

## Minerals Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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# 1 Introduction

# 1 Introduction

## Minerals Policy Documents - Sustainability Appraisal

### Introduction

**1.1** This scoping report is intended to establish the scope of the sustainability appraisal of the Development Plan Documents being prepared by Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Councils. 'Scope' means the range of information to be collected to form the evidence baseline for the minerals documents, the range of other policy documents relevant to and impacting on minerals planning in Dorset and the coverage of sustainability objectives required to properly assess the sustainability and potential impacts of the emerging Minerals Core Strategy.

**1.2** The scoping report includes a series of topic papers which collectively establish the developing evidence base to be used in the production of the minerals policy documents (initially, the Minerals Core Strategy) and also used in developing and carrying out the required sustainability appraisal. A key outcome from this report is the series of sustainability objectives which will be used in the future stages of the sustainability appraisal of minerals documents. These are set out in section 5, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

**1.3** The scoping report was originally compiled and consulted on during a period from 2006 to 2007. It was reviewed and updated during a period from 2009 to 2010 in order to ensure that the evidence base and sustainability objectives properly reflect the current policy background and issues relevant to minerals planning in Dorset.

## 2 Background

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### The Planning System and Sustainability Appraisal

**2.1** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced major changes to the planning system, including the replacement of existing Minerals and Waste Local Plans by a Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF). The Framework will comprise a series of development plan documents (DPDs) setting out minerals and waste policies and identifying sites for future development. The DPDs will be monitored regularly to allow for appropriate changes to be made. In addition to minerals and waste development documents, the Framework will include a development scheme (MWDS), an annual monitoring report (AMR) and a statement of community involvement (SCI). It may also include supplementary planning documents (SPDs).

**2.2** Sustainability appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy. Its role is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan or strategy can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have.

**2.3** The new Planning Act requires that DPDs and SPDs should be subject to sustainability appraisal. Scoping reports are required to document the first major stage of the sustainability appraisal for the emerging minerals DPDs - the 'scoping' stage - to ensure that the work is being carried out in enough detail to properly assess the sustainability of the policy documents. The statutory consultees (see section 7) and any other stakeholders wishing to comment will have a chance to review and comment on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.

### Sustainability

**2.4** The most commonly accepted definition of sustainable development is:

'...development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Brundtland Commission Report, 1987)'

**2.5** In 1999, the Government set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy 'A Better Quality of Life'. These were:

- social progress which recognises the needs for everyone
- effective protection of the environment
- the prudent use of natural resources, and
- the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

**2.6** In 2005, the Government published a new sustainable development strategy *Securing the Future - UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy*. The 2005 Strategy brings a new approach to how the Government will integrate the aims of the 1999 Strategy and how it intends to evolve sustainable development policy. The guiding principles of the new strategy are:

- Living Within Environmental Limits – Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations;
- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society – Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all;

- Achieving a Sustainable Economy – Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and there are incentives for efficient resource use;
- Promoting Good Governance – Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society– engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity; and
- Using Sound Science Responsibly – Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

**2.7** The shared priorities for action contained in Securing the Future include preparing for the climate change that cannot now be avoided and creating sustainable communities that embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level.

### **Legislative framework and other assessments**

**2.8** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires sustainability appraisal of all DPDs and SPDs as mentioned above.

**2.9** The European Strategic Environment Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC requires an environmental assessment of plans and programmes prepared by public authorities that are likely to have significant effect upon the environment. This process is referred to commonly as Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA. A key requirement of the SEA process is the production of an environmental report describing the likely significant effects of implementation of the plan and alternative options which were considered when producing the plan.

**2.10** The sustainability appraisal process incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”. This scoping report ensures that both sustainability appraisal and SEA are fully considered and that when the sustainable appraisal is ultimately reported on it will incorporate the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan in one document.

