

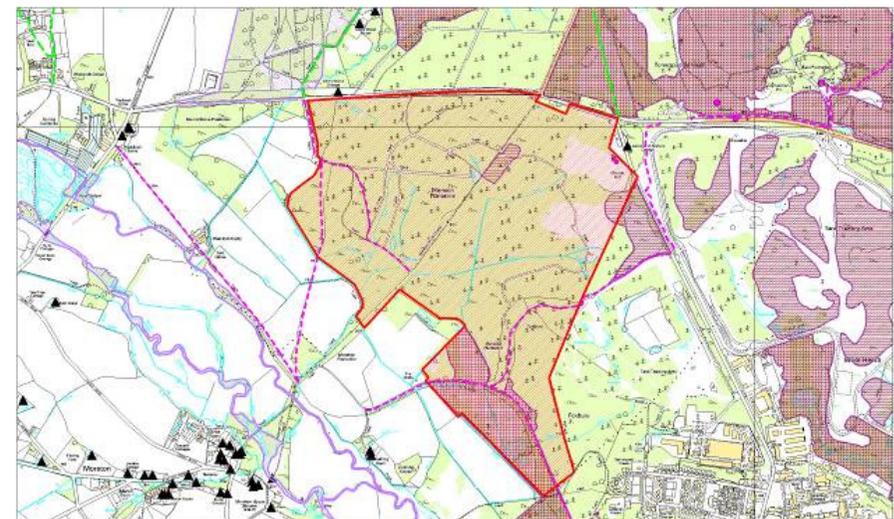
Site Assessment Pro Forma: Moreton Plantation AS10

Site Information	
Site Location	Moreton Plantation (land to the north of Moreton)
Grid Reference	SY 815 901
Administrative Area	Purbeck District Council
Parish	Affpuddle CP & Turners Puddle CP
Site Nominee(s)	Aggregate Industries
Agent	
Proposed development	Sand and gravel extraction
Site Area	194 ha
Estimated annual output (tpa)	500,000
Estimated reserve	Eastern Block: Plateau Gravels 0.5mt Western Block: Plateau Gravels 0.45mt and Bagshot Sand 6mt
Expected life of operation	14 yrs (approx)
Existing land use	Coniferous Woodland
Landscape character type	Heath Forest Mosaic
Proposed Restoration	Heathland/Water Bodies
Access	Off the Waddock Cross to Bovington Road (C 80 S)
Estimated Traffic Movements	Approximately 200/day (100 in, 100 out)



AS10 - Moreton Plantation - Aerial view

Site brought forward



AS10 - Moreton Plantation with constraints

Site brought forwards
 Public Right of Way Footpath
 Public Right of Way Bridleway
 Listed Building
 Scheduled Monument
 SSSI designations
 SNCI designations
 Ramsar designations
 SPA designations
 SAC designations



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Biodiversity.

Criterion C1 - Impact on European/international designations.

A

Proposed area supports Annex I birds which may be functionally linked to Dorset Heathlands SPA and area is well used as recreation site contributing to the network of areas which help to reduce human recreational pressure on designated heathlands. There are possible hydrological effects of working the area for mineral on the European wet heaths to the south. Working this area could lead to significant risk of adverse effects on European sites. At the moment the area includes significant parts of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar; these areas must be removed from the possible allocation to have any chance of being taken forward otherwise a conclusion of adverse effects on integrity of the sites is inevitable.

Dorset County Council 24.10.13.

Criterion C2 - Impact on areas used by Annex I bird species.

A

Area supports Annex I birds as part of the existing forestry crop rotation. Clearance of trees would result in heathland regeneration and the open habitat would rapidly become suitable for more Annex I birds. The site has the potential to be included in a revision to the heathland SPA boundary. Risk based approach essential here.

Dorset County Council 24.10.13

Criterion C3 - Impact on national designations.

A

In addition to C1 above, area likely to support rich invertebrate assemblage in existing rides contributing to maintenance of species within SSSI. At the moment the area includes parts of the Turnerspuddle Heaths SSSI; these areas must be removed from the possible allocation to have any chance of being taken forward as there is no case for directly damaging a nationally important site to extract sand and gravel

Dorset County Council 24.10.13

Criterion C4 - Impact on protected species.

