

**2020 Review of the
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014¹ (MS) was adopted in May 2014. It covers the (former) administrative areas of Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole. Since Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on 1 April 2019, the MS covers the unitary authorities of Dorset Council (DCI) and BCP Council (BCP). The MS covers the period from adoption in 2014 to 2028.
- 1.2. The MS is intended to ensure that a reliable and timely supply of minerals is maintained, whilst protecting the environment and our communities. It contains strategic policies that establish the amounts of the various minerals to be supplied, and the spatial locations from which these minerals will come. It also contains policies covering safeguarding of minerals and restoration of mineral sites, along with development management policies to enable minerals decision-making, and policies covering minerals safeguarding and site restoration.
- 1.3. The MS does not include local policies and does not allocate any specific sites for mineral development. These are set out in the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan 2019 (MSP). The MSP is intended to complement the MS and to allocate the sites to deliver the strategies for different minerals. Since the MSP was only adopted at the end of 2019 the MPA consider that a period of time is required to allow the Plans to work together, during which both Plans will be monitored.
- 1.4. The implementation of the MS has been assessed and recorded through Monitoring Reports on an annual basis from 2014 to 2018. The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) requires that local plans should be reviewed to assess whether they require updating at least once every five years². A recent update to Planning Practice Guidance suggests that if a local planning authority decides not to update their policies, they should publish the reasons³ for this decision. This Guidance⁴ also notes that policies age at different rates according to local circumstances and a plan does not become out-of-date automatically after 5 years. The review process is a method to ensure that a plan and the policies within remains effective
- 1.5. Having been adopted over five years ago, the MS has been reviewed to assess whether it is still delivering the Vision (as set out in Chapter 4) of land use for minerals development in Dorset and BCP and whether the policies remain effective and appropriate in supporting and delivering this vision. The review period covered by this report is the five years since adoption, 2014-2018. Monitoring has been ongoing since the end of 2018, and further review of the MS is expected to be carried out.
- 1.6. The purpose of this report is therefore to provide a high level review of the effectiveness of the policies of the MS, review and consider whether national policy may have an impact on the delivery of the MS and summarise what further actions are recommended.

¹ Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy 2014

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-county-council/minerals-planning-policy/minerals-strategy.aspx>

² National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 33 (February 2019 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

³ Paragraph: 070 Reference ID: 61-070-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#plan-reviews>

⁴ Paragraph: 064 Reference ID: 61-064-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019

Structure of this review

1.7. This review has a number of sections:

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- **Effectiveness of the Minerals Strategy 2014 Policies** - each of the 47 policies of the Minerals Strategy have been reviewed, based on the monitoring reports and additional focussed assessment, in order to provide information on how effective and relevant the policies are. Commentary and a monitoring RAG (Red, Amber and Green) status is provided for each policy.
- **National Planning Policy Framework Assessment**- a focussed review to assess compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- **Issues Identified**– explores the policies that have been found to have an 'Amber' or 'Red' Review status and what action is considered necessary in these cases.
- **Conclusions** – outlines a summary of the findings and a proposed way forward in relation to the need for an update of the Minerals Strategy.

2. Effectiveness of the Minerals Strategy 2014 Policies

- 2.1. This section reviews each of the 47 policies contained within the MS, considering the monitoring indicators and targets for each policy. Frequency of use and relevance over the period 2014-2018 are reviewed, based on an assessment of use for each policy.
- 2.2. In the 5 year review period 2014 to 2018, the Mineral Planning Authorities issued 103 decisions, which have been assessed for policy effectiveness. A RAG (Red, Amber and Green) Monitoring status is provided for each policy and is determined as follows:

Monitoring shows no issues	Green
Monitoring shows some issues - further consideration required	Amber
Monitoring shows issues - further consideration required and these may need to be addressed	Red

- 2.3. Policies scored as 'Green' are considered to be functioning and being applied as intended, and no issues were identified. If some issues are identified, but these do not appear significant, the policy is scored 'Amber'. If significant issues were identified the policy is score 'Red'. An Amber or Red does not mean that the policy, or the whole MS, must be reviewed but it does flag up to the MPA where further consideration and attention are needed.
- 2.4. A summary table of all the RAG Monitoring statuses of all the policies is set out at the end of the policy assessments.
- 2.5. The 'Issues Requiring Further Consideration' section provides further analysis of each policy scoring Amber or Red, with the response of the MPA to each one.

Policy SS1 - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

Policy Wording

When considering development proposals the Mineral Planning Authority will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Mineral Planning Authority will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

- any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or
- specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted

Key Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of applications refused.

Target:

- All permissions consistent with this policy reflecting the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy and not reflecting sustainable development.

Use since adoption: This policy has been specifically referred to in decision notices 21 times out of 104 applications during the 2014-2018 review period, but the aims of the policy have been more widely applied.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is a general one that the Mineral Planning Authority were required to include in the MS when it was prepared. It is intended to ensure that the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) takes a positive approach to development that improves economic, social and environmental conditions in the area, reflecting the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Assessment of refusals of permission show that no applications have been recommended for refusal on the basis of not reflecting sustainable development. There have been two refusals to date – Woodsford (contrary to DM2, DM4 and DM7 - refused against officer recommendation) and Canford Magna Golf Club (DM2 - also refused against officer recommendation). These are political decisions over which the Minerals Strategy 2014 has no influence.

Although this is a relatively low proportion, the MPA is satisfied that there is no need for a decision to refer specifically to this policy, and the policy is functioning satisfactorily. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy SS2 - Identification of Sites in the Mineral Sites Plan

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will use the Mineral Sites Plan as the vehicle for the identification of specific sites wherever possible, having regard to the policies in the Minerals Strategy, the site selection criteria and the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Specific sites will be where viable mineral resources are known to exist, where landowners are supportive of mineral development and where any planning applications made are likely to be acceptable in planning terms.

Permission will be granted for unallocated (windfall) sites where it can be demonstrated that there is a need that cannot be met within allocated sites and where development would not prejudice the delivery of allocated sites.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Permission granted for a non-allocated site.

Target:

- All permissions consistent with this policy with permissions being for sites within the MSP wherever possible.

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy.

Use since adoption: This policy has been used a number of times since adoption of the Minerals Strategy, including three new sites; fourteen extensions to site/extension to time. In some cases the sites were under consideration through the local plan process, in others the sites were completely new.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to establish the Mineral Sites Plan 2019 (MSP - when prepared, it was not adopted until some 5 years after adoption of the Minerals Strategy 2014), as the primary identifier of new sites (including extensions) for minerals development.

This policy is not intended to make the MSP the sole vehicle for the identification and approval of future mineral sites. The MS does acknowledge (e.g. paragraphs 5.16 and 5.17) that for some minerals it may not be possible for the MSP to identify adequate sites to meet demand over the Plan period. It also states that sites that come forward which are not allocated through the MSP will need to comply with relevant policies in the MS, and this will provide a sound basis for assessment.

Assessment of new sites or extensions to existing sites show that they are a combination of allocated sites and non-allocated sites. The MPA do not consider it unduly restrictive or negative, and given the delay in adopting the MSP, it has been difficult to properly assess this policy. Now the Mineral Sites Plan 2019 is adopted and in use, this policy will be properly assessed in coming years.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy CC1 - Preparation of Climate Change Assessments

Policy Wording

Proposals for mineral developments and aggregates recycling operations should be supported by an assessment of how climate change mitigation and adaptation measures have been incorporated in the design and operation of the proposed development and considered in its location. This assessment will include demonstrating that the proposals are energy, material, and water efficient. It must also demonstrate how emissions generated from traffic will be minimised.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Applications accepted without a comprehensive Climate Change Assessment
- Applications where mitigation is incorporated into the scheme
- Conditions requiring mitigation measures

Target:

- All applications to be supported by a climate change assessment or a statement to confirm that an assessment is not needed.

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy
- Should applications not include climate change mitigation measures, where these are appropriate, discussions will be undertaken with Development Management officers to consider the reasons why and any potential issues this raises with the implementation of policy

Use since adoption: A climate change assessment was provided and assessed for the 39 Wytch Farm applications determined in 2017, although the policy was not specifically referred to in the decision notices. The policy was referred to in a further three application reports, but this is a relatively small proportion of the 104 applications dealt with since adoption.

Commentary and RAG Score

Red

Chapter 6 of the Minerals Strategy covers the impacts of climate change and the importance of minimising these impacts in relation to mineral production, where possible. This policy seeks to require proposals for minerals development to demonstrate that the wider issue of climate change has been addressed in each case. However, indications are that this policy is not being consistently applied.

Policy RE1 – Production of Recycled Aggregates

Policy Wording

Production of recycled aggregates, including high grade washed recycled aggregate, will be facilitated through permitting long term or permanent facilities at locations which:

- a. are near to the source of material to be recycled and in locations favourable to the production of recycled aggregates (for example industrial locations, existing active quarries or waste sites, urban fringe and brownfield sites); or
- b. replace temporary aggregate recycling permissions where the need for permanent retention can be demonstrated and where it can be shown that the temporary facility has operated without causing adverse environmental impacts and where long-term or permanent operation would not impede or conflict with restoration of any other use of the site.