**2.11** The EU Habitat Regulations Article 6 (4) and (5) requires appropriate assessment if the integrity of the Natura 2000 network is affected adversely by land use plans, including regional spatial strategies and development plan documents. The Natura 2000 network provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites which are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the EU. Appropriate assessment of plans is intended to ensure that protection of the integrity of European sites is part of the planning process at a regional and local level. Appropriate assessment of the Natura 2000 network will be integrated with the process of plan making.

**2.12** Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk requires that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Planning authorities are required to prepare Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) in consultation with the Environment Agency and other operating authorities to contribute to and inform the sustainability appraisal of the planning policy documents (PPS 25). All the Dorset Districts together with Bournemouth and Poole already have SFRAs in place for their areas. Dorset County Council is preparing to commission consultants to produce a county-wide SFRA.

## The Overall Sustainability Appraisal Process

**2.13** Table 2.1 gives a general indication of the stages of the overall sustainability appraisal/SEA process in relation to preparation of the minerals development plan documents. The current stage, including production of the scoping report, is highlighted.

**Table 2.1 Stages of the DPD Preparation and Sustainability Appraisal Process**

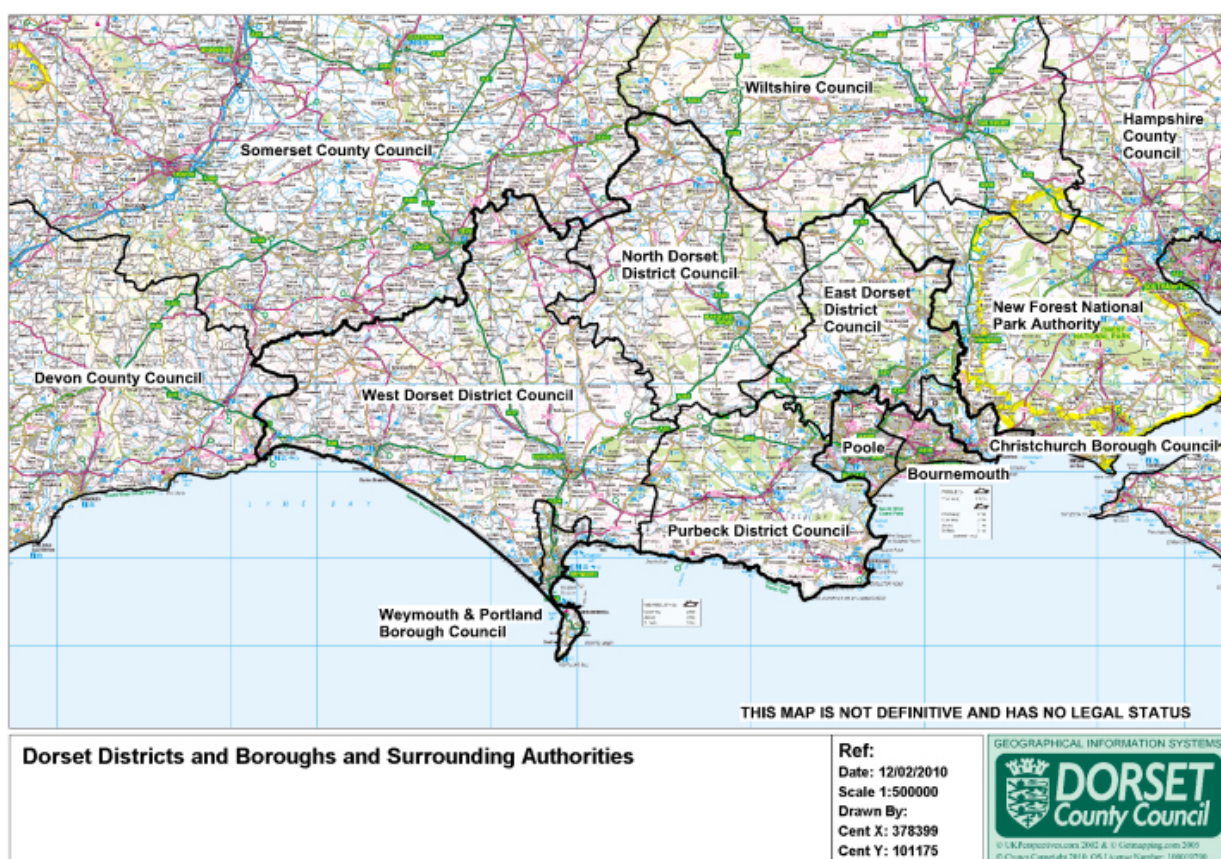
Minerals DPD Main Stages - Activities	SA / SEA Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather evidence</li> <li>• Begin preparation of the DPDs including initial consultation and stakeholder involvement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify relevant policies, plans, programmes</li> <li>• Collect baseline information</li> <li>• Identify the sustainability issues and objectives to be used for later appraisal</li> <li>• Prepare Scoping Report and undertake (limited) consultation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare DPD including ongoing evidence gathering, consultation and stakeholder involvement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test the DPD objectives against the sustainability appraisal objectives.</li> <li>• Consider options and alternatives.</li> <li>• Develop and refine the options for the DPD.</li> <li>• Predict and appraise the significant effects of the options.</li> <li>• Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial impacts.</li> <li>• Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the development plan document.</li> <li>• Preparation of sustainability appraisal report, including documentation of the appraisal process.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish DPD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish sustainability appraisal report alongside the draft DPD, setting out how the appraisal was carried out and how options were assessed and carried forward.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit DPD to Secretary of State.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit sustainability appraisal report and any revisions or supplements to Secretary of State alongside the draft DPD.</li> <li>• Provide consultation statement with details of consultation undertaken.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspector undertakes independent examination of DPD.</li> <li>• Receive Inspector's binding report.</li> <li>• Adopt DPD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability appraisal report examined alongside DPD.</li> </ul>

