

Site Assessment Pro Forma: Swanworth Quarry extension PK16

Site Information	
Site Location	Approximately 1km NW of Worth Matravers village, and adjacent to the existing Swanworth Quarry
Grid Reference	SY 966 785
Administrative Area	Purbeck District Council
Parish	Corfe Castle CP
Site Nominee(s)	Suttle Stone Quarries
Agent	None
Proposed development	Extraction of Portland Limestone
Site Area	7.5ha
Estimated annual output (tpa)	125,000 tpa
Estimated reserve	3,800,000 tonnes
Expected life of operation	30 years
Existing land use	Agriculture
Landscape character type	TBC
Proposed Restoration	Agriculture using inert fill
Access	Via Swanworth Quarry
Estimated Traffic Movements	c. 50 movements per day - TBC



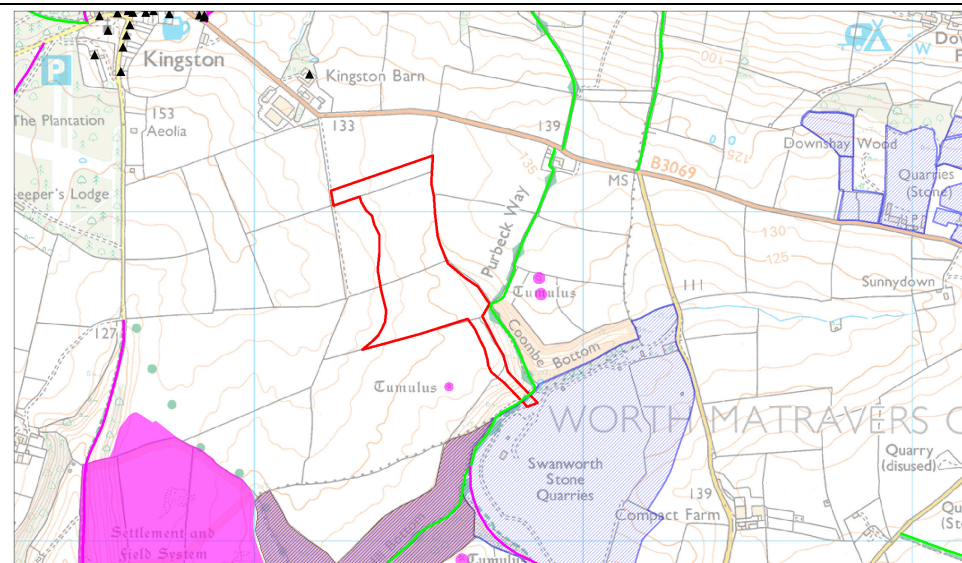
PK16 - Swanworth Quarry extension - aerial view

- Nominated site
- Site with existing planning permission

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS



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PK16 - Swanworth Quarry extension - with constraints

- Nominated site
- Heritage Coast
- Public footpath
- Site with existing planning permission
- SAC
- Public bridleway
- Scheduled monument
- ▲ Listed building

NOTE: The entire area of this plan is entirely within the Dorset AONB. All SAC designations are also SSSI designations.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS



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Deliverability Issues	
Is there geological evidence of the presence and viability of the mineral?	Yes – adjacent land is actively quarried.
Are there any alternative uses to mineral extraction that have been identified, on the land, in other plans?	No
Is the site located within a preferred area in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1999?	No. However, the north-west sector of the nominated site is included within the Purbeck Stone area of search.
Does this conflict with plans/proposals of adjoining Mineral Planning Authorities?	No – Purbeck District Council Local Plan 2012 allocations checked and there are no conflicts.
Are there any issues of land ownership that could prevent development of the site in the plan period? For example covenants	Not known at present.
What is the site's proximity to existing markets?	North apx 1km onto B3069, then west and north for 3.5km to A351, then apx 15km north west, through Corfe Castle village, to A35.
Is the site proposed as an extension to an existing site?	Yes
Has the site been considered in the past for minerals extraction?	No
Is there any other relevant planning history?	Many applications and permissions exist relating to extraction of Stone from Swanworth Quarry – too many to list. The most recent permission, however, was granted on 24 June 2013 (PL\1487\12 (6/2013/0187) to vary the end and restoration dates by 7 years.
Is it possible to achieve acceptable restoration of the site?	Yes - It is proposed to restore the site back to agricultural land using inert fill, which should be achievable provided sufficient inert waste is available.
Does the sequential test for flooding indicate that the site is appropriate for the proposed use?	Site clear of flooding: Zones 2 & 3 are located apx 0.7 km south-west of the site.

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Biodiversity.

Criterion C1 - Impact on European/international designations.

E

A sufficient stand-off from the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC to the south would be required to ensure the long term stability of the SAC. Beyond that, restoration would offer significant habitat gain over the current intensive agricultural land use.

Dorset County Council 6Nov13

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

D

No comment.

Dorset County Council 6Nov13

Criterion C3 - Impact on national designations.

D

No comment.

Dorset County Council 6Nov13

Criterion C4 - Impact on protected species.

D

No comment.

Dorset County Council 6Nov13

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

D

No comment.

Dorset County Council 6Nov13

Geodiversity

Criterion C6 - Impact on geodiversity.

D

This site is of known interest for the exposed stratigraphy. New extensions should be considered as part of the ongoing geological interest of the site. Existing restoration plans provide for the retention of exposures and this principle should be carried over into new areas of the quarry.