Where it is considered that permanent or long term facilities for aggregates recycling may be inappropriate, temporary facilities will be permitted or renewed at suitable locations, including existing quarries and appropriate waste management sites, provided that any negative impacts can be avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level.

In cases where a recycling facility is permitted for operation within an existing quarry, the life of the permission will normally be restricted to the life of the quarry operation

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of applications for recycled aggregate facilities approved or refused
- Amount of recycled aggregate produced, as a percentage of overall aggregate production/sales

Target:

- Increase the production of recycled aggregate, in order to reduce the need for primary aggregate
- Improved collection of recycling figures

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If no applications for new recycling operations emerge this policy will need reviewing. The MPA may need to be proactive and identify specific sites

Use since adoption: Applied to one Minerals application in the plan period and to four Waste applications.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

The Minerals Strategy recognises the benefits of encouraging and facilitating the production of recycled aggregate, and this policy is intended to encourage and promote this through permitting permanent or long-term temporary facilities.

There has been one minerals application involving recycled aggregates since adoption - this was for permanent permission for an existing site; however, a temporary extension was granted, rather than permanency. Although no applications for new sites have been dealt with, as the table below shows recycled aggregate production is rising annually. The policy has been applied in four waste development applications.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Recycled aggregate sales (tonnes)	322,324	327,178	346,157	365,800	394,928
As % of total aggregate sales	13.2	15	17	19	21.4

The policy is drafted positively, and encourages development (subject to criteria) to facilitate and increase recycled aggregate production. Although there have been to date no applications for new recycling operations, the MPA is satisfied that the policy is functioning adequately and does not at this time require review. Recycled aggregate production steadily increased.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy AS1 - Provision of Sand and Gravel

Policy Wording

An adequate and steady supply of locally extracted sand and gravel will be provided by maintaining a landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves equivalent to at least 7 years' worth of supply over the period to 2028, based on the current agreed local annual supply requirement for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole This will be achieved from:

- i. remaining reserves at existing permitted sites;
- ii. new sand and gravel sites, including extensions to existing permitted sites, as identified in the Mineral Sites Plan;
- iii. new sites not identified in the Mineral Sites Plan, provided:
 - a. monitoring indicates that the sites identified in ii. above are unlikely to meet Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole's landbank requirements; or
 - b. the proposed development is for the prior extraction of aggregate in advance of non-minerals development; or
 - c. the development is part of a proposal for another beneficial use; or
 - d. the development is for a specific local requirement.

Future sites required to contribute to meeting this supply will be located within the resource blocks identified on the Policies Map.

Sites will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathland Ramsar site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Total quantity of sand and gravel as permitted reserves
- Total quantity of sand and gravel identified within the MSP
- Actual sales/production of sand and gravel annually

Target:

- To identify sufficient sites within the MSP to deliver production at a level of 9.36 million tonnes (average of 1.58 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum)

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If it becomes clear that it will not be possible to meet the level of provision at an acceptable environmental cost, from within the resource areas, this policy will need revising
- If the level of sales consistently exceeds the level of provision further sites may be needed and/or the reliance on the criteria and policies in the Minerals Strategy

Use since adoption: During the review period 2014-2018 the policy has been used/referenced nine times, with nine permissions issued.

Cont'd over...

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total quantity of sand and gravel as permitted reserves (tonnes)	15,214,238	13,827,020	13,547,949	12,607,012	14,116,308
Total quantity of sand and gravel identified within the Mineral Sites Plan 2019	Approximately 17 million tonnes				
Actual sales/production of sand and gravel annually (tonnes)	1,733,361	2,287,042	1,666,722	1,265,731	1,193,918
Landbank – years	9.68	8.92	8.97	8.52	9.87

This policy seeks to ensure an adequate and steady supply of local land-won sand and gravel. The results of the monitoring are set out in the table above. The level of reserves fell steadily to 2017, but increased in 2018. However, as sales have continued to decline as well, the sand and gravel landbank has remained above the required 7 years.

The issue of identifying sufficient sites in the MSP to maintain supply is addressed in the recently adopted Mineral Sites Plan 2019, and this was demonstrated through Policy MS-1 to the satisfaction of the Inspector examining the Plan. The MSP also includes another policy, MS-2, permitting unallocated sites in certain situations.

The target of 1.58 mtpa for provision as set out above varies annually, and is established through the annual Local Aggregates Assessment. The level of provision identified and allocated through the MSP far exceeds this target.

During the preparation of the MSP, a number of sand and gravel sites proposed for inclusion in the MSP were applied for and approved, contributing to maintaining supply.

The MPA are satisfied that policy AS1 of the Minerals Strategy 2014 encourages the ongoing supply of aggregate particularly in conjunction with policies MS-1 and MS-2 of the Mineral Sites Plan 2019. The policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy AS2 - Landbank Provision

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authorities will maintain a separate landbank for both Poole Formation and River Terrace aggregate equivalent to at least 7 years' supply in each case.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Level of permitted reserves of each material and current landbank figure

Target:

- Maintenance of a 7 year landbank through mineral permissions

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If it is clear that applications are not being granted then the size of the landbank will fall and the policy may need revising

Use since adoption: This aims of this policy are being applied without the policy being specifically referenced.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy recognises that two different types of aggregate, Poole Formation and River Terrace, are extracted in Dorset/BCP and is intended to ensure that separate landbanks of both these types of aggregate are maintained.

It ensures that the MS is in compliance with policy guidance⁵ which states that 'where there is a distinct market for a specific type or quality of aggregate (such as high specification rock, or sand used for concrete or sand for asphalt), a separate landbank calculation based on provision to that market may be justified for that material or those materials'.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Poole Formation reserves (tonnes)	7,735,422	7,105,020	7,562,949	6,676,012	8,250,808
Poole Formation landbank	7.37	6.90	7.56	6.81	8.78
River Terrace reserves (tonnes)	7,463,000	6,722,000	5,985,000	5,931,000	5,066,831
River Terrace landbank	14.35	12.93	11.97	11.86	10.34

A Landbank of at least 7 years for River Terrace has been maintained in the past 5 years. Levels for Poole Formation have fluctuated more, on two occasions falling to below 7 years, but have risen in 2018 to well above 7 years.

The MSP allocates both River Terrace and Poole Formation aggregate sites, and monitoring of that Plan along with the MS will indicate how effective this policy is when supported by the policies of the MSP. Time is required to see how effectively the MS and the MSP work together.

The MPA is satisfied that this policy is delivering as needed and do not consider that any further action is needed at this time. It is noted that if no new permissions are issued then reserves will fall, but the MPA has no control on the submission of new applications. Landbanks will continue to be monitored through this policy.

⁵ National Planning Practice Guidance: Paragraph: 085 Reference ID: 27-085-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014

Policy AS3 - Crushed Rock

Policy Wording

New sites for the processing and production of crushed rock will only be permitted within the Plan period in exceptional circumstances including but not limited to:

- a. where development would enable a sustainable supply of minerals close to the market;
- b. where an existing more sensitive site will be relinquished

Monitoring Indicator:

- Whether or not any new sites for crushed rock are permitted
- Actual sales/production of crushed rock annually

Target:

- No permissions granted for the processing and production of crushed rock

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Landbank of less than 10 years

Use since adoption: This Policy has not been used/referenced.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy implicitly acknowledges the potentially significant impacts of crushed rock quarries, along with the fact that new crushed rock quarries may be required in order to maintain production of this type of aggregate. It focusses on avoiding impacts from further surface quarrying for crushed rock, but it does include allowance for the development of new crushed rock quarries in exceptional circumstances.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales of crushed rock (tonnes)	278,395	239,517	197,873	219,703	198,738
Estimated crushed rock landbank (million tonnes and years)	19.63 mt 89.23 years	19 mt 82 years	12.2 mt c. 53 years	12.19 mt c. 55 years	12 mt c. 57 years

No permissions for new or extended crushed rock sites have been granted in the last 5 years, but due to historic permissions the landbank remains far in excess of 10 years.

The Mineral Sites Plan 2019 includes an allocation for an extension to the existing Swanworth Quarry, in Purbeck. The MPA considered that, taking into account existing policy and material considerations, this allocation was justified as it maintained a supply of crushed rock outside of Portland and in close proximity to the Bournemouth & Poole conurbation.

Policy AS4 - Wharves and Depots

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will permit new mineral handling rail depots and wharves, and the expansion and/or modernisation of existing sites, where the need for the facility can be demonstrated.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Permissions for other forms of development at existing rail depots and wharves which would prevent or prejudice the current use - application of safeguarding policy
- New rail depots and aggregate wharves
- Expansion and /or modernisation of existing sites

Target:

- Establishment of new wharf or depot sites
- No net loss of land at existing wharves and depots
- No net decreases in percentage share transported by rail/water

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If new information identified the need for a wharf or depot there may be the need to review the policy and consider more proactive policy guidance and the identification of site specific allocations

Use since adoption: This Policy has not been used/referenced.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to provide for the development of new aggregate wharves or rail depots, or improvements to current facilities, provided the need for the proposal can be demonstrated. It addresses sustainability and sustainable transport issues, and also supports the reduction of CO₂ in minerals transport.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
% share transported by rail	None	None	None	83,000 (tonnes) (4.1%)	None
% share transported by water (i.e. marine dredged, imported to Poole) as % of total amount of aggregate sold/consumed in Dorset	92,982 (tonnes) (3.8%)	87,268 (tonnes) (4%)	82,750 (tonnes) (4%)	71,400 (tonnes) (3.6%)	56,227 (tonnes) (3%)
% share transported by rail (i.e. imported to Hamworthy, Poole) as % of total amount of crushed rock sold/consumed in Dorset	0 tonnes 0%	0 tonnes 0%	0 tonnes 0%	83,000 tonnes 36%	0 tonnes 0%

There has been no use of this policy since adoption, including

- no permissions which potentially impact on the operation of the CEMEX wharf or Hamworthy rail depot
- no other wharf/depot sites currently in regular use in Dorset Council or BCP Council
- no applications or permissions for new sites, or expansion/modernisation of current sites

- existing safeguarding policy has not been triggered, and both sites are safeguarded under new policy MS8 in the Minerals Sites Plan.