Minerals DPD Main Stages - Activities	SA / SEA Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor DPD and report in annual monitoring report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the significant effects of implementing the adopted development plan document, as set out in sustainability appraisal report.</li> </ul>

### Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole - Administrative Areas and Current Policy Documents

**2.14** The plan area for the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Development Plan Documents will include the six district and borough councils in Dorset together with the two unitary authorities of Bournemouth and Poole. Located within the South West region, it borders onto Wiltshire and Somerset to the north, Devon to the west and Hampshire to the east. Cross border issues are an important consideration in minerals planning in terms of the geographical location of mineral resources, transportation and environmental impacts.

**Map 2.1 Administrative Areas**



**2.15** The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals and Waste Plan was adopted in 1999. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2006. Relevant policies of both plans have been saved and will systematically be replaced as the minerals DPDs are produced and adopted.

**2.16** All of the Dorset boroughs, districts and unitary authorities have adopted local plans or other policy documents:



- Bournemouth District Wide Local Plan (February 2002)
- Poole Core Strategy (February 2009) and Poole Local Plan First Alteration (March 2004)
- Borough of Christchurch Adopted Local Plan (March 2001)
- East Dorset District Council Adopted Local Plan (January 2002)
- North Dorset District Council Adopted Local Plan (January 2003)
- Purbeck District Local Plan - Final Edition (*N.B. This plan is not formally adopted*).
- West Dorset District Local Plan - Adopted Plan 2006
- Weymouth and Portland Adopted Local Plan (December 2005)

**2.17** These plans contain detailed policies to guide the development of land in their areas. The district, borough and unitary authorities are now working towards the production of their Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that will replace existing Local Plans.

# 3 The Scoping Report

## 3 The Scoping Report

### Structure

**3.1** The approach taken in producing this Scoping Report is from the guidance on sustainability appraisal and SEA (ODPM, 2005a & 2005b). Other relevant scoping reports relating to minerals policy documents have also been reviewed. The scope has been restricted to issues relevant to minerals, as advised. This scoping report follows the five tasks outlined in the guidance, as follows:

- Review relevant plans and programmes.
- Collect baseline information.
- Identify sustainability issues.
- Develop the sustainability appraisal framework - objectives, indicators and targets
- Consult on the scope of the sustainability appraisal

**3.2** The process of reviewing relevant plans/policies/programmes (PPP) and collecting baseline evidence is described in more detail in the section 4 of this report. Identifying sustainability issues and developing the sustainability framework are covered in section 5. This is linked with section 6, using a compatibility matrix to check the sustainability objectives for internal consistency (do they contradict each other, and if so to what extent?). Section 7 describes the approach of the required consultation, while section 8 briefly covers the remaining stages of the sustainability appraisal/SEA process.

