

Site Name & Reference**AS19 - Woodsford****Brief Summary of Proposal**

Extraction of approximately 2.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel over 10 years

Total number of Representations received : **322**Number of Representors: **263****Were comments received from the following consultees?**Natural England **Yes**Local Nature Partnership : **No**Parish Council (Woodsford) : **Yes**English Heritage **Yes**Local enterprise Partnership : **No**

District Council: West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland

Environment Agency **Yes**Councils: **Yes****Other bodies making comments included:**

Owner of Sculpture by the Lakes park

Environment Agency

Clyffe Farms

Cllr Peter Wharf

RSPB

Urban Heaths Partnership

CPRE

FPWDFA

National Grid

Tincton & Woodsford Parish Meeting

Knightsford Parish Council

Crossways Parish Council

Broadmayne Parish Council

Petitions – None received to this nominated site.**Site Issues – the following is a summary of the main issues that have been raised by stakeholders****Summary of Issue****Officer Initial Response****Actions & Further Information Requirements****General Issues****Quarry working:**

- Queries raised as to whether this quarry is needed in advance of 2028.
- Considered that recycled aggregate should be used in preference to extracting fresh mineral.
- A "demand-led" approach is unsustainable. An approach which considers environmentally acceptable extraction operations is preferred.

The Mineral Planning Authority has a duty to make provision for an adequate supply of aggregates to support the economy and meet the need for aggregates. The overall aggregates requirement is set out in the newly adopted Minerals Strategy and the allocation of sites will need to ensure that this need can be met.

The MPA will carry out further work to assess how

The MPA will carry out further technical work on the overall need and potential supply of aggregates needed over the plan period.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that the annual figure of 1.58mt is incorrect, due to the depth and prolonged duration of the ongoing recession and the adverse effect upon the construction industry. ▪ Considered that the pits at Ringwood are more convenient for Poole/Bournemouth conurbation aggregate need. ▪ Query whether the extracted mineral will be for local use only, or further afield? ▪ Consider that the proposed extraction timescale is too long for locals to endure. ▪ Consider that the council is failing to adhere to existing planning policy regarding Preferred Areas. ▪ Greater planning control needed over existing sites before new sites are granted permission. 	<p>many sites will be needed over the plan period (having regard to likely workable reserves) and will take this into account when assessing the suitability of the nominated sites, including location of these sites.</p>	
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of detail regarding the need for this site. ▪ Insufficient notification of the proposals to the public. 	<p>The consultation was at an early stage of the document's preparation and none of the sites have been endorsed by the MPA. However, it is accepted that people have raised concerns that the consultation could have better publicised the sites for local people.</p> <p>Future consultation can include greater levels of details and enhanced notification procedures for those sites which are proposed in the plan.</p>	<p>The MPA will increase the level of consultation about proposed sites at the next consultation stage, through the use of site notices and direct neighbour notifications.</p> <p>Stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to each consultation if they wish their comments to be taken into account.</p>

Environmental Issues		
<p>Restoration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Query as to how the restoration proposals comply with planning policy if additional material needs to be imported to complete restoration? ▪ Consider that the restoration proposals are not acceptable. 	<p>The adopted Minerals Strategy sets out policies relating to restoration as well as general development management policies which cover the identified issues. It will be a matter for the planning application stage to consider suitable conditions relating to detailed restoration programmes.</p> <p>At this stage site proposers have been contacted requesting further information about their sites which will inform our understanding of restoration issues and the MPA will also liaise with relevant experts such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. This information will form part of the overall assessment of the suitability of the site to go forward in the site selection process.</p>	<p>Restoration issues will be considered having regard to relevant policies in the adopted Minerals Strategy.</p>
<p>Environmental Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that any habitat creation should be appropriate to the river and its flood plain: there is great ecological value in this area due to the proximity of the River Frome flood plain. ▪ One of the best dragonfly habitats in the country is in the Sculpture by the Lakes area. ▪ Annex 1 birds are present in this area. ▪ Ballhead fish in River Frome. Presence of endangered water vole, four species of bats, kingfishers, 98 species of birds and many mammals. ▪ This site is within the Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area: one of only 12 sites designated as a Nature Improvement Areas administered by Natural England; the Dorset AONB have formulated an action plan that includes a heathland restoration scheme. ▪ The site contains ancient woodland and veteran trees. 	<p>Site proposers have been contacted requesting a broad range of further assessment studies.</p> <p>In order to be acceptable, the development proposal would need to pass the tests in the Conservation Regulations (previously: Habitats Regulations).</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is considered that no amount of screening will hide the wide open landscape it from view. ▪ Disagree with the land quality categorisation: approximately 50% of the land comprising the proposed extension is Grade 2 (Very Good), and Grade 3b (Moderate). ▪ Consider that there are other means available to reduce nitrate levels in the River Frome instead of quarrying the land. 		
<p>Historic Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is considered that the contours of the land mean that the workings will impact on the several listed buildings which exist in the vicinity. ▪ Two prehistoric sites exist within the proposed extension. 	<p>Site proposers have been contacted requesting a broad range of further assessment studies, which includes a full archaeological assessment of the impact from any development on the archaeological sites.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>
<p>Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that there would be a detrimental impact on hydrogeology or groundwater by removing gravel in this area. ▪ It is difficult to envisage working methods of extracting the gravel which would not adversely impact the water quality of the River Frome. ▪ The proposal could impact the River Frome SSSI ▪ Springs are 300m away, which generate 500,000 gallons of water a day – problem for quarry operations. ▪ The vast majority of the area shown in the plan is on a highly effective flood plain: a ‘natural safety valve’ for the area. ▪ Consider that the collapse of the southern bank of the river could easily occur due to the proximity of the northern edge of the site with the River Frome. ▪ Consider that there could be significant impact on the water meadows at Tincton from the quarry working. ▪ Consider that the proposed site is too close to the 	<p>Site proposers have been contacted requesting a broad range of further assessment studies.</p> <p>The Environment Agency is consulted as a matter of course on such matters.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>