The percentage share transported by water increased from 2014 to 2016, but then decreased again to just below the 2014 position. The Hamworthy depot was not used from 2013 -2016; was used in 2017, but not in 2018. Improvement/maintenance to the rail infrastructure is awaited, and when this is complete imports are likely to start again.

This policy has not been used, and is not achieving two of its targets. However, development of new wharf/depot sites, or expansion of current facilities, is market driven. The MPA is satisfied that the existing sites are appropriately safeguarded, the policy is positively worded and seeks to facilitate appropriate development. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy AS5 - Borrow Pits

Policy Wording

Proposals for borrow pits associated with construction projects will be permitted provided that all of the following apply:

- a. the site lies on or in close proximity to the project so that material can be conveyed to its point of use with minimal use of public highways and without undue interference with footpaths and bridleways;
- b. the material extracted will only be used in connection with the project;
- c. it can be demonstrated that supply of the mineral from the borrow pit would have less environmental impact than if the mineral were supplied from an existing source;
- d. the borrow pit can be restored without the use of imported material, other than that generated on the adjoining construction scheme; and
- e. the use of the borrow pit is limited to the life of the project.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of permissions for Borrow Pits

Target:

- Ensure proposals have minimum detrimental impact
- All permissions consistent with all the criteria in this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: This policy has not been used or referenced.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy recognises the importance of borrow pits in appropriate situations/locations, and their ability to provide more sustainable access to a source of aggregates, minimising transport impacts. It facilitates their development provided certain conditions are met.

There have been no applications for borrow pits, and this policy has not been used. Development of borrow pits is market driven, or need driven. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is positively worded and facilitates appropriate development where needed. The policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy BC1 - Provision of Ball Clay

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will aim to ensure an adequate and steady supply of all grades of ball clay through the provision of up to 2.5 million tonnes of reserves over the plan period from within the Ball Clay Consultation Area.

The sensitive environment of the ball clay bearing areas should be recognised and permission will be granted for the extraction of ball clay where all of the following specific criteria are met:

- a. The scale, nature, location and duration of the proposal would not have a significant impact on the landscape character and quality of the AONB.
- b. Where sites are situated within the AONB, the scale and method of working should be appropriate in scale and specifically tailored to reduce harm.
- c. Where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathland Ramsar site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, unless in exceptional circumstances the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive are met.
- d. A detailed restoration and aftercare scheme demonstrates how the enhancement of landscape, nature conservation habitats and geodiversity interest will be achieved, as appropriate.

Where there are sites allocated in the Mineral Sites Plan and applications are for additional sites, the need for a particular grade of clay should be demonstrated.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Tonnage of material identified within the MSP
- Total quantity of ball clay as permitted reserves
- Actual sales/production of ball clay annually

Target:

- To maintain an adequate supply of all grades of ball clay

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If it is clear that permitted reserves are unlikely to be sufficient to maintain an adequate and steady supply then the policy may need to be reviewed

Use since adoption: There have been five relevant applications during the review period 2014-2018, and the policy was used in each case.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy recognises the importance of ball clay, and maintaining supply. As a criteria based policy, it facilitates applications for new development when this can be justified. The policy recognises the extremely sensitive environments, particularly in terms of landscape and nature conservation, in which ball clay is found and seeks to ensure the protection of the environment as far as possible while providing for the ongoing supply of ball clay.

This policy is difficult to monitor effectively, primarily because the only company producing ball clay in Dorset decline to provide detailed and regular figures on sales or reserves. There are currently no accurate and recent figures on annual sales and reserves. Sales in 2016 were approximately 150,000 tonnes and 187,037 tonnes in 2017, significantly less than the figure of 250,000 tpa identified in the Minerals Strategy 2014. The recent permission at

Trigon Hill Extension provided approximately 1,200,000 tonnes. Existing reserves will last longer at lower rates of extraction.

The MSP, for much of its preparation stage, included the Trigon Hill Extension site only as a proposed allocation; permission for this site was sought and granted around the time the MSP was undergoing Examination. The adopted plan does not allocate any ball clay sites. Part of the reason for this is that other sites put forward by the operating company Imerys for consideration were sensitive sites and the MPA were not willing to include them as potential allocations unless further assessment information was supplied.

Policy BC1 commits to the supply of an adequate and steady supply of ball clay. In addition to existing reserves, including the recent Trigon Hill Extension permission, this policy is a criteria-based policy with a commitment to grant permission for new sites provided the criteria as set out are met.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is positively worded and seeks to facilitate appropriate development. To date, the policy has been delivering an adequate and steady supply of ball clay. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy BC2 - Ball Clay Transportation

Policy Wording

Where the Mineral Planning Authority has identified unacceptable adverse impacts arising from road borne transportation of ball clay, operators will be expected to use alternative means of transport for the movement of ball clay to and from Furzebrook and for the onward distribution of ball clay from Furzebrook where practical.

Monitoring Indicator:

- The extent to which any alternative means of transport to and from Furzebrook are utilised

Target:

- Consideration of alternatives to the bulk transportation of minerals by road in applications
- Applications including an increase in transportation to be accompanied by a statement of sustainable transport options

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: This policy has not been used since adoption.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy encourages alternative (to road) means of transport for ball clay, promoting sustainability and sustainable transport.

This policy has not been used since adoption. Consultation responses from the Highways authority have not identified any unacceptable adverse impacts, therefore this policy has not been applied. It remains available for use.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy BC3 - Extraction of Sand and Gravel in association with Ball Clay within the AONB

Policy Wording

Extraction of sand and gravel in association with ball clay workings within the Dorset AONB will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- a. the material is derived from the overburden and interburden;
- b. the operation is of a reasonable scale;
- c. any adverse visual and landscape impacts are avoided or capable of mitigation to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority;
- d. restoration of the site would not be compromised, maintaining and enhancing the area's landscape character and ecology;
- e. the road network can safely accommodate the additional vehicle movements without significant environmental or amenity impact; and
- f. any adverse impacts on the ecology, amenity and recreational areas are capable of mitigation to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of permissions and allocations within the MSP for the extraction of sand and gravel in association with ball clay working within the AONB which are not consistent with the policy

Target:

- All permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval for large scale or major extraction of sand and gravel, in association with ball clay, within the AONB would be contrary to this policy. The need for policy review may be necessary

Use since adoption: There have been four applications for ball clay within the AONB, with three of the four decisions referencing the policy. All relevant applications have addressed the policy criteria.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

It is acknowledged that sand and gravel is found alongside ball clay - either above, below or between the clay seams extracted. In some cases it is necessary to remove the sand and gravel to access the clay, and in such cases it can be appropriate to sell the aggregate, thereby minimising the need to extract elsewhere given that the aggregate had to be removed to access the ball clay. However there is national policy against aggregate production within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where ball clay is found and worked. This policy seeks to simultaneously protect the AONB from excessive aggregate extraction, while allowing the sale of some level of aggregate, to be agreed for each application.

There are no allocations within the MSP for sites for the extraction of sand/gravel in association with ball clay. As noted earlier, the MSP contains no ball clay allocations as the only allocation under consideration received permission before the Plan was adopted.

All the ball clay applications within the AONB, in which the policy was referenced 3 times out of 4, were for variation of condition to extend working or restoration time. There were no new applications, seeking permission to quarry aggregate in the AONB - in each case, the principle of working had already been established but the policy was referenced in 75% of relevant cases. The case in which it was not used, it was arguably not relevant

The policy remains available for use, and the MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy PK1 - Provision of Purbeck Stone

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will maintain an adequate and steady supply of the full range of Purbeck Stone beds for building and roofing purposes during the plan period. Provision will be made for an average of at least 20,000 tonnes per annum of saleable Purbeck Stone, excluding Purbeck Marble and Burr.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Level of output of Purbeck Stone

Target:

- Sites identified in the MSP to meet requirement of 102,000 tonnes (an average of 20,000 tonnes per annum, tpa)

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Significant increase in output may require a policy review

Use since adoption: There have been eleven Purbeck Stone applications. No refusals. Relevant to ten applications. Used/referenced in seven applications. Policy listed for three applications. Whilst the policy was referred to directly in only 7 of the 10 relevant applications, it is considered that the requirements of the policy are being applied.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to ensure the continued provision of Purbeck Stone, across the full range of beds of stone, during the life of the MS. This will be achieved through allocating enough sites in the MSP to ensure continuing supply.

