

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL MSP 01

BOURNEMOUTH DORSET AND POOLE MINERAL SITES PLAN

1-Corfe Castle Parish Council offers the following statement on the Matters, Issues and Questions, which the Inspector will be addressing. The Parish extends from Poole Harbour including Wytch Farm oil field to Swyre Head and Chapman's Pool on the English Channel. The Parish includes the proposed extension site to Swanworth Quarry and the village of Kingston. All the traffic for the other Purbeck Stone quarries in the peninsula travels through the village of Corfe Castle. The size of quarry lorries has been increasing and one quarry already uses articulated lorries to convey stone.

General

2-The Parish Council has a long-standing view that it should not adopt a NIMBY attitude on principle. If there is a national or regional need for minerals, which can only be met by this area the Council, should seek mitigation of the problems caused by any development. It has not opposed the Wytch Farm development and recognises that it is one of the few areas available for high quality ball clay and Purbeck Stone extraction.

3-There has been a quarry at Swanworth for centuries and the current site is well managed by local people, employs local people in good jobs and the restoration has been carefully carried out. The current and proposed site for crushed Portland Stone however does not produce minerals, which are exclusive to Purbeck: see our response to MIQ178.

4-The new extension site however is some distance from the existing site and will be reached by a newly created cutting. It will be much closer to settlement in Kingston and will be a significant encroachment on the AONB. If the quarry proposal could not be linked to the existing quarry it would have had to be regarded as a **new** proposal. Arguably **it is a new proposal** not an extension. In those circumstances it is doubtful whether a new proposal would have ever been considered as an option for the AONB.

Response to MIQs

5-MIQ178-The council accepts that we need more infrastructures and housing for an increasing population and that crushed stone is required for this. However the Council notes that there is already a 48-year land bank for crushed stone, which seriously weakens the case for the extension. There may however be a greater need for crushed stone than is provided for in the Plan, reasons for retaining a quarry in this part of Dorset due to location or serious issues with the alternatives. The CCPC recognises that it is not well qualified to make an overall judgement on these issues which will be for the Inspector to assess.

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6-MIQ182. The major impact for Corfe Castle is the cumulative effect of lorry traffic on both the residential part of Corfe Castle (principally the very long East Street) and the area by the village square. The corner by the village square/Bankes Arms is at right angles and narrow and it is impossible for two lorries/buses to pass each other. The Castle, heritage railway and village attracts over 300,000 visitors a year and there is severe pedestrian and vehicular congestion and conflict in the peak summer months. The current Swanworth quarry has permission for 70 lorry movements a day but currently does not use them all. The cessation of quarrying in 2026 and its lorry movements if the extension was not agreed would clearly be of benefit to local residents and visitors.

The impact of heavy lorry movements on the village is the greatest concern of the residents of Corfe Castle.

7-The route to Corfe Castle is via Kingston where there is another right angle bend by the Scott Arms and a very steep hill down to Corfe Castle. The whole peninsula has become a favoured area for cyclists including this route and the potential for cycle/vehicular conflict has increased. Although there are no recorded accidents in recent years local residents are worried about the potential impact of lorry cycle conflict and vehicle failure.

8-At any planning application stage the Council would argue for a limit on the size of vehicles –the current 20 ton lorries are large enough and there should be no articulated lorries.

9-MIQ183 World Heritage Site. The Jurassic Coast is a world heritage site because of its unique geological history not because the coast is exceptionally beautiful (which it is). However there is an expectation by the public that landscape world heritage sites and its immediate environment are not spoiled by industrial activities which spoil the beauty. Tourism is the major industry of this area and everyone works hard to enhance and preserve its beauty and tranquillity. (The government exceptionally refused an off shore wind farm because it could have threatened its WH status.)

10-MIQ185. The Council shares the concern about the visual impact of the proposed extension and the impact on the AONB. Although a bund is proposed to disguise the quarry from the Kingston side there will be a visual impact from the Worth Matravers side. The council meetings we have held to discuss this issue have been packed with residents concerned about the extension proposal.

11-MIQ190 The site is currently agricultural and should be restored for agricultural use as soon as possible.