**3.3** The scoping report is set out as a series of separate topic papers. These include the topics identified in the SEA Directive, along with social and economic topics to fulfil the requirement of the sustainability appraisal guidance and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This approach will make it easier for consultees to access the information contained within this report, and make comments on it.

**3.4** The topics are as follows:

- Climate Change and Energy
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Water
- Historic Environment
- Landscape
- Air Quality and Noise
- Minerals
- Transport
- Economic Development and Employment
- Soil and Land
- Waste
- Population and Human Health

### Preparation

**3.5** Each topic has been researched and analysed and relevant plans, policies and programmes have been identified and reviewed. Their implications on the DPDs have been considered. A selection of the baseline information collected has been presented within each topic paper. From the review of the plans, policies and programmes and other baseline information collected, together with a comparison with other relevant scoping reports, a range of potential impacts and issues associated with mineral extraction and working have been identified.

**3.6** Based on this, **sustainability objectives** have been developed to assess the issues and impacts, measuring how well the emerging Minerals DPDs are addressing the issues and what their overall environmental impacts are likely to be. Additional criteria, also called **indicators**, are identified for each sustainability objective to assist in the application of the objectives.

**3.7** The sustainability objectives form the basis of the remainder of the sustainability appraisal process together with the baseline information collected. The objectives and indicators were considered at a stakeholder workshop held in December 2009, and were amended in response to some of the comments made. The scoping report and topic papers were also consulted on in March - April 2010 and some further amendments made (see section 7 for further detail on the consultation).

# 4 Baseline

## 4 Baseline

### Baseline

**4.1** Establishment of the baseline, or the evidence base, is an important part of the scoping report. This is the information relevant to the production of the minerals policy documents, and on which the strategies, proposals and policies of the Minerals Core Strategy will be based. It includes a review of the plans, policies and programmes which will influence, or may be influenced by, the Minerals Core Strategy. It also looks at other sources of relevant information and data, and provides a brief summary of these.

**4.2** The evidence base is constantly evolving, and remains a 'living draft', which is regularly updated as new legislation, policy and research is produced. A summary of the relevant part of the evidence base is included within each topic paper.

### Data Collection

**4.3** Relevant policies, plans and programmes have been reviewed, as required by the SEA Directive, to take into account the environmental protection objectives established at international, national, regional and local level. This is an important part of the process as it ensures the work is consistent with up-to-date policy, is based on sound information and contributes to the identification of sustainability issues. Each of the topic papers contains a summary of the key policy documents, together with the implications of that topic area for the minerals DPDs.

**4.4** In addition to the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes, the baseline also collates and presents other data collected for and relevant to the emerging minerals documents. The baseline is continually changing and growing as new information is collected. This scoping report and the data collected as part of its preparation are primarily relevant to emerging minerals DPDs. Some of the data would be relevant to other assessments (e.g. waste documents) but would need to be supplemented with other more relevant data.

**4.5** Figure 4.1 indicates the policy influences on the minerals policy documents. National, regional and local policy, together with other inputs, can all have an impact on the emerging minerals policy documents.

**Figure 4.1 Policy Influences on MWDF**



# 5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework



## 5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

### Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

**5.1** The sustainability appraisal framework provides a way in which the strategies/proposals/policies of the Minerals Core Strategy (MCS) can be appraised to assess their potential impacts on the environment, and to what extent they promote sustainability. The process of undertaking sustainability appraisal begins with the identification of sustainability objectives. These are set out in the tables below, together with the criteria or indicators which will assist in testing and measuring these objectives. The sustainability objectives are distinct from the objectives of the minerals DPDs, though they may in some cases overlap with them.