The MSP has allocated 5 sites, 2 of which are wider areas within which individual quarries will be developed subject to permission. These 5 sites are estimated to comprise in excess of 900,000 tonnes of Purbeck Stone, though not all this will be saleable stone.

It is difficult to know annual production with accuracy - for the 5 years of monitoring, only in one year (2017) have nearly all companies returned sales/production figures, and for this year production was approximately 25,000 tonnes.

The MPA is satisfied that the MSP has allocated an adequate amount of Purbeck Stone for development during the Plan period, and as discussed in Policy PK2 (below) there are additional options for Purbeck Stone provision allowed for in the Plan. No further action is required at this time.

Policy PK2 - Considerations for Purbeck Stone Quarries

Policy Wording

Provision for Purbeck Stone will be made by:

- i. identifying suitable sites within the Mineral Sites Plan;
- ii. permitting applications for non-allocated sites within the Area of Search, as shown on the Policies Map, if they are needed to meet a shortfall in supply that cannot be met through existing permitted or allocated sites; and
- iii. permitting applications for non-allocated sites outside of the Area of Search if it can be demonstrated that there is a need for a specific bed of stone that cannot be met by (i) and (ii), or that they would offer a net environmental, economic or social benefit compared with similar development within the Area of Search.

Proposals for Purbeck Stone quarries must meet all of the following criteria:

- a. their scale, extent and location are such that adverse impacts upon the environment and amenity can be avoided, minimised or adequately mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority;
- b. they are accompanied by details of anticipated overburden and evidence of how this will be accommodated within the landform so as not to have a significant impact on the landscape character and quality of the Dorset AONB;
- c. there will not be an unacceptable cumulative impact on the landscape character or amenity having regard to activities within the proposed site and other sites within the area;
- d. existing characteristic landscape features, such as stone walls, are retained in situ unless the stone is incapable of being viably worked without disturbance to such features. Where disturbance is unavoidable proposals must include measures to minimise disturbance and/or mitigate the impact to an acceptable degree;
- e. there would not be unacceptable impacts on the highway network or amenity arising from transporting stone from the quarry to the service area; and
- f. in the case of applications for non-allocated sites, they would not prevent or constrain the delivery of an existing permitted or allocated site, having regard to the potential for cumulative impacts to occur.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Grant of permission from outside the Area of Search

Target:

- Permitted sites consistent with the policy criteria

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If sites are being permitted or allocated from outside the Area of Search, consideration may need to be given to whether the identified area remains appropriate – e.g. new evidence that may require a revision to the identified area or an exception to the policy is unlikely to be repeated?

Use since adoption: Applications for extensions to area of extraction have fulfilled the criterion as required by the policy; applications for extensions to the life of the site / ancillary operations have made no change to the original extraction permitted.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to establish the means by which new Purbeck Stone sites are identified for development. New sites would preferentially be identified and allocated through the MSP. If however there is a shortfall in supply from existing reserves and the allocated sites, the Minerals Strategy 2014 identifies an Area of Search within which

sites may be permitted. Finally, in some cases sites may be permitted outside the Area of Search provided certain criteria are met. The policy then sets out specific criteria that proposals for Purbeck Stone development must meet.

The policy has been used a number of times, so far for existing sites involving site extensions or extensions of time. In one case, a part of a proposed extension to an existing quarry was outside the Purbeck Stone Area of Search, but the proposal was permitted. It is expected that at this time officers were still familiarising themselves with what were then relatively new policies, and this was possibly an oversight. This is the only case in which Policy PK2 was not fully complied with.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and is being used appropriately. No change is considered necessary.

Policy PK3 - Service Areas

Policy Wording

Proposals including the processing of Purbeck Stone will only be permitted if any sawing equipment is located within a building to minimise adverse impact on amenity. Improvements to existing service areas, including the establishment of appropriate buffers between service areas and residential properties, will be sought wherever the opportunity arises. Proposals for new service areas which would have an adverse impact on landscape or amenity will only be permitted if they are a replacement for an existing service area and they would result in a net reduction in adverse impacts.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of conditions linked to site improvements
- Net change in the number of service areas

Target:

- No net increase in number of service areas

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Approval for any additional service area
- Advances in technology

Use since adoption: There have been three applications relating to service areas, and the policy was used in all three.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy recognises that the Purbeck Stone industry requires service areas with buildings and equipment to process the extracted stone. It seeks to minimise impacts, including visual and amenity impacts, from the presence and operation of these service areas. It also seeks, where possible, to achieve improvements to existing service areas.

There have been three cases where this policy was relevant, and it has been used in each case. Conditions imposed have included managing stockpiling, not allowing importation, maintenance of vegetation screening, noise control - these are less related to site improvements than to site management, but do still seek to control overall site appearance, and reduce potential for visual/amenity impact.

There has been no net increase in service areas.

The policy remains available for use if proposals regarding service areas are received, and provides the ability to control such proposals. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy PK4 - Crushing of Purbeck Stone at Dimension Stone Quarries

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will seek to restrict the crushing of stone at dimension stone quarries in Purbeck to a level which is small in scale, temporary and ancillary to the extraction and working of dimension stone quarried from the site, where the material is required for use within a quarry or service area. In all cases such activities should:

- a. ensure there will be no adverse impact upon features, people or activities sensitive to disturbance from it;
- b. only use stone which is not required for the restoration of the quarry site to an appropriate landform; and
- c. be limited to stone extracted from Purbeck Stone quarries.

Permission will only be granted on a temporary basis for the crushing of surplus Purbeck Stone in addition to use within a quarry or service area where it can be demonstrated that there is an identified local need, it would not generate unacceptable impacts on the highway network and subject to a and b above.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Conditions attached to permissions restricting crushing activity

Target:

- Crushing only in line with exceptional circumstances outlined

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy
- Any unexpected need for crushed rock could highlight a need for review

Use since adoption: This policy has been used six times in eight relevant applications. In two cases a condition restricting crushing has been imposed, but the wrong policy (PK3) quoted.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

This policy seeks to restrict the crushing of waste Purbeck Stone, for both amenity reasons and to maximise the availability of stone for restoration purposes. It has been used for all relevant applications.

This principle of this policy appears to be applied consistently in relevant cases, although it is noted that in two applications a condition restricting crushing has been included, but the policy quoted is PK3 instead of PK4.

On this basis the policy itself is not being consistently applied, and this appears to be an error in report drafting rather than a problem with the principle/approach of the policy. This issue will be brought to the attention of officers, however this policy has been scored Amber.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy PK5 - Importation of Stone from Outside Purbeck

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will only permit the processing and storage and resale of stone arising from outside Purbeck Stone quarries where it can be demonstrated that this is necessary to maintain employment and/or masonry skills and where this would be no more than a minor activity of a scale which does not undermine the viability of the Purbeck Stone or generate unacceptable impacts upon amenity or the highway network.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of permissions for the processing, storage and resale of imported stone and total tonnage permitted

Target:

- No permissions contrary to policy for storage and resale of imported stone
- Importation of stone for processing should be in keeping with current levels

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy
- A significant rise in the amount of imported stone permitted

Use since adoption: There have been six decisions involving a requirement to limit or prohibit the importation of stone to Purbeck stone quarries. Two of these included a condition prohibiting the importation of stone, but quoted incorrect policy numbers.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

This policy seeks to strike a balance between allowing some importation of stone from outside Purbeck, to maintain quarry activity/operation; and ensuring that imports of stone do not undermine the Purbeck Stone industry or cause unacceptable impacts locally.

This principle of this policy appears to be applied consistently in relevant cases, although it is noted that in two applications a condition prohibiting stone imports has been included, but incorrect policy numbers are used. The policy itself is not being consistently applied, and this appears to be an error in report drafting rather than a problem with the principle/approach of the policy. This issue will be brought to the attention of officers, however this policy has been scored Amber.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is being used appropriately, apart from being misquoted in some cases, and is considered fit for purpose. No changes are considered necessary.

Policy PD1 - Underground Mining and High Wall Extraction of Portland Stone Policy

Policy Wording

Proposals for underground mining and high wall extraction of Portland dimension stone, on the Isle of Portland, will be permitted where they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. the mine is designed to ensure the long term stability of overlying land;
- b. any adverse impacts from the creation of a mine entrance can be avoided or mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority;
- c. significant environmental gains will be provided, which will generally be achieved through agreement to relinquish permission for surface quarrying of at least an equivalent amount of stone in Areas Sensitive to Surface Quarrying, as identified on the Policies Map;
- d. material used for backfilling is sourced from within the proposed mine, wherever possible; and
- e. suitable and safe proposals are made for the closure and sealing of the mine or an identified beneficial afteruse is identified; and surface areas are restored for a beneficial afteruse.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of underground/high wall mines permitted
- Quantity of reserves permitted for surface quarrying relinquished

Target:

- All permissions consistent with this policy
- Relinquishment of areas most sensitive surface quarrying
- Improved restoration schemes

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: Six relevant permissions have been issued, using this policy. Whilst the policy was referred to directly in only 5 of the 7 relevant applications, it is considered that the requirements of the policy are being applied.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This positively-worded policy is intended to facilitate and deliver the MPA's policy to encourage Portland Stone operators to move to underground mining, and to relinquish surface quarrying permissions.

