

Comment Receipt

Event Name	Mineral Sites Plan Consultation Document 2013-2014
Comment by	Bere Regis Parish Council (Mrs Amanda Crocker)
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Let us know what you think about this paragraph or site.

Do you generally agree or disagree with this section of the Mineral Sites Plan Consultation Document? . Disagree

Please state exactly why you agree or disagree with this paragraph or site, or provide other comments about this section of the Mineral Sites Plan Consultation Document, in the box below.

Comments

In 1996 the Independent Examiner recommended the site be excluded from the final plan which was adopted in 1999.

The amount of available gravel from the site has risen from 700,000 tonnes in the 1996 survey to 1,500,000 tonnes in the present and yet the site promoter has withdrawn from the current proposal and no site promoter is named.

A hydrological impact is recommended and yet has not been carried out so it is not possible to say what the impact this proposal will have on Bere Heath or the watercress beds and crayfish found in the Bere Stream.

Roman remains are known to be in the vicinity of Philliols Farm, which is a Grade II listed building, and to extract this area would result in the loss of any possible archaeological and historical discoveries. It would also detrimentally affect the setting of the listed buildings.

The proposal is within 500m of existing dwellings, resulting in the loss of amenity, excessive noise pollution, dust, psychological and emotional well-being of the residents of those properties.

Loss of livelihood - not only would the residents of Philliols Farm lose their entire livelihood, the holiday lets at Dormer Cottage and The Maisonette, Woodlands would lose their income. The proposal would also take 25 acres of viable farmland from the residents of Lower Stockley Farm resulting in a reduction in their livelihood.

Philliols is low-lying with small fields and large ditches. The area lies very wet and the lane flooded and pot holed, often for several months of the year. Any mining would radically change the landscape and add to water run-off.

The proposal is for the 100 additional lorry movements to travel along enhanced forest tracks to the C7 and then on to the Thatchells site. The track through the forest is highly used by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and bird watchers. The proposed 100 lorry movements would mean 1 lorry every 4-5 minutes which would make this track unusable to everyone other than the lorries.

The C7 is already a very busy route and the proposal will add a further 100 movements a day to the road. The route goes past 4 caravan sites that are busy all year round. In addition, the area supports sites containing smooth snakes and sand lizards, together with a pond that contains Fairy Shrimp and other protected species. The lorry movements and extraction would have a huge detrimental impact on the nearby SNCI areas.

The proposal is to restore the land to agriculture and wetland. Whilst Natural England seems intent on removing farmland from the Purbecks, we cannot continue to allow this to happen. This is viable, rich farmland and must be restored to the same.

Should the extraction go ahead, we would like assurances that the site would only be worked as part of the later phasing so that there would be a reduction in vehicle movements from the other pits to offset these new movements through the area as a whole. In addition, we have considerable concerns regarding the potential for increased heavy lorry movements along the already congested C6 past the school and would like assurances that all vehicles will only access the C7 via the forest roads.

Please provide a brief summary of all your comments.

Summary

Strongly disagree Unknown effect of the extraction on the local watercourses. Detrimental effect on local archaeology and listed buildings Loss of amenity, increased noise pollution, dust, psychological and emotional well-being of the residents of the properties situated within 500m of the proposal Loss of livelihood for 2 farms and local holiday lets Loss of recreational amenity Detrimental impact on nearby SNCI sites and protected species Loss of viable agricultural land Assurances that no lorries will use the C6 past the village school