Dorset County Council 25.10.2013

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Landscape

Criterion C7 – Impact on designated landscapes.	B
Significant adverse impact	
Dorset County Council 25 October 2013	

Criterion C8 – What is landscape capacity to accommodate proposed development.	B
The south and eastern sides of the area are very sensitive as they slope down from the plateau and therefore has a very low capacity to accommodate development. The rest of the upper plateau is less sensitive but the margin between the two areas needs to be carefully designed with a significant buffer provided.	
Dorset County Council 25 October 2013	

Criterion C9 –Impact on historic landscapes.	A	B	C
Please note comments under criterion C11. As well as being part of a landscape where quarrying has taken part in the past, the site appears to be one of a number of relatively flat locations around Combe Bottom that were chosen as locations for Bronze Age barrows.			
Dorset County Council 31/10/2013			

Historic Environment

Criterion C10 – Impact on historic buildings.	D
Listed buildings in the vicinity are not close enough to be affected by this site. Assessment grade D – no significant impact.	
Dorset County Council 22/10/2013	

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Criterion C11 – Impact on archaeology.	A	B	C
<p>A barrow that is protected as a Scheduled Monument (Dorset M161 – ‘Barrow 1000yds (910m) SE of Kingston Barn) is a major constraint to quarrying here. It occupies a location just west of the centre of the site. Theoretically, extraction that destroyed this nationally-important feature would be category A, but the protection afforded the monument and its setting means that much or possibly all the site should be excluded from such quarrying.</p> <p>In my opinion, serious consideration needs to be given to whether any quarrying here is feasible – through assessment and evaluation that considers the relationship of this barrow to others around Combe Bottom as well as other setting issues and the impact on other below-ground archaeology (I note that the ‘Bing Maps’ aerial view of the site seems to show cropmarks of ancient field boundaries), and also through early discussion with English Heritage.</p> <p>If a compromise can be determined that allows some quarrying within a fraction of this site, the impact could perhaps drop to category C.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 31/10/2013</p>			

Water and Flood Management

Criterion C12 - Impact on hydrogeology or groundwater.		B	
<p>Site is partially/entirely underlain by principal aquifer. No impact on Source Protection Zones. Not known if licensed supplies within the vicinity.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013</p>			

Criterion C13 – Impact on surface waters.		C	
<p>Surface water within approximately 500m of site boundary, to the south.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013</p>			

Criterion C14 - Impact on flooding or coastal stability.		D	
<p>Site is entirely within Flood Risk Zone 1.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013</p>			

Land and Soils

Criterion C15 - Impact on existing soils or land type (including BMV land).		C	
<p>Site is good to moderate quality agricultural land. Any soil removed will be protected during working and can be used to restore the land.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013 .</p>			

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Air Quality

Criterion C16 – Impact on AQMAs.**D**

No direct impact on any AQMAs.

Dorset County Council 4 November 2013

Economic development

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

Site will have positive benefit during working, contributing to supply of Purbeck Stone and providing employment. Restoration to agriculture will maintain an on-going positive benefit.

Dorset County Council 4 November 2013

Human Health and Amenity

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

Closest property approximately 500m to north; other >500m to south, Kingston Village approximately 1km to north west. Possibility of some visibility from the north, subject to screening

Dorset County Council 4 November 2013 .

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

Kingston Village approximately 1km to north west, Worth Matravers approximately 1km to south east. Limited if any visibility from the north, limited if any visibility from the south at Worth Matravers – site would be visible from the C135 north of Worth Matravers.

Dorset County Council 4 November 2013

Airport Safety

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

Site is approximately 23km from airport and not proposed for wet working or restoration.

Dorset County Council 4 November 2013

Cumulative Impacts

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Criterion C21 - Effects on cumulative impacts.	B
<p>Site nomination comprises an extension of an existing quarry in an area where there is a high concentration and long history of mineral extraction.</p> <p>There are no sites allocated for major development in the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 (adopted Nov 2012) within 5 km of the proposal.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013 11.11.2013.</p>	

Carbon Emissions

Criterion C22 - Impact on carbon emissions	B
<p>Site will be reliant on road transport.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013</p>	

Recreation/Access

Criterion C23 - Impact on recreational land	B
<p>Majority of the site is agricultural land, no formal/informal recreational use. Southern part of the site appears to have informal access routes, along with a bridleway. This area links the extension to the main quarry and is unlikely to be worked, but will need to be crossed. Further assessment required.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013</p>	

Criterion C24- Impact on public rights of way	B
<p>Southern part of the site appears to have informal access routes, along with a bridleway. This area links the extension to the main quarry and is unlikely to be worked, but will need to be crossed. Further assessment required to consider how this can be safely managed.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 4 November 2013</p>	

Criterion C25 - Are the access proposals acceptable	C
<p>Access proposed is via the adequate existing Swanworth Quarry access onto the C135. From here vehicles will travel a short distance north onto the B3069 and onward to the A351 through Kingston. While the trip numbers are relatively high at around 60 movements per day, the extension is not expected to be worked concurrently with the existing Swanworth Quarry operations. Therefore there will be little increase in traffic over the current situation. The route passes a small number of properties on the edge of Kingston but by-passes the main part of the settlement on the B3069. This site has therefore been given a C rating.</p> <p>Dorset County Council 29 October 2013</p>	