Three new Portland Stone mines have been permitted during 2014-2018, and an existing permission had some of its originally imposed conditions amended. For each of the new mines permitted, there have either been specific areas of permitted surface quarrying relinquished or there have been other significant environmental gains achieved. The policy does not require quarrying relinquishments.

For the amendments to an existing mining permission, originally issued before the MS was produced and outside of the composite 1950s permission, the operators had undertaken various improvements at other sites they controlled - including review of an existing s.106 agreement.

It is difficult to quantify the volume of stone relinquished in each case, given factors such as the age of the existing permissions, the lack of conditions, uncertainty as to the likely depth of quarrying in each case and the fact that housing has in some cases been built over areas permitted for quarrying. It is generally the case that the areas proposed for mining include the areas that would otherwise have been quarried, and may extend beyond these. It seems clearly understood that this policy requires environmental gains, and relinquishment of surface quarrying permission deliver this. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy PD2 - Surface Quarrying of Portland Stone

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will only grant permission for surface quarrying of Portland Stone on the Isle of Portland if:

- a. significant environmental gains which deliver a net environmental benefit will be provided, which will generally be achieved through the agreement to relinquish permission for surface quarrying for at least an equivalent amount of stone in Areas Sensitive to Surface Quarrying, as identified on the Policies Map; and
- b. environmentally acceptable surface quarrying techniques will be employed.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of refusals issued and permissions granted for new quarries on Portland
- Quantity of reserves relinquished

Target:

- No permission for surface extraction unless environmental improvements would be achieved

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval for the opencast extraction of Portland Stone where there are no environmental improvements secured

Use since adoption: Not used.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy establishes a presumption against future surface quarrying on Portland, unless certain criteria are met which could justify permission.

There have been no applications for surface quarrying, and therefore no permissions for have been granted or refused.

The MPA are satisfied that the policy does continue to support the stance against future surface quarrying, and no change is necessary.

Policy PD3 - Relinquishment of Permission

Policy Wording

The relinquishment of planning permission for surface extraction or extraction of stone from the cherty series will be sought when opportunities arise within the Areas Sensitive to Surface Quarrying, namely those areas identified on the Policies Map, and in other areas where significant environmental improvements would result.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Extent of areas where planning permission is relinquished from within and outside of areas identified as preferred for relinquishment
- Mechanisms through which this is secured

Target:

- Reduce surface quarrying and extraction from the cherty series from those areas identified as sensitive

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: There have been four relevant applications, and this policy has been used in each case. Whilst not directly referred to for each relevant application, the policy has been applied where necessary, and S. 106 agreements have been secured for all except one small extension.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to secure the relinquishment of surface quarrying permissions, in areas identified as sensitive to surface quarrying and in other areas where significant benefits would be realised.

Four new mining permissions have been issued during the 2014 to 2018 period. In three of these, permission for surface quarrying on land designated as 'Areas Sensitive to Surface Quarrying' was relinquished, along with other permitted land. The exact amount has not been specified in each case, but the policy has been appropriately used. The fourth case was a small extension of the Bowers link mine, which achieved the relinquishment of surface quarrying at Coombefield Quarry. It was considered by the case officer that this was a significant gain, and no further relinquishment was required for a relatively small extension. The cases involving relinquishment all used s.106 agreements relating to the relinquishment of permission.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is being used successfully, with case officers applying their professional judgement where appropriate. No change is considered necessary at this stage.

Policy PD4 - Minimising Impacts of Existing Permissions on Portland

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will through the Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions and through voluntary agreements seek to:

- a. secure more environmentally acceptable ways of working;
- b. establish appropriate stand-offs between quarry operations and adjacent residential dwellings (and other sensitive locations and developments);
- c. ensure that quarries are operated in a way which minimises adverse impacts arising from dust, noise and blasting vibration upon the amenity of people in residential areas or upon other uses sensitive to such impacts;
- d. secure the protection of the Isle of Portland Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Isle of Portland Local Geological or Geomorphological Site, Sites of Nature Conservation Interest, BAP Priority Habitats and the habitats of protected species;
- e. ensure that the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site and its setting is safeguarded;
- f. secure the protection of scheduled monuments and their settings, and other important undesignated archaeological remains including evidence of former quarrying;
- g. secure the protection of Easton, Weston and the Grove Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and historic landscapes (heritage assets);
- h. protect and/or enhance the landscape and minimise the visual impact of quarrying on Portland.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number and nature of conditions imposed through the Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions (ROMP) process originating from the application of this policy, that will bring about environmental improvements

Target:

- ROMP applications determined in accordance with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- ROMP determined without securing the improvements set out

Use since adoption: Although there has been no ROMP determination for Portland Stone sites during the review period 2014-2018, there have been eight decisions where this policy has been used/referenced. The policy has been directly applied to six applications, and criteria addressed by the application of DM policies in a further two – although none of these applications were for a ROMP. It is likely case officers are considering the policy title without making the connection to its intended ROMP application use

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to minimise the environmental impacts of existing, historic, minerals permissions on Portland and is intended to be achieved through the ongoing ROMP (Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions) and through voluntary agreements. PD4 provides a strategic basis on which negotiations relating to the ROMP can be based.

The policy has been applied and/or referenced within the planning assessment for eight permissions during the 5 year review period. However, no permission has been issued during this time as a result of determination of the ROMP. In some cases, s.106 agreements minimising the impacts of existing permissions have been achieved. In other cases, the policy appears to have been used or referenced without being linked to a ROMP or an agreement.

Given that the policy is primarily intended to be implemented through a ROMP determination, it has yet to be fully used. Although planning agreements have been achieved, it appears that the policy may be being quoted in the context of achieving environmental benefits without the use of ROMP or planning agreement.

It appears that further clarification on the appropriate use of this policy may be needed, but it does remain available for its primary purpose and the MPA do not consider changes to the policy itself are required.

Policy PD5 - Restoration of Sites on Portland

Policy Wording

Schemes for the restoration of mineral sites on Portland should achieve the following:

- a. reinstatement of areas of the Isle of Portland SSSI to a favourable condition;
- b. safeguarding, enhancement and where necessary reinstatement of significant ecological and geological interests;
- c. creation or reinstatement of limestone grassland habitats in localities that link up or buffer areas of existing significant ecological interests;
- d. preservation of any industrial archaeological features or landscapes that show evidence of traditional methods of quarrying;
- e. reinstatement of typical Portland landscape features, such as field patterns and stone walls, where appropriate;
- f. reinstatement and where appropriate enhancement of public rights of way;
- g. reinstatement of agricultural land and facilitation of agricultural afteruse where appropriate.

Proposals for the afteruse of sites will be expected to contribute to the aims of the Portland Quarries Nature Park where relevant.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of restoration schemes secured that address the issues covered by this policy

Target:

- All schemes consistent with this policy in terms of achieving a positive outcome from the restoration of former workings

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If it appears that restoration schemes are not achieving the criteria set out it may become necessary to prepare an SPD dealing specifically with restoration of existing sites on Portland

Use since adoption: Restoration has tended to be broadly referred to, without direct reference to the policy. A mixed use of Policies PD5 and RS1 has also been demonstrated. However, the criteria set out in the policy are being addressed.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to provide specific guidance regarding the restoration of quarries on Portland, particularly for use with the ROMP process or in the case of agreements negotiated.

However, other than for the applications at Independent Quarry and Broadcroft Quarry and Landfill, restoration has relied on RS1 rather than PD5. There is some mixed use of this specific Portland restoration policy, and Policy RS1: Restoration, Aftercare and Afteruse of Minerals Development.

The MPA considers that the principle of the policy and its intended use remain sound, and the next step is to provide DM officers with further advice on the use of the policy, before considering whether a review of the policy is required. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy BS1 - Building Stone Quarries

Policy Wording

Proposals for small-scale building stone quarries, other than Portland and Purbeck Stone, will be permitted, where they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. the stone is of a type historically used for building in the local area and is to be used to maintain the fabric or character of individual buildings or settlements in the local area, or a significant historic building elsewhere;
- b. the proposal would be of a type, scale and output appropriate to the market identified in (a) above; and
- c. the proposal would not individually or cumulatively with any other sites result in a level of mineral activity, or traffic generation, which would have an unacceptable effect on landscape, the environment or local amenity.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of sites identified in the MSP and/or new permissions for building stone quarries or extensions to existing quarries

Target:

- No specific target production/sales figure, monitor to assess future need
- Identify specific sites in the MSP as appropriate

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: There have been 9 relevant applications during the review period, including a new sites, and the policy has been applied in each case

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to support the extraction of further reserves of building stone, for both maintaining existing structures and building new ones. It does not seek to direct working to specific areas, but as a criteria based policy supports development provided certain criteria are met. The Mineral Sites Plan 2019 has allocated three extensions to existing sites.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy HY1 - Proposals for Exploration and Appraisal

Policy Wording

Proposals for exploration and appraisal of onshore oil and gas will be permitted where they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. well sites and associated facilities are sited in the least sensitive location from which the target reservoir can be accessed;
- b. it has been demonstrated that possible effects that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects;
- c. any adverse impacts can be avoided or mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority, with safeguards to protect environmental and amenity interests put in place as necessary;
- d. it can be demonstrated that there would be no adverse impact on the underlying integrity of the geological structure;
- e. an indication of the extent of the reservoir and the extent of the area of search within the reservoir is provided to the Mineral Planning Authority;
- f. exploration and appraisal operations are for an agreed, temporary length of time; and
- g. well sites and associated facilities are restored at the earliest practicable opportunity if oil and gas is not found in economically viable volumes, or they are developed within a time frame agreed.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of permissions granted in accordance with the policy

Target:

- All permissions consistent with policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with policy

Use since adoption: This policy has not been used during the 5 year plan review period, as there were no relevant applications. Applications determined were for ancillary development or, as in the case of the 39 Wytch Farm applications in 2017, extension to the life of the site.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

The Minerals Strategy supports all three phases of oil and gas development - exploration, appraisal and production - and this policy is intended to both facilitate and control proposals for exploration and appraisal.

