

Preferred Areas

Minerals Preferred Areas

'Preferred Areas' are defined within the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan as:

"Areas of land with reasonable evidence for the existence of commercially extractable minerals, which are largely unaffected by substantial planning constraints and which are adequate, collectively, to meet the anticipated need for mineral."

Learn how the sites have been allocated

The plan identifies six Preferred Areas in the eastern section of the upper Thames valley from which the county's sharp sand and gravel needs will be met. Specifically these are:

1. Land east of Latton
2. Eysey Manor Farm
3. Alex Farm
4. Land north west of Water Eaton House.
5. Round House Farm
6. Land north west of Latton

It also identifies an area for future chalk extraction in Westbury. The Preferred Area identified is adjacent to the existing chalk quarry. However, as both chalk and clay are required in combination to produce cement, any new chalk reserves permitted would need to be accompanied by a complimentary allocation for clay. That said, the increased use of Pulverised Fuel Ash (P.F.A.) in recent times as a clay substitute has potentially reduced requirements for this mineral in the future. This is not to say however that there will be no requirement for clay, which could be used, should P.F.A. prove to be an unsuccessful or non-viable alternative at some stage in the future. Accordingly, the Preferred Area for Clay is identified north of Capps Lane in Westbury.

In addition, it is possible that some land outside the Preferred Area boundaries may have to be included in any proposals for the development of Preferred Areas. This may have to be done in order, for example, to provide access to the site from the public highway, to allow for the storage of soil for restoration purposes, or to ensure that additional landscaping can be undertaken. The details of any such proposals can only be established at the planning application stage. However, actual mineral extraction beyond the boundaries of the Preferred Areas will not normally be permitted without good justification.