**5.2** The selection of objectives within the sustainability appraisal framework has come from the topic study reviews undertaken. They are also drawn from a review of sustainability objectives used in other recently published sustainability appraisal reports in other areas of the country. Collectively, they should be able to adequately 'measure' the sustainability of the policy document being appraised, and identify areas of potential impact of the strategies/options. The objectives have been sub-divided into environmental (A1 - A8), economic (A9 - A12) and social (A13 - A16) objectives.

**5.3** Each policy/strategy/option proposed for inclusion in the Minerals Core Strategy will be tested against each sustainability objective. This is done by asking and answering the questions set out as indicators, to gain an understanding of how well the policy/strategy/option performs in relation to each sustainability objective. As each option under consideration is systematically and consistently appraised using these objectives and indicators, a picture of their relative sustainability is built up and it becomes possible to compare different options/policies/strategies to determine which options are more or less sustainable.

**Table 5.1 Environmental Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy or policy...
<p><b>A1</b> To maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, enhance or create natural and semi-natural habitats of recognised ecological value and/or the green corridors that link them?</li> <li>• Directly or indirectly affect internationally or nationally designated or recognised sites or UK BAP habitats?</li> <li>• Conserve or enhance species diversity and avoid harm to internationally and nationally protected, scarce and rare species (including UK BAP species)?</li> <li>• Provide for positive management of existing habitats?</li> <li>• Assist species to adapt to the anticipated effects of climate change? (i.e. through connecting habitats and/or providing greenspace)?</li> <li>• Reflect the South West Nature Map?</li> <li>• Expand the spatial extent of BAP priority habitat within Dorset?</li> </ul>
<p><b>A2</b> To maintain, conserve and enhance geodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve or enhance geological SSSIs?</li> <li>• Create, extend or enhance Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Sites (RIGGs)?</li> </ul>

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy or policy...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow access to geodiversity resources for study?</li> <li>• Conserve or enhance the World Heritage Site and its setting?</li> </ul>
<p><b>A3</b> To maintain, conserve and enhance the landscape <sup>(1)</sup>, including the coast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and/or enhance landscape character, quality and distinctiveness, paying particular regard to AONB and other areas of high landscape or historic sensitivity or value?</li> <li>• Minimise the visual intrusion of mineral operations onto sensitive or distinctive landscapes?</li> <li>• Cause development of land which is not sympathetic to the identified landscape character of that location?</li> <li>• Provide for the restoration of land to an appropriate after-use and landscape character?</li> </ul>
<p><b>A4</b> To maintain, conserve and enhance the historic environment. <sup>(2)</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cause a loss of, or harm to, the character and/or setting of historic assets?</li> <li>• Provide for the protection and maintenance of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Provide new information on the historic environment, or improve education about and/or interpretation of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
<p><b>A5</b> To maintain, conserve and enhance the quality of ground, surface and sea waters and manage the consumption of water in a sustainable way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect or enhance the quantity and quality of ground, surface and sea waters?</li> <li>• Avoid adverse effects on patterns of groundwater flow and/or surface water flow?</li> <li>• Maintain water consumption within local carrying limits?</li> <li>• Encourage the efficient use of water?</li> </ul>
<p><b>A6</b> To reduce flood risk and improve flood management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the risks and impacts of flooding, having taken into account climate change?</li> <li>• Maintain or enhance floodplain capacity?</li> <li>• Minimise the numbers of people and property at risk from flooding in a changing climate?</li> </ul>
<p><b>A7</b> To maintain, conserve and enhance soil quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the quantity or quality of the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> <li>• Encourage the de-contamination and/or re-use of soils?</li> <li>• Conserve or enhance soil quality?</li> <li>• Reduce the capacity of the soil to hold carbon?</li> </ul>