No relevant applications were received during the review period, but the MPA consider that the policy is appropriate and fit for purpose and no action is proposed at this time. The policy remains available for use.

Policy HY2 - Proposals for Production Facilities and Ancillary Development

Policy Wording

Proposals for hydrocarbon production well sites and facilities, and other related ancillary development, will be permitted where they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. a full appraisal programme for the oil and gas field has been completed to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority;
- b. a framework for the full development of the field is submitted for approval by the Mineral Planning Authority;
- c. facilities required for hydrocarbon production sit within the agreed development framework, are justified in terms of their number and extent, and are progressively installed wherever possible;
- d. extraction, processing, dispatch and transport facilities are sited, designed and operated to minimise environmental and amenity impacts and provide proportionate environmental enhancements;
- e. any adverse impacts, both individual and cumulative, can be avoided or mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority;
- f. it has been demonstrated that possible effects that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects;
- g. it can be demonstrated that there would be no adverse impact on the underlying integrity of the geological structure;
- h. existing facilities are used for the development of any additional fields discovered unless the applicant satisfies the Mineral Planning Authority that this would not be feasible and any adverse impacts can be mitigated;
- i. where a proposal uses existing production facilities, the integrity of the existing infrastructure can be demonstrated, having regard to local environmental factors.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of permissions granted in accordance with the policy
- Facilities permitted that sit within an agreed overall framework

Target:

- All permissions consistent with policy
- All frameworks agreed

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: The policy has been used in all 41 relevant applications. 39 of the 41 relevant permissions during the assessment period were for an extension of time on the original permission, and included a framework for development. The others were carried out within the context of the existing framework. All applications used this policy.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to manage and control the production phase of oil and gas development, ensuring development is considered on a comprehensive basis through the use of a development framework.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy HY3 - Transportation of Hydrocarbons

Policy Wording

Developments for hydrocarbons production will be required to use pipelines. Where it can be demonstrated that this is not feasible, economically and/or environmentally, rail or road transport will be considered.

Where road transportation is the only feasible option, it should be demonstrated that this would not give rise to unacceptable impacts on the environment or highway safety.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of developments permitted that use pipelines for the transportation of hydrocarbons

Target:

- All developments use pipelines

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- It may be necessary to review this policy if the percentage of developments not using pipelines is significant

Use since adoption: There have been 13 relevant applications regarding this policy, and it has been used in all cases.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy requires the use of pipelines to transport hydrocarbons, for efficiency and to minimise environmental impacts.

It has been used in all 13 relevant applications, and it is noted that the only place a pipeline is not used is at the wellsite at Kimmeridge where it is not feasible to remove the oil by pipeline. The policy allows for this.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy HY4 - Decommissioning and Restoration of Production Facilities and Ancillary Development

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will require:

- a. restoration of production well sites and ancillary facilities at the earliest practicable opportunity when they are no longer required as part of the production operation, in accordance with the agreed framework for development of the oilfield; and
- b. the submission of a strategy detailing decommissioning and restoration of the site to be agreed prior to the commencement of decommissioning. This should include proposed mitigation where necessary to address identified impacts of decommissioning.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Conditions attached to permissions for production sites requiring the submission of a decommissioning strategy and restoration scheme

Target:

- Well sites and facilities are restored promptly
- Decommissioning and restoration is in accordance with a strategy agreed by the MPA

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Permission granted with no requirement for the submission of a decommissioning/restoration strategy

Use since adoption: There have been 41 relevant applications regarding this policy, and it has been used in all of them.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy seeks to ensure that decommissioning and restoration of oil and gas sites and facilities is done in a pre-arranged and systematic way, and this is established at the stage of planning permission.

This policy has been used in all relevant applications, including the 39 applications for extension of the end-date of the permission. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and is being used appropriately. No change is considered necessary.

Policy HY5 - Underground Gas Storage & Carbon Storage

Policy Wording

Proposals for underground gas storage in suitable geological structures will be permitted where the Mineral Planning Authority is satisfied that all of the following have been achieved:

- a. the proposed site has been selected so that adverse impacts on the environment and residential amenity are not significant and in any case are kept to the minimum practicable;
- b. associated surface development is the minimum required and is appropriately located;
- c. the capacity and integrity of the geological structure has been proven suitable; and
- d. where possible, positive environmental enhancements (associated with the development) are demonstrated.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Permissions granted and refused for underground gas storage

Target:

- All permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy
- If it is deemed unlikely that any further applications will be received for underground gas storage it may be appropriate to delete this policy

Use since adoption: There have been no relevant applications in the plan period.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

The Minerals Strategy recognises that the geology of Dorset, particularly in the Portland/Weymouth area, is suitable for the creation of caverns for gas storage. A permission has been issued in the past. This policy is intended to be used for future applications for development, to provide a framework to assess and control such development.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and no change is considered necessary. The policy remains available for use should any applications be received in the future.

Policy IS1 - Industrial Sand

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will ensure that an appropriate contribution is made to the national requirement for silica sand for industrial uses. This will be achieved within the Bedrock Sand Resource Block through existing production sites, extensions to such sites and/or at new sites, provided that:

- a. a need for the mineral (industrial silica sand) which cannot be met through the existing landbank at each relevant site can be demonstrated; and
- b. any adverse impacts associated with extraction, processing or transportation can be avoided or satisfactorily mitigated.

Sites will only be considered where it has been demonstrated that possible effects (including those related to hydrology, displacement of recreation, species, proximity, land management and restoration) that might arise from the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Dorset Heathland Ramsar site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Total quantity of industrial sand as permitted reserves
- Total quantity of industrial sand identified within the MSP
- Actual sales/production of industrial sand annually

Target:

- Maintenance of a 10 year landbank through mineral permissions, particularly extensions

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If it is clear that the identified need is unlikely to be delivered then the size of the landbank will fall and the policy may need revising

Use since adoption: No applications relating specifically to industrial sand were made in the review period 2014-2018.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

The Minerals Strategy acknowledges that some of the sand found in Dorset has a relatively high silica content and is used for both aggregate and non-aggregate purposes. The non-aggregate use may be either industrial in nature e.g. facing for brick moulds or more recreational/leisure oriented e.g. sand for equestrian uses or even agricultural e.g. bedding sand for cattle. The purity of the silica in Dorset is not great enough for high-end uses such as glass manufacture so none of the sites producing sand for non-aggregate use are restricted to non-aggregate uses only. Sand from some individual sites is sold for different uses as required.

There have been no applications for sand quarries to be used solely for non-aggregate or industrial sand use during the review period. No 'industrial sand' sites are allocated through the Mineral Sites Plan 2019, although some sites expected to produce Poole Formation sand, which has a relatively high silica content giving potential for non-aggregate use as well as aggregate use, have been allocated.

The policy has not been used and given the issues associated with use of Poole Formation sand for non-aggregate purposes, doubts are cast on its usefulness and relevance. This is the reason it has been scored Amber. However, it remains available for use, and the MPA will continue to monitor it.

Policy SG1 - Mineral Safeguarding Area

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will resist proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Area, as shown on the Policies Map, unless it can be demonstrated that the sterilisation of proven mineral resources will not occur as a result of the development, and that the development would not pose a serious hindrance to future mineral development in the vicinity.

Where this cannot be demonstrated, and where there is a clear and demonstrable need for the non-minerals development, prior extraction will be sought where practicable and where it would not leave the site incapable of non-mineral use.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of applications refused/objections made on safeguarding ground or approved with prior extraction

Target:

- No sterilisation of economically important mineral resources

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any sterilisation of economically important mineral resources
- Safeguarding areas are vital to the delivery of the Minerals Strategy in order to prevent development that may prejudice future mineral working

Use since adoption: The MPA has responded to many consultations resulting from the application of this policy over the review period. For various reasons, it is not clear exactly how many responses were made, how successful these were at avoiding sterilisation, what decision was ultimately made by the local planning authority, or how many applications there have been involving mineral safeguarding. Despite being extensively used, at present the policy cannot be accurately reported on.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

Red

This policy is intended to make the Minerals Strategy compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of mineral safeguarding, through designating a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) within which the MPA will resist unnecessary mineral sterilisation, and where appropriate seek prior extraction of mineral in advance of non-mineral development.

