

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Sites

Inspectors Matters, Issues and Questions Additional Statements

Submitted on behalf of Aggregate Industries UK Ltd

SAND AND GRAVEL MS-1 PRODUCTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL

Issue 73 -Have the site assessments accounted for the demand for the different main types of sand and gravel ?

Response

The Site assessments have not accounted for the demand for different types of sand and gravel (ie Chard gravels) and the Plan has therefore not been positively prepared.

Aggregate Industries UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as the Company) operate the Chard Junction Quarry which is currently in production with around two years sand and gravel reserves remaining. The Quarry is included within Policy MS-1 (Production of sand and gravel).

The Company are currently promoting an extension to Chard Junction Quarry at Westford Park Farm. Assessment work for this proposal is at an advanced stage, a Scoping Opinion has been issued by Dorset County Council, Public Consultation events have taken place and a Planning Application is to be submitted shortly.

The proposed allocation covers an area of approximately 11.93 hectares and will release approximately 930,000 saleable tonnes of sand and gravel, approximately 4.5 years life at current levels of production. The grid reference for the site is ST337038 and a location plan is attached at Appendix 1.

It is intended to haul extracted material back to the existing Chard Junction Quarry processing area via a dedicated haul road with all processing, stocking and site administration continuing at the existing facilities. No additional processing plant is proposed as part of the development proposals. All existing quarry infrastructure will be retained and continue in use under the existing arrangements.

Quarrying commenced at Chard Junction Quarry in the 1940's under the Interim Development Order procedures. Following this original consent there have been several consents granted for the extraction of sand and gravel. More recently Planning Permission was granted to recover a further 1.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel (reference number 1/D/12/000079) on 10th May 2012, known as Carter's Close.

The site produces coarse sand and gravels for a variety of uses, including the manufacture of concrete products (pre-cast and ready mixed concrete), single sized gravels for decorative uses (driveways and horticulture, etc.) and aggregates for general consumption purposes.

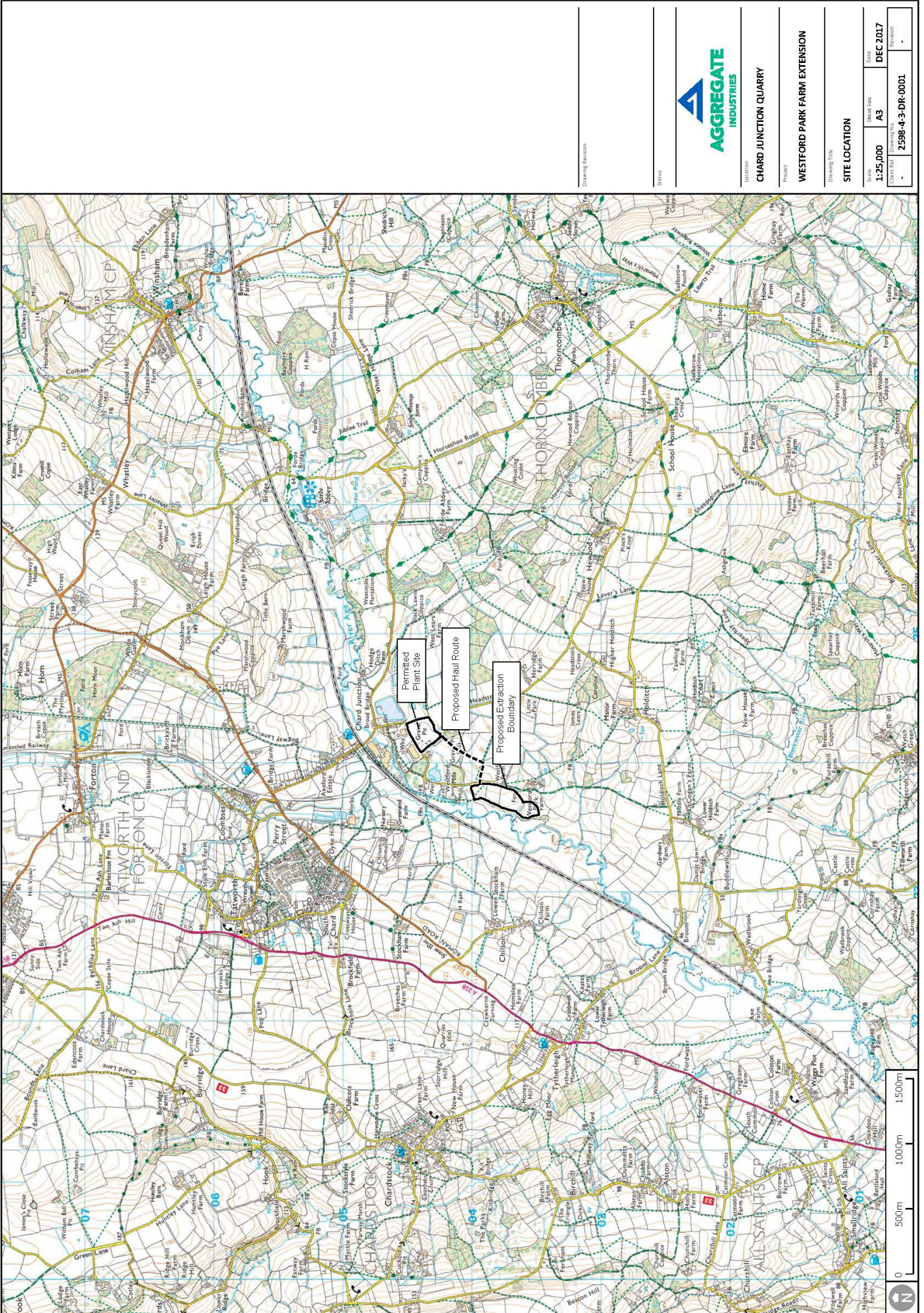
The gravel deposits within the existing Carter's Close site and the proposed Westford Park Farm extension are of exceptional quality in terms of its geological characteristics and its individual colour and appearance. The Quarry is renowned for its gravel deposits, which are highly sought after in the local, regional, and in some cases, national and international market. The strong demand for Chard gravel is mostly manifested in the sought after 20 mm single sized golden gravels decorative stone of

which represented 50% (92,626 tonnes) of 2017 sales. Total Chard Quarry sales in 2017 was 185,132 tonnes.

Chard Junction Quarry serves a local, regional and in part national and European market. As the quarry sits on the border of Dorset, Somerset and Devon County Council it serves local markets in all three counties. If Chard mineral wasn't available, the next nearest source of similar material available is Woodsford Quarry near Dorchester in Dorset which is 34 miles away at some distance from the market served by Chard Junction Quarry. There is therefore a strong local need for the Chard product. As well as the identified local need, the Chard materials travels far and wide with sales in most parts of the country. Demand is particularly strong in the South West and Wales but sales have included Ireland and Belgium.

The site assessments in the preparation of the Minerals sites Plan have not taken account of these specialist gravels in this part of the County which would support the promotion of Westford Park farm and the continuation of mineral extraction at Chard Junction Quarry.

Appendix 1 – Location Plan



Drawing Revision

Scale



Location
CHARD JUNCTION QUARRY

Project
WESTFORD PARK FARM EXTENSION

Drawing Title
SITE LOCATION

Scale	Sheet Size	Date
1:25,000	A3	DEC 2017
Client Ref	Drawing No	Revision
-	2396-4-3-DI-0001	-