1 Note that this includes townscape and seascape

2 Note that this includes archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other locally distinctive features and their settings.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy or policy...
<b>A8</b> To protect and improve air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adversely affect air quality, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas?</li> <li>Increase the likelihood of higher levels of dust in the air?</li> </ul>

**Table 5.2 Economic Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Related Criteria**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy, or policy...
<b>A9</b> To conserve and safeguard mineral resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard mineral resources from loss by permanent sterilisation?</li> <li>Encourage/promote the most efficient use of mineral resources?</li> </ul>
<b>A10</b> To promote the use of alternative materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage/promote the production and/or use of recycled or secondary aggregates?</li> </ul>
<b>A11</b> To promote and encourage sustainable economic growth, and reduce relative poverty and deprivation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the supply of materials required for new developments needed to secure the economic prosperity of the area?</li> <li>Maintain and enhance skills levels, particularly in the minerals and masonry industry?</li> <li>Ensure that minerals activity and infrastructure does not prejudice the development of the sustainable tourism industry in Dorset?</li> </ul>
<b>A12</b> To provide an adequate supply of minerals to meet society's needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute, in a sustainable way, to the supply of materials for new built development, or repair of existing built development, or to meet other needs for the mineral concerned?</li> <li>Contribute to the provision of a sustainable supply of minerals?</li> </ul>

**Table 5.3 Social Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Related Criteria**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy, or policy...
<b>A13</b> To sustain and where possible improve the health and quality of life of the population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the promotion of healthy lifestyles and improve the quality of life?</li> </ul>

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	To what extent does the strategic option, objective, strategy, or policy...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cause a greater impact from mineral development (including factors such as noise and dust) on the health and wellbeing of local communities?</li> <li>• Cause a cumulative impact on certain communities (i.e. through permitting further development in an area, or extending the life of an existing permission)?</li> </ul>
<b>A14</b> To adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development minimises vulnerability and provides resilience to climate change?</li> <li>• Ensure the efficient use of energy, and/or the generation of renewable energy?</li> </ul>
<b>A15</b> To enable safe access to countryside and open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote linkages between open spaces, and enable/improve access to the countryside ?</li> <li>• Provide an opportunity for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace?</li> </ul>
<b>A16</b> To reduce the adverse effects of the transport of minerals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the vehicle kilometres travelled for the transport of minerals?</li> <li>• Reduce the impact of road traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles, on local communities?</li> <li>• Increase the potential for more sustainable forms of transport of minerals to mitigate climate change?</li> <li>• Change the amount of waste produced per tonne of mineral?</li> </ul>

**Interrelationship between Sustainability Appraisal Objectives, SEA Directive Issues and the Regional Spatial Strategy Sustainability Objectives**

**5.4** The SEA Directive requires under Article 5 (1) and Annex 1 that the Environmental Report prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment includes information on the likely significant effects on the environment. In order to check that the sustainability appraisal will properly address these issues, Table 5.4 below assesses the extent to which the selected sustainability objectives relate to the issues identified in the Directive. At least one objective relates to each SEA Directive issue, so it is considered that this sustainability appraisal will meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

**Table 5.4 Relationship Between Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and SEA Directive Issues**

SEA Directive Issues	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
• Biodiversity	• A1
• Population	• A15
• Human Health	• A13, A15, A16

SEA Directive Issues	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
• Social Considerations	• A11, A14, A15, A16
• Fauna	• A1
• Flora	• A1
• Soil	• A7
• Water	• A5, A6
• Air	• A8
• Climatic Factors	• A14
• Material Assets	• A2, A9, A10, A12
• Cultural Heritage (Architectural and Archaeological Heritage)	• A4
• Landscape	• A3

### Strategic Sustainability Appraisal for the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy

**5.5** In addition, the Strategic Sustainability Appraisal for the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006 – 2026 (March 2006) was also considered. Since the minerals DPDs should be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy, it is important that the sustainability appraisal work is also closely related. The headline objectives of that strategic sustainability appraisal study are shown below. All the sustainability appraisal objectives proposed for use with the minerals DPDs are considered to be in conformity with the relevant proposed strategic sustainability appraisal headline objectives, as indicated in Table 5.5.

