



Co-ordinating production of the Minerals Development Framework on behalf of the three minerals planning authorities:

Planning Division, Environmental Services
County Hall, Colliton Park
Dorchester DT1 1XJ

Telephone: 01305 or 01202 228571

Fax: 01305 or 01202 224835

Minicom: 01305 267933

Email: g.a.staddon@dorsetcc.gov.uk

DX: DX 8716 Dorchester

Web site: www.dorsetforyou.com/mwdf

Date:

My ref:

Dear

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Development Framework - Minerals Site Allocation Document – Call for Sites

Through the periodic newsletters "*Planning for Minerals and Waste*", the three Minerals Core Strategy Stakeholder events and through contact with the Minerals and Waste Planning Officers at County Hall you are likely to be aware of the fact that we are in the process of preparing a Minerals Site Allocations Document (MSAD).

The MSAD will form part of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Development Framework (MDF) and will identify site specific allocations for the provision of all types of minerals within the County throughout the plan period which, will be considered following the forthcoming consultation on the Minerals Core Strategy (MCS) Issues and Options consultation. One of the options being put to stakeholders is that the plan period could run until 2026, in line with the Regional Spatial Strategy.

The overall process of the MDF is to review the existing polices and site allocations within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MLP) (1999) which covered the ten year period to the end of 2001. The MSAD will review those existing allocations and consider potential new sites for mineral extraction and processing to meet demand. The review process will involve the appraisal of all such sites through Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) – an external consultation on the SA/SEA Scoping Report has been undertaken.

In the March 2006 (Issue 2) edition of *Planning for Minerals and Waste* there was a general call to all landowners and interested parties to assist in the review of the MLP by identifying new sites for future minerals extraction in Dorset. Following this call some organisations have submitted details outlining their proposals for consideration. Firstly, to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are aware of the need to bring forward their proposals this correspondence constitutes a formal notification and secondly, to ensure that previously submitted information and any new site proposals that may be brought forward as a result of this notification, a schedule of information to be submitted is listed below. Such information is essential to facilitate an informed assessment of the proposals in line with the SA/SEA process.

Guidance on the Information to be Submitted with any Site Specific Proposal.

Where appropriate, landowners, agents, developers or any other interested party should provide relevant and appropriate information necessary for informed consideration. It is envisaged that such information should involve extensive new survey work as, for example, may be included in an Environmental Assessment, but should be in line with a desk top assessment of all relevant issues. Key information such as geology, potential mineral reserves and production and timescales for the phased development of the site should be based on sound evidence.

1. An Ordnance Survey based plan to an appropriate scale showing:
 - the proposed boundary of the site
 - the likely extent of excavations
 - the proposed access
 - the location of any processing plant
 - wharf/railhead infrastructure
2. A description of the proposed site's mineral characteristics, to be supported by as much evidence as possible including:
 - mineral type, quantity and quality (to be supported by investigative evidence)
 - depth of working
 - overburden volumes
 - its position in relation to surrounding geology and existing operations
 - estimated annual output (tonnes) and expected life
 - marine aggregate wharf/railhead capacity
3. An economic justification as to the need for the mineral and the markets to which the material will be supplied and a description of end products created through the use of the mineral.
4. A statement explaining how the development will benefit local communities in proximity to the proposed site including potential opportunities for employment of maintenance of existing employment levels.
5. An explanation/description of the likely method of site development including:
 - method of extraction
 - method of processing
 - water management
 - hours of working
 - phasing scheme
6. A description of the proposed restoration scheme and after use objectives including its benefits in terms of nature conservation, agriculture, leisure/tourism, water management, etc. Any such proposal should consider the most appropriate after use particular to the immediate and surrounding area. The scheme must be shown to be deliverable within the physical parameters of the site.
7. A Ordnance Survey map of the site and its surroundings showing:
 - land use designations
 - landscape designations
 - ecological designations
 - geology – drift/solid
 - any features of hydrological/hydrogeological importance
8. An explanation of any potential adverse impacts and how they would be mitigated including:
 - landscape
 - ecology - an outline of any potential areas of environmental enhancement within the vicinity of the proposed site which could be incorporated within the design of the proposal
 - transport/public rights of way
 - water management
 - noise
 - dust

- blasting
 - community liaison
 - site safety
 - archaeology/ cultural heritage
 - agriculture
9. A description of the current land use of the site and that of its surroundings. If agriculture - the quality of the land using the DEFRA Agricultural Land Classification System.
 10. A broad assessment of ecological aspects of the site including local Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats and known protected species within the vicinity of the proposed site and the effects on them.
 11. A broad assessment of the landscape value of the area and any potential visual impacts arising from the proposed development, including details of the general setting and character of the landscape, within the vicinity of the proposed site.
 12. A broad assessment of the hydrogeology of the proposed site and its surrounding area indicating ground water levels and flows, location of rivers, drinking water resource aquifers and any potential flooding issues (positive and negative).
 13. A broad assessment of transportation issues associated with the proposal including a description of the access routes (local and to market areas), average journey distance per vehicle to market areas from the site, the daily average and peak vehicle movements per type of vehicle.
 14. Description of any other relevant issues or interests such as Public Rights of Way, services (e.g. gas/water/electricity), airport safeguarding zones, etc.
 15. In terms of mineral utilisation information should be submitted which explains how the extraction and utilisation of the resource will be maximised to minimise waste including, for example, the blending of better quality material with poorer quality material or recycled products.

Once received, all of the submitted sites will be put forward and listed in the MSAD Issues and Options paper and will be put out for consultation with the wider stakeholder network.

Consultee's comments from the above exercise along with the site specific information submitted will then be considered by internal consultees/officers specialising in archaeology, transport and ecology, for example. The individual sites will be assessed against various SA/SEA factors along with proposed opportunities for environmental, economic and community enhancement. The assessment of sites will be recorded appropriately for subsequent stages of the plan making system.

This exercise will eliminate unsuitable sites, such as those with significant environmental constraints which cannot be mitigated, and allow for the identification of sites that have the potential to be put forward into the following stage of the process – the Preferred Options.

It should be noted that sites may be proposed at later stages of the process but this Authority supports Government guidance by urging you to submit details as soon as possible.

On a linked but separate matter *Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals* and *Planning and Minerals : Practice Guide* advises on the obligation of the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) to define Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in Local Development Documents in order that proven resources are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, although there is no presumption that resources defined in MSAs will be worked. Draft guidance on mineral safeguarding has been issued by British Geological Survey and can be viewed via the following website link: http://www.mineralsuk.com/britmin/0611_safeguarding_minerals.pdf that guidance has not, to date, been finalised and issued.

Within the MDF there will be due reference, consideration and policy on MSA and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs). If you have any views at this stage of the plan making process (MCS and MSAD stages) for the development in either general or site specific terms I would be interested to read/hear your thoughts.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Staddon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Staddon
Principal Planning Officer (Minerals and Waste Policy)