A

Existing rides support significant populations of European protected species, Sand Lizard and Smooth Snake, and common protected reptiles. Depending on population sizes it may be difficult to mitigate fully for effects on EPS and there is a risk that disturbance licences could be refused by NE. Within the proposed area is a population of the fully protected Ladybird Spider; it is extremely unlikely that permission could ever be granted that would be shown to effect the population of this great rarity.

Dorset County Council 24.10.13

Criterion C5 - Impact on local recognitions/designations, including ancient woodland and veteran trees.

D

No comment

Dorset County Council 24.10.13

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Geodiversity

Criterion C6 - Impact on geodiversity.	D
No specific scientific gains or geodiversity enhancements are likely but the exposures may be of interest to the quaternary and tertiary research associations. Provision should be made so that it will be possible to arrange such visits on request.	
Dorset County Council 24.10.2013	

Landscape

Criterion C7 – Impact on designated landscapes.	D
T.Harris 17.9.2013	

Criterion C8 – What is landscape capacity to accommodate proposed development.	B
Major concerns regarding the significant negative landscape & visual impacts this would have on well used public rights of way and rural lanes as well as on the SPA/SSSIs. Parts of the area are tranquil and sensitive from a landscape and visual perspective. Cumulative impact may also be an issue especially when viewed from Moreton Village and other areas to the south in association with the Ministry of Defence operations. The integrity of the distinctive mosaic landscape is important in an area well used for recreation. There may be limited opportunity in smaller forested areas which can result in restoration to heathland to help reduce fragmentation of this habitat.	
Dorset County Council 26.11.2012	

Criterion C9 –Impact on historic landscapes.	B	C
The heathland of the site forms a major element of the setting of the scheduled barrows (see criterion 11). Without appropriate mitigation, the impact would be category B – with such mitigation, it could be category C.		
Dorset County Council 30/10/2013		

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Historic Environment

Criterion C10 – Impact on historic buildings.	C	D
<p>Lawrence of Arabia's 19th century cottage, which is Grade II listed, is located to the north-east of the proposed site. However the presence of Cloud's Hill and an area of protected heathland between the site and the listed building means that the site would not impact on the setting of the cottage.</p> <p>Oaker's Wood Cottage, which is also Grade II listed, lies to the north of the site on the Waddock Cross-Bovington Road. This is a thatched cottage, probably of 18th century date, set within a wooded landscape. The cottage is currently undergoing restoration and extension and the new owners have surrounded the site with a quick growing evergreen dense hedge. This has changed the character of the setting of the listed building. However skyward views of being within a woodland should remain as part of the historic character of the surrounding environment of the building.</p> <p>The proposed site would involve extraction of sand and gravel to the south of Oaker's Wood Cottage, on the other side of the road. Restoration would be at a lower level and would comprise some large bodies of water, shallow lake margins islands and reedbed over silt ponds. Due to the presence of the dense hedge and a tree belt that would be retained along the northern border of the proposed site, there would be little impact on the immediate setting of the listed building. However, thickening of the tree belt is likely to be required to ensure that the feeling of being within a wooded landscape is not lost and to ensure that any noise disturbance is minimal.</p> <p>Impact to be rated C or D, depending on noise levels.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 22/10/13</p>		

Criterion C11 – Impact on archaeology.	C	B
<p>A Scheduled Monument consisting of two bowl barrows on Cloud's Hill (SM33172) is situated on the north-eastern boundary of the proposed site. The setting of the monument comprises the low hill/natural mound on which the barrows are situated and the surrounding lowland area which they overlook. This area would have been heathland for much of the life of the barrow. Part of this area has already been returned to heathland and is not proposed for extraction, thereby protecting this element.</p> <p>The eastern area proposed for extraction lies south of this. It is my view that in order to visually protect the setting in its entirety this extraction area should be pulled back so as not to cross over the existing track. Overall the potential impact on the setting of the monument would be temporary, for a period of approximately one year. During this time there would be extraction activity and lorry movements south of the Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>The eastern block is proposed to be restored to heathland at a slightly lower level than existing ground levels. The permanent removal of conifers would therefore have a positive impact on the setting of Cloud's Hill. If this mitigation measure were to be incorporated by the developer, the site could be assessed as C – Less significant impact. If this is not taken on board, the site would be assessed as B – Significant adverse impact.</p> <p>Positive management of the scheduled barrows could be part of the mitigation for the development. Archaeological potential for the remainder of the site is likely to be low since people would have used the heaths for grazing whilst living elsewhere.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 30/10/2013</p>		

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Water and Flood Management

Criterion C12 - Impact on hydrogeology or groundwater.**A**

Potential to impact on wet habitats in Turners Puddle Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Environment Agency 27 February 2013

Criterion C13 – Impact on surface waters.**A**

Watercourses running through site.

