

The chalk quarries

Beneath most of Denmark, there are huge deposits of chalk from the Cretaceous Period and the following geological epochs. Cretaceous is the geological period, that spans from 145.5 million to 65.5 million years ago.

Today, the chalk has become visible in many places as white cliffs above what once was the sea in the Stone Age. To the east of the village of Sønder Kongerslev just peel a small layer of soil, and the chalk will appear.

The chalk or the calcium carbonate is a valuable resource. The chalk is used to improve the soil for cultivated plants, but also applies to other industries and as an addition in feeding stuffs.

When the weather is permitting, there is a rush of work on the huge production field that the local open pit quarry has developed into. Large machines loosen and process the chalk for further processing in the machinery and kilns in the factory buildings in the area.

The chalk has been extracted for generations next to Sønder Kongerslev. The first chalk quarries were underground mines. At several locations in the area, the local workers worked with hand tools inside the cramped mine tunnels.

These underground mines are now abandoned. Some have collapsed, others have been conquered as the home of large flocks of bats.

In the subsoil around Kongerslev there is expected to be enough chalk for extraction for more than fifty years in the future.



Chalk of Kongerslev, East of the village Sønder Kongerslev, June 2018