Prior to 1 April 2019 the Dorset Districts/Boroughs, and now the Area Teams within Dorset Council, consult the MPA if proposals for non-minerals development within the Mineral Safeguarding Area are received unless they can be screened out following application of the relevant criteria set out in the Minerals Strategy 2014. The MPA does not need to be consulted on all application for non-mineral development within the MSA - the MS sets out criteria to screen out cases where consultation is not considered necessary (e.g. development within an urban area, or within the curtilage of an existing property).

The former district/borough councils - now Area Teams - making up Dorset Council have consulted and continue to consult the MPA on applications affecting safeguarded minerals sites. However, the relevance of the consultations to mineral safeguarding varies across the Dorset Council (or the former Dorset County Council) area.

The outcome of planning applications involving safeguarded mineral on which the MPA has commented are generally beyond the control of the MPA, as the local planning authority (whether a district, or latterly an Area Team of Dorset Council) that consulted the MPA will determine the applications. When the MPA was a separate planning authority, as Dorset County Council, if it felt particularly strongly about any given case of sterilisation, and/or felt it had been inappropriately consulted, it could seek to have the application called in, or challenge the decision, but strong justification was required for such action. Now that the MPA and the local planning authority are comprised within Dorset Council, this is not possible.

In addition it is generally the case that decisions made by the former local planning authorities, now Area Teams of Dorset Council, are only infrequently reported back to the MPA and if the MPA wanted to know the outcome of its comments it would have to follow up almost every application on which it commented.

The MPA consider that the requirements of the policy are not currently being applied by the local planning authority in the most appropriate or effective manner. The MPA also acknowledges that its follow-through on relevant consultations/comments made has been inconsistent and needs to improve. It does use the policy to resist sterilisation, but has not been consistent in recording how this is done and whether the comments have successfully influenced the outcome of the application, making monitoring difficult. The policy has therefore been graded Amber/Red, needing attention.

Policy SG2 - Mineral Consultation Area

Policy Wording

A Minerals Consultation Area is defined within Dorset County Council only. It has the same boundaries as the Minerals Safeguarding Area. District and Borough Councils will consult the County Council as Mineral Planning Authority on proposals for non-minerals development within the designated Mineral Consultation Area, as shown on the Policies Map. The Mineral Planning Authority will resist inappropriate development within the Mineral Consultation Area.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of consultations undertaken
- Number of developments without prior extraction minerals resources

Target:

- District/Borough Councils to consult Dorset County Council over all proposals within or partly within MCA
- No sterilisation of economically important mineral resources

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any sterilisation of economically important mineral resources

Use since adoption: Prior to 1 April 2019 the MPA was consulted by Districts/Boroughs as required by this policy, but for the reasons set out above for Policy SG1 it is difficult to know how consistently the policy was applied.

Since 1 April 2019 the policy has become irrelevant, as Dorset Council is now a Unitary Authority and there are no Districts/Boroughs to consult Dorset County Council as Mineral Planning Authority any longer. The separate Area Teams now consult the MPA in cases where non-mineral development is proposed within the Mineral Safeguarding Area.

Commentary and RAG Score

Pre - 1 April 2019: Amber

Post - 1 April 2019: not needed

This policy was originally designed to ensure that Districts/Boroughs consulted Dorset County Council the MPA when they received planning applications for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Area which had the potential to impact on safeguarded minerals. Following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the policy became irrelevant as Districts/Boroughs ceased to exist.

It is difficult to assess the effectiveness and use of the policy during the pre-LGR period. To do so would require access to all applications received by Districts/Boroughs, to determine whether the policy was applied in all relevant cases. The MPA is satisfied that the policy was in use, and if it was noted that Districts/Boroughs were not consulting the MPA in all relevant cases, then the MPA could have drawn their attention to this policy.

Since Local Government Reorganisation the policy has become irrelevant and would be removed in any review of the Minerals Strategy 2014.

Policy SG3 - Safeguarding of mineral sites and facilities

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will resist development that could prejudice the use of safeguarded operational and/or permitted mineral sites (including quarries, mines, associated plant and infrastructure and facilities) unless:

- a. an alternative new site or facility within an acceptable distance can be provided, which is at least as appropriate for the use as the safeguarded location (and there would be no break in operations); or
- b. it can be demonstrated by the applicant that there is no longer a need for a facility of this nature in the area; or
- c. it can be demonstrated that the site is unused or dormant and is unlikely to come back into use.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of applications having an adverse effect on safeguarded mineral sites or facilities

Target:

- No negative impacts on existing minerals operations

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- District/Borough Councils not consulting the County Council over relevant proposals

Use since adoption: This policy has supported the efforts of the MPA to protect minerals interests, during the review period.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

This policy is intended to provide protection to existing mineral sites and infrastructure in the event that non-mineral development is proposed on or near to existing permitted sites. The MPA would resist such development, on the grounds that it could limit or threaten the ongoing provision of minerals.

The policy would be applied if non-mineral development allocations were proposed near existing mineral operations during the preparation of a plan. It would also be used if the MPA were aware of an application for non-mineral development in the vicinity of a minerals operation.

The MPA have never applied or specifically used the policy, but it remains to support the general approach to safeguarding of sites and facilities.

This policy has been awarded an Amber score, recognising issues with its use to date, but the MPA consider that no urgent change is needed.

Policy RS1 - Restoration, Aftercare and Afteruse of Minerals Development

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development will be permitted where they demonstrate a high quality and appropriate restoration scheme which will enable an appropriate after-use and the long-term maintenance and enhancement of the environment. They will be required to have regard to the Landscape Management Guidelines and, where possible, contribute to the targets of the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy.

Proposals must demonstrate that:

Restoration

- a. where possible the restoration scheme incorporates phased restoration of the site that will minimise the period of operations to protect settlements and residential amenity and to minimise the duration of landscape and environmental impacts;
- b. measures will be taken to ensure that soil quality will be adequately protected and maintained throughout the life of the development and, in particular, during stripping, storage and management of soils, subsoils and overburden arisings as a result of site operations;
- c. there is an available supply of appropriate materials to be used for restoration purposes, as required to implement the proposed restoration scheme;
- d. where inert waste is to be used in restoration the constituent parts capable of use in the production of high quality washed recycled aggregates have, as far as reasonably possible, already been removed;
- e. the restoration scheme will maximise the potential of the site for the successful adoption of the proposed after-use and where necessary offer flexibility for a range of potential after-uses;
- f. restoration will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and the amount of time expected to be required for restoration of the site will be indicated;
- g. where appropriate, geological exposures will be retained;
- h. for sites within the Green Belt, all minerals-related and other uses will have ceased by the time the extraction has been completed and the site will be restored in a manner appropriate to its original inclusion in the Green Belt designation;
- i. financial provision is, in exceptional circumstances, made for the proposed restoration;

Aftercare

- j. the aftercare scheme incorporates an aftercare period of at least five years; where appropriate, voluntary longer periods for certain uses will be sought through agreement;

After-use

- k. where the proposed after-use is agriculture, provision is made for retention or replacement of soils and any necessary drainage, access, hedges and fences;
- l. where the proposed after-use includes habitat creation, it should contribute to the delivery of the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy objectives where appropriate;
- m. the after-use will be compatible with the wider context of the site, in terms of the character of the surrounding landscape and historic environment (informed by the Dorset Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Character Assessment) and existing land uses in the area, having considered the relative potential benefits of alternative after-uses in local or national terms;
- n. the green infrastructure network will, where possible, be strengthened and improved;
- o. where opportunities arise, the after-use provides benefits to the local and wider community which may include enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity interests, linking of site restoration to other green infrastructure initiatives, enhanced landscape character, improved public access, employment, tourism or provision of climate change mitigation measures.

Monitoring Indicator:

- The completion of a Restoration Supplementary Planning Document
- Area of land achieving habitat creation and/or delivering objectives of Biodiversity Action Plan (where information is available)
- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% of applications/permissions consistent with this policy
- A Supplementary Planning Document on restoration to be completed in order to provide detailed guidance on restoration

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: This policy has been used/references approximately 80 times during the review period.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

This policy is intended to address the two aspects of restoration covered in the Minerals Strategy 2014 - the strategic approach to restoration adopted by the Strategy along with the provision of specific guidance and control over the three elements of site restoration - restoration, aftercare and after use.

This policy has been given an Amber score on the basis that it is not being implemented necessarily as explicitly as the indicators/targets suggest, and nor has an SPD on site restoration been produced.

However the MPA are satisfied that it is being applied and performing appropriately. The preparation of an SPD to support the policy will help in clarifying the MPA's intended approach to using and implementing the policy.

Policy RS2 - Retention of Plant, Machinery and other Ancillary Development

Policy Wording

Permission for the retention of plant, machinery and any other ancillary development associated with any mineral development/operation will not extend beyond the life of the development with which it is associated, or any earlier date that may be set, except where it can be demonstrated that:

- a. there is an identified need for the continued use of the plant, machinery or ancillary development at that site or any extension to it;
- b. any adverse impacts associated with retaining the plant, machinery or ancillary development can be avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level; and
- c. retention of the plant, machinery or ancillary development does not affect restoration of the wider site.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Permissions granted or refused for the retention of plant and machinery

Target:

- 100% of applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any application not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: This policy has been used a number of times, but does not appear to be applied consistently.

Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

This policy is intended to ensure that in cases where the development of a quarry or mine has incorporated other uses, e.g. aggregate recycling, which require the location of specific machinery on site. In some cases it may be appropriate to retain such machinery/plant on site when the mineral extraction is finished, in others the machinery should be removed. Policy RS2 sets out the basis for assessing whether such machinery should remain on site or be removed.

This policy has been used appropriately in the majority of relevant cases, but apparently has not been used consistently in all cases. In some cases a conditional requirement has been attached to a permission requiring the removal of machinery etc., but Policy RS2 has not been quoted. Case officers may consider that it is not necessary in all cases to specifically quote the policy. Since it has apparently not been used in all relevant cases, an Amber score has been awarded.

Policy RS3 - Local Liaison Groups

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will encourage the establishment of local liaison groups to run for the lifetime of any minerals extraction site or aggregates recycling operation.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number/proportion of consents where a local liaison group has been established

Target:

- All new minerals extraction permissions to have considered and where appropriate establish local liaison groups

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- If a significant proportion of new mineral sites do not have a local liaison group, discussions will be necessary with Development Management and possibly the minerals industry to establish why

Use since adoption: This policy has not been used.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

The MPA support the establishment of local liaison groups for the lifetime of any permitted site, and this policy provides the basis for this stance.

The MPA consider that the policy is relevant and appropriate, and even though it has not been specifically quoted there is no proposal to change it.

Development Management Policies DM1 to DM11

Paragraph 16.1 of the Minerals Strategy 2014 notes "*planning permission is required for minerals development and the main principles upon which decisions on planning applications will be based are set out in this section. Policies DM1 to DM11 are intended to manage the operational impacts associated with all types of minerals development*".

These policies are intended to address issues such as sustainability, amenity, the water environment, landscape, geological/ecological impact, transport, heritage, airfield safeguarding and planning agreements. The MPA consider that these policies have a range of roles, including acting as a checklist for developers (alongside Dorset Council's Minerals and Waste Validation Checklist), to ensure their applications are addressing all the relevant issues; also as a checklist for development management officers, to assist in ensuring that the relevant issues have been considered in the determination of an application.

Part of the determination of any application will be to identify what the relevant constraints and potential impacts are, and therefore what policies will apply. This is determined through the assessment of the application to identify constraints, and consultation. The MPA are satisfied that relevant constraints will be identified, and consultees will show where further information or assessment is required, to establish levels of impact and mitigation required to offset this impact. It is expected that development management officers will have the necessary information, backed up by policy, in order to determine the applications.

The process of screening applications for potential constraints, and consultation of applications both internally and externally means that consultees such as the Dorset Council Natural Environment Team along with statutory and non-statutory consultees such as Historic England, Highways England, Environment Agency, Natural England, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Teams, Wildlife Trust among others will provide relevant and appropriate expert advice. If in the opinion of any of the consultees further assessment is required, this comment will be made and it is expected that the DM case officer determining the application will ensure that all the necessary assessments are carried out. It may be that in some cases further assessment is not required. Subject to the information and advice received the MPA will ensure that, should the proposal be permitted, appropriate conditions will be applied to ensure biodiversity/geodiversity is appropriately protected.

In some cases the various DM policies are referred to in the case officer's report, but not specifically included in the decision notice. The MPA is satisfied that provided any given policy is referenced this indicates that it has been considered and applied in the process of determining the application. It is noted that the frequency of use of the policies generally increases over the course of the review period 2014-2018, as officers become more familiar with the policies of the MS.

Policy DM1 - Key Criteria for Sustainable Minerals Development

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development should support the delivery of social, economic and environmental benefits whilst any adverse impacts should be avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level.

In order to achieve this, all proposals for minerals development must demonstrate that all the following criteria have been addressed satisfactorily:

- a. minimisation of impacts which could increase the effects of climate change;
- b. protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of local amenity;
- c. protection and, where possible, enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity, including nationally and internationally designated sites;
- d. protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of heritage assets;
- e. protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of landscape, including the avoidance and/or mitigation of visual and landscape impacts through sensitive design, screening or other means;
- f. preparation of a scheme of working that will keep production of mineral waste to a minimum, while ensuring availability of an adequate amount of material for timely restoration of workings;
- g. protection of soil resources throughout the life of the development and, where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary and there is a choice of location, giving preference to the development of poorer quality land over higher quality or best and most versatile land;
- h. efficient use of water resources on the site;
- i. avoidance or mitigation of, or compensation for, adverse impacts on the water environment and flood risk;
- j. avoidance of cumulative impacts resulting from minerals or other development, whether current or proposed;
- k. use of sustainable transport; and
- l. restoration, aftercare and after-use proposals and compliance with the strategy for restoration.

Monitoring Indicator:

- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% of applications/permissions consistent with this policy in order to deliver the key objectives of the Plan

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: This policy has been used in 97% of applications since adoption.

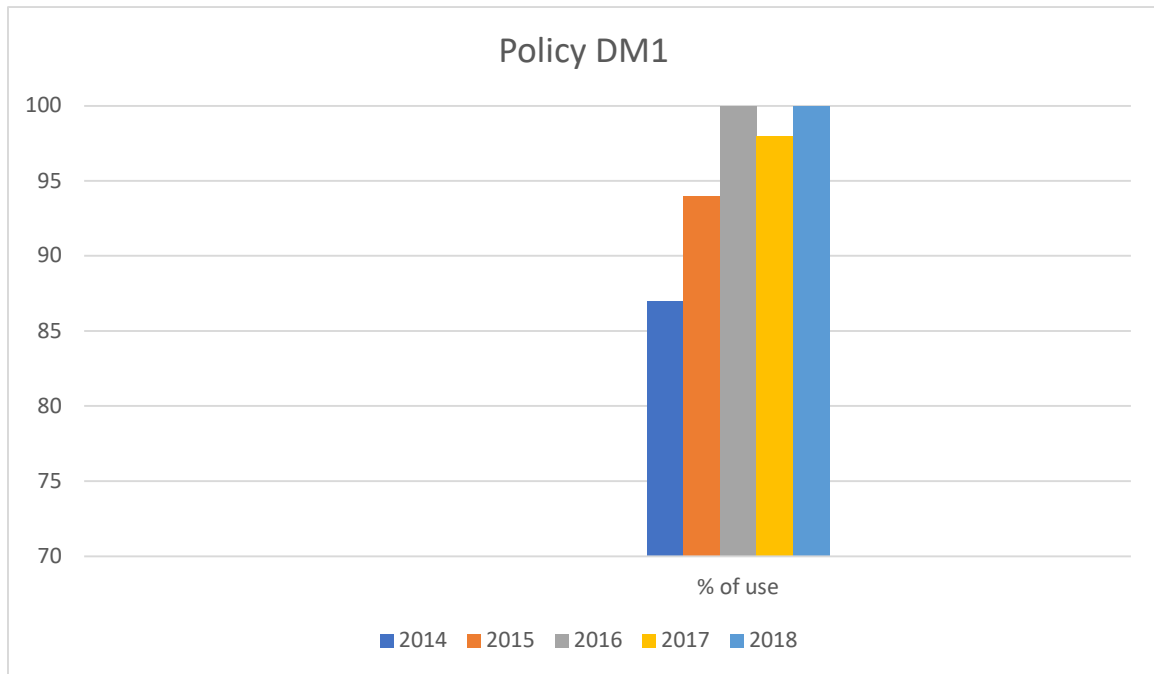
Commentary and RAG Score

Amber

This policy is intended to ensure that minerals development is sustainable, through identifying a series of sustainability-related criteria that planning applications must address. As with Policy RS1, this policy provides a checklist of issues that applicants can use in preparing their applications, and development management officers can use in assessing applications or negotiating with applicants

This policy has been used in 96% of the total number of applications determined during the review period, 2014-2018. Given that the target use is 100%, the policy has been given an Amber score, and guidance will be given to development management officers. However the general trend has been an increase in use since adoption, year on year with the policy being used less in the earlier years of the plan's adoption but usage increasing.

The MPA considers that the policy is effective and no change is considered necessary, but guidance will be provided to officers.



Policy DM2 - Managing Impacts on Amenity

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole will only be permitted where the proposals demonstrate that, for the life-cycle of the proposed development, any potential adverse impacts associated with the following considerations are avoided and/or adequately mitigated to an acceptable level:

- a. noise levels;
- b. dust levels;
- c. air emissions;
- d. lighting;
- e. visual and landscape impacts,
- f. vibration levels,
- g. site related traffic impacts; and
- h. stability of the land at and around the site, both above and below ground level.

Proposals for mineral development should be accompanied, where appropriate, by an assessment of the above impacts of the proposal. Where a need for mitigation is identified by the assessment and / or through consultation with key stakeholders, mitigation measures should be defined and submitted as part of the development proposal.

The assessment, together with any required mitigation, must consider impacts over the entire life-cycle of the proposed development. The fact that impacts of mineral extraction, including those resulting from HGVs and other traffic servicing the proposed development, may extend for considerable distances beyond the boundaries of the proposed development site must be taken into consideration and appropriately mitigated.

Monitoring Indicator:

- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% of applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy through failing to meet the criteria
- This policy will apply when the development falls below the EIA threshold

Use since adoption: This policy has been used in 97% of relevant applications determined in the 2014-2018 review period. Two applications were refused, partially on the basis of not being compliant with DM2.

Commentary and RAG Score