#### Sustainability Appraisal Headline Objectives

1. Will the Regional Spatial Strategy improve health?
2. Will the Regional Spatial Strategy support communities that meet people's needs?
3. Will the Regional Spatial Strategy develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs?
4. Will the Regional Spatial Strategy provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to the environment?
5. Will the Regional Spatial Strategy maintain and improve environmental quality and assets?
6. Will the Regional Spatial Strategy minimise consumption of natural resources?

**Table 5.5 Relationship Between Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Regional Spatial Strategy Headline Sustainability Objectives**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Headline Strategic Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
A1 To maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity.	5
A2 To maintain, conserve and enhance geodiversity.	5

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Headline Strategic Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
A3 To maintain, conserve and enhance the landscape, including the coast.	5
A4 To maintain, conserve and enhance the historic environment.	5
A5 To maintain, conserve and enhance the quality of ground, surface and sea waters and manage the consumption of water in a sustainable way.	5
A6 To reduce flood risk and improve flood management.	5
A7 To maintain, conserve and enhance soil quality.	5
A8 To protect and improve air quality.	5
A9 To conserve and safeguard mineral resources.	6
A10 To promote the use of alternative materials.	6
A11 To promote and encourage sustainable economic growth, and reduce relative poverty and deprivation.	3
A12 To provide an adequate supply of minerals to meet society's needs.	3
A13 To sustain and where possible improve the health and quality of life of the population.	1, 2
A14 To adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	4, 6
A15 To enable safe access to countryside and open spaces.	1, 2, 5
A16 To reduce the adverse effects of transport of minerals.	1, 5

**5.6** It is considered that the sustainability objectives selected will, when applied, be adequate in both breadth and depth to properly assess the emerging Minerals Core Strategy.

# 6 Compatibility Matrix

## 6 Compatibility Matrix

### The Matrix

- 6.1** The Sustainability Appraisal Compatibility Matrix shown in Table 6.1 is used to assess the compatibility of the sustainability objectives against one another, indicating which objectives are or may be incompatible.
- 6.2** In general, most of the objectives are, or are likely to be, compatible with each other. As would be expected, this is particularly seen among the environmental objectives, A1 to A8. The economic objectives, particularly A11 and A12, are more likely to conflict with the environmental and social objectives. The social objectives, especially A13 to A15, are generally compatible with other objectives.
- 6.3** It is expected that the economic objectives are more likely to be in conflict with other objectives, especially environmental. This will be taken into consideration in the actual assessment of the minerals DPDs.



**Sustainability Objectives - Environmental**

- A1** To maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- A2** To maintain, conserve and enhance geodiversity.
- A3** To maintain, conserve and enhance the landscape, including the coast.
- A4** To maintain, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
- A5** To maintain, conserve and enhance the quality of ground, surface and sea waters and manage the consumption of water in a sustainable way.
- A6** To reduce flood risk and improve flood management.
- A7** To maintain, conserve and enhance soil quality.
- A8** To protect and improve air quality.

**Sustainability Objectives - Economic**

- A9** To conserve and safeguard mineral resources.
- A10** To promote the use of alternative materials.
- A11** To promote and encourage sustainable economic growth, and reduce relative poverty and deprivation.
- A12** To provide an adequate and affordable supply of minerals to meet society's needs.