<p>SSSI River Frome and water meadows: risk to the river environment and fishing; and wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that there would be an impact on the filtration of existing meadows. ▪ Site is adjacent to EA SPZ1 – quarry activity has the potential to contaminate the watercourse. 		
<p>Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concern that additional quarry traffic will cause detrimental impacts to the local area. ▪ Consider that HGVs would cause damage to the road surface ▪ Consider that the surrounding narrow roads are unsuitable for HGVs ▪ Concern that there will be a knock-on effect for the West Stafford bypass. 	<p>The Highway Authority, which considers matters of highway safety, is consulted at every stage in the plan's preparation.</p> <p>Any planning application would need to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment (TA) study.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>
Social Issues		
<p>Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detrimental impact to the tranquillity of the area. ▪ Proposed site is adjacent to National Cycle Route 2, which is being increasingly used by visitors. ▪ 300m to the east of the perimeter in Hurst Woods, there is a bench dedicated to a soldier of the Second World War, a beautiful spot for contemplation. ▪ This is the site of Hardy's Vale of the Great Dairies. ▪ Recreational activity may be dispersed to other sites in the locality when quarrying is taking place. 	<p>Should the site be considered for inclusion in the plan the MPA would need to take account of recreation opportunities which might be secured both during extraction and post-restoration.</p> <p>Site proposers have been contacted requesting a broad range of further assessment studies, which would include impacts created by dispersed recreational activity. These studies are required by the Planning Authority before any further decisions can be made.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>
<p>Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential homes in Tingleton are within 500 metres of the site boundary – concern that quarry activity would cause adverse impact to residents. ▪ Consider that quarrying activity would negatively 	<p>If this development were to be allocated and permitted, planning conditions attached to any planning consent can be used to minimise adverse impacts upon amenity.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>

<p>affect property values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that artificial screening in the form of bunds will have an adverse visual effect. ▪ Concerned that the ambience of Sculpture by the Lakes would be adversely affected by quarrying. ▪ Consider that the noise, adverse visual impact, light pollution from the current quarrying operations would be increased, so making it intolerable to local residents. 	<p>Mitigation may include restrictions on hours of working, screening bunds and use of appropriate equipment to reduce noise.</p> <p>Similarly, conditions can be used to manage levels of dust and dirt emanating from the site, such as through appropriate design and management of the site, and the adoption of appropriate control and mitigation measures (including separation distances, landscaping, screening and spraying haul roads within the site).</p>	
<p>National Grid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concern regarding siting of National Grid's high voltage overhead transmission line in relation to the proposed quarry. 	<p>Site proposers have been contacted requesting a broad range of further assessment studies.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>
Economic Issues		
<p>Local economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that the proposed works would have a detrimental impact on the immediate economy such as holiday homes planned in the area. ▪ Concerned that the proposed extension would prevent expansion of Sculpture by the Lakes and future local economic benefit to shops, pubs, employment. ▪ Local businesses rely on the rural nature of their location to attract tourists to the area: consider that extraction in a quarry extension would detrimentally impact on this. ▪ Consideration needs to be given to the proposed holiday homes identified in the Emerging Local Plan: allocation for 500 homes and 3.5 ha of employment land to the south of Crossways. 	<p>The Mineral Planning Authority has a statutory duty to make provision for an adequate level of aggregate supply and minerals also play an important economic role, being essential for the construction industry. This will also need to be considered when the MPA looks at the overall supply of minerals.</p> <p>Any adverse impact on tourism would need to be balanced with the need for aggregate.</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>
<p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider that the additional quarrying would create an adverse impact on the Sculpture by the Lakes 	<p>The Mineral Planning Authority has a statutory duty to make provision for an adequate level of aggregate supply and minerals also play an important economic</p>	<p>These matters will be considered in further detail.</p>

<p>attraction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Proposed extraction is only 300m from the sculpture attraction.▪ Sculpture by the Lakes is the top visitor attraction in Dorset, and is rapidly becoming one of the major centres for the arts in the South of England; additional quarrying would be detrimental to this attraction.▪ It is suggested that the area closest to the Sculpture Park is removed and a public footpath linking Pallington with Moreton station is provided, making it easier for people to visit the Sculpture Park - helping make tourism in Dorset more environmentally sustainable.	<p>role, being essential for the construction industry. This will also need to be considered when the MPA looks at the overall supply of minerals.</p> <p>Any adverse impact on tourism would need to be balanced with the need for aggregate.</p>	
--	--	--