshire's existing chalk extraction sites are considered to be sufficient to meet current and future demand, new proposals for the small-scale extraction of chalk may still be promoted during the Plan period, so a policy framework that allows applications to be considered is necessary.

Policy 23: Chalk development

The small-scale extraction of chalk will only be supported for agricultural and industrial uses in Hampshire. Extraction of chalk for other uses, such as aggregate, a fill material or for engineering will not be supported.

- 6.112** Small-scale chalk extraction is defined as extraction of up to 25,000 tonnes of chalk per annum.
- 6.113** Agricultural uses may include agricultural liming and in industry it may be used as a whitening agent. The need for chalk development will need to be clearly demonstrated.
- 6.114** Several currently permitted chalk extraction sites in Hampshire are dormant. Dormant sites are those which have planning permission for chalk extraction but are not currently active. Many have not been active for a long period of time and are in less favourable locations. This may include sites where there is poor access or where sites are located in important landscape areas such as the South Downs National Park. This means that many of Hampshire's dormant chalk extraction sites are in areas which are unsuitable for modern quarrying methods. All dormant sites in Hampshire will be re-assessed in the event of re-commencement of extraction by the relevant Mineral Planning Authority to ensure that the re-commencement will not cause negative environmental or amenity impacts. In areas considered to be unsuitable for modern quarrying methods, further chalk extraction will be restricted. This will include dormant sites located in the South Downs National Park.

¹⁵⁴ Minerals in Hampshire: Background Study, section 4.2.4, paragraph 4.13

¹⁵⁵ Minerals in Hampshire: Background Study, section 4.2.4, paragraph 4.14