Environment Agency 27 February 2013

Criterion C14 - Impact on flooding or coastal stability.**D****E**

Majority of site in FRZ 1, plant proposed to be located on high ground, approximately 1 km from FRZ 2/3.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Land and Soils

Criterion C15 - Impact on existing soils or land type (including BMV land).**D**

Site is forestry land.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Air Quality

Criterion C16 – Impact on AQMAs.**D**

No direct impacts on AQMAs.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

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Economic development

Criterion C17 - Impact on economic development.**D**

As a relatively large aggregate site, this site nomination would provide significant on-going benefits to the local and wider economy; it will maintain local employment during working and the restoration to forestry/heathland will have some on-going benefits also.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Human Health and Amenity

Criterion C18 - Impact on Sensitive Human Receptors.**C/D**

3 properties within 50m; others within 250m. Site is large enough that the properties around the edges can be properly protected and screened. Rating of 'B' can be reduced.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Criterion C19 - Impact on existing settlements.**D**

Moreton lies across Frome valley, approximately 600m to south-west; Bovington Camp is approximately 250 m to the south/east. Site is large enough that working can be screened from surrounding settlements. Moreton will have some impacts from lorry traffic heading south along the B3390, however Moreton should not come on stream until Warmwell is finished.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Airport Safety

Criterion C20 - Impact on airport safety**D**

Site is approximately 30km from Hurn Airport and is proposed to be restored to wetland.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

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Cumulative Impacts

Criterion C21 - Effects on cumulative impacts.

B

Site proposal is a new site, although it is likely to replace Warmwell quarry and so not represent an intensification. There is other mineral working, both existing and proposed, in the area.

The proposal is within 5Km (by track/ road) of a site allocated in the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 (adopted Nov 2012) for 20 Ha of employment development at Dorset Green Technology Park. (Policy ELS). Traffic arising from the new employment development will also add to general traffic levels on the B3390 and A352.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013. G Smith 24.10.2013.

Carbon Emissions

Criterion C22 - Impact on carbon emissions

A**B**

Mineral will be removed by lorry. Lorry traffic will primarily travel south on B3390 to access A352. Trees to be cleared likely to be restored as heathland. May be some loss of vegetation due to restoration to water.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Recreation/Access

Criterion C23 - Impact on recreational land

B

Site comprises dedicated access land, as part of Forestry Commission holdings. Public will be excluded during working, public access may be possible following restoration.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

Criterion C24- Impact on public rights of way

B

Footpaths cross the site and will need to be diverted during working. Restoration will need to consider the routing/re-routing of these footpaths.

Dorset County Council 18 October 2013

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Criterion C25 - Are the access proposals acceptable

B

This is a very large new site that proposes to output 0.5 million tonnes per annum. It has been estimated that this could generate 200 trips per day. No access details have been provided but the only real option is to access the C80 that abuts the northern site boundary. There are visibility issues with providing an access on the C80 due to its vertical and horizontal alignment but there does appear to be a straight section of road where the required standards could be met. Any proposals would need to provide full details of the proposed access.

It is expected that the site will act as a successor to the existing and past operations at Warmwell to the south although the traffic distribution is likely to be different. Traffic from the current site at Warmwell disperses to the north and south along the B3390, and to the west and east along the West Stafford by-pass and the A352. The new site would be expected to follow a similar pattern with the exception of movements to the north and east beyond the immediate area. For these movements the likely route for the new site would be the C6 rather than the B3390. This is made more likely by the poor junction layout at Waddock Cross (B3390/C80) which has limited forward visibility. There is therefore potential for increased traffic on the C6 and through Bere Regis that should be addressed in detail within any Transport Assessment.

An alternative option may be to provide a haul route on the north side of the C80 to enable HGV traffic to enter the B3390 on the straight section of road north of Waddock Cross. There is therefore potential for this site to come forward although there are some issues with regards to the suitability of local junctions and routes to cater for the levels of HGV traffic predicted. There is reasonable chance that these issues could be mitigated and the site has therefore been given a B rating.

Dorset County Council 29 October 2013