**Sustainability Objectives - Social**

- A13** To sustain and where possible improve the health and quality of life of the population.
- A14** To adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- A15** To enable safe access to countryside and open spaces.
- A16** To reduce the adverse effects of transport of minerals and waste

Table 6.1 Sustainability Objective Compatibility Matrix

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15	A16
A1																
A2	+															
A3	+	+														
A4	?+	?+	+													
A5	+	?+	+	?+												
A6	+	+	+	+	+											
A7	+	+	+	+	+	+										
A8	+	?	?	+	+	+	+									
A9	+	?+	+	?+	?+	+	+	?+								
A10	+	?+	+	?+	?+	+	+	?+	+							
A11	?-	?-	?-	?-	?-	?+	?-	?-	?-	?-						
A12	?-	?-	?-	?-	?-	?+	?-	?-	-	-	+					
A13	+	?+	?+	?+	+	+	?+	+	?+	?+	?+	?+				
A14	+	?	+	+	+	+	?+	?+	?+	?+	?+	+	?			
A15	?-	?+	?+	?+	?	?	?	?-	?	?	?	?	+	?		
A16	+	?	+	+	?+	?-	?	+	?	?	?-	?-	+	+	?+	

**Key**

- + Compatible      ? + Potentially Compatible
- Incompatible    ? - Potentially Incompatible
- ? Neutral, No Significant Effect

# 7 Consultation

## 7 Consultation

### Introduction

**7.1** The SEA Directive requires consultation with the statutory environmental bodies, English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England, for five weeks at the scoping stage. Additional consultation with the Homes and Communities Agency and other social, economic and environmental bodies in addition to the statutory bodies is also proposed.

### Consultation and Community Involvement

**7.2** Consultation on the original scoping report took place over a five week period from 1 March to 5 April 2007. In addition to the consultation exercise, on 7 March 2006 a workshop was organised and run by consultants to assist in identifying issues and sustainability objectives. A wide range of interested parties including stakeholders and general public were invited, drawn from the Dorset County Council Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Consultation Database developed for the Statement of Community Involvement. The outcomes of that workshop have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

**7.3** As part of the review of the scoping report in 2009, a second workshop was held on 14 December 2009, run by the same consultancy with invited stakeholders from a range of backgrounds. The workshop considered the objectives emerging from the revised draft scoping report, together with the proposed criteria to be used in assessment of future mineral sites. A number of comments and suggestions were received, and some amendments were made to the sustainability objectives and the criteria.

**7.4** A consultation period on the updated scoping report was then undertaken between 1 March to 6 April 2010.

**7.5** The consultation was directed at statutory consultees, plus adjoining authorities, Dorset district authorities and County Council internal specialists, as set out below.

**7.6** The draft site assessment criteria were also consulted on at this time (although there is no statutory requirement to do so).

### Consultees

**7.7** Statutory consultees:

- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Homes and Communities Agency

**7.8** Other Consultees selected for inclusion were:

- South West Councils
- Government Office for South West
- Devon County Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Wiltshire Council
- Somerset County Council

- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Christchurch Borough Council
- East Dorset District Council
- North Dorset District Council
- Borough of Poole
- Purbeck District Council
- West Dorset District Council
- Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

**7.9** The scoping report and topic papers are now available to download from [www.dorsetforyou.com/mwdf](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/mwdf). Hard copies can be requested from the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy team at Dorset County Council by calling 01305 228571 or emailing [mwdf@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:mwdf@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

**7.10** The site assessment criteria will be included in the full and publicised consultation of the Minerals Core Strategy proposed for later in 2010.

# 8 Next Steps

## 8 Next Steps

### Assessment work to date

**8.1** The sustainability objectives derived from the 2007 Scoping Report were used in the appraisal of the Minerals Core Strategy Issues and Options Report (November 2007) and in the assessment of sites for the Minerals Sites Allocations Document Discussion Paper in 2008.

### Next Steps

**8.2** The sustainability appraisal framework as set out in section 5 of this scoping report will be used to test options in minerals DPDs as they are prepared.

**8.3** Work is progressing on the preparation of the Minerals Core Strategy, and this is expected to go to consultation in Autumn 2010. Options considered and consulted on will be appraised, and the original scoping report has been updated to ensure that the evidence base and sustainability objectives properly reflect the current policy background and issues relevant to minerals planning in Dorset. The matrices used during sustainability appraisal of the minerals DPDs will be included in the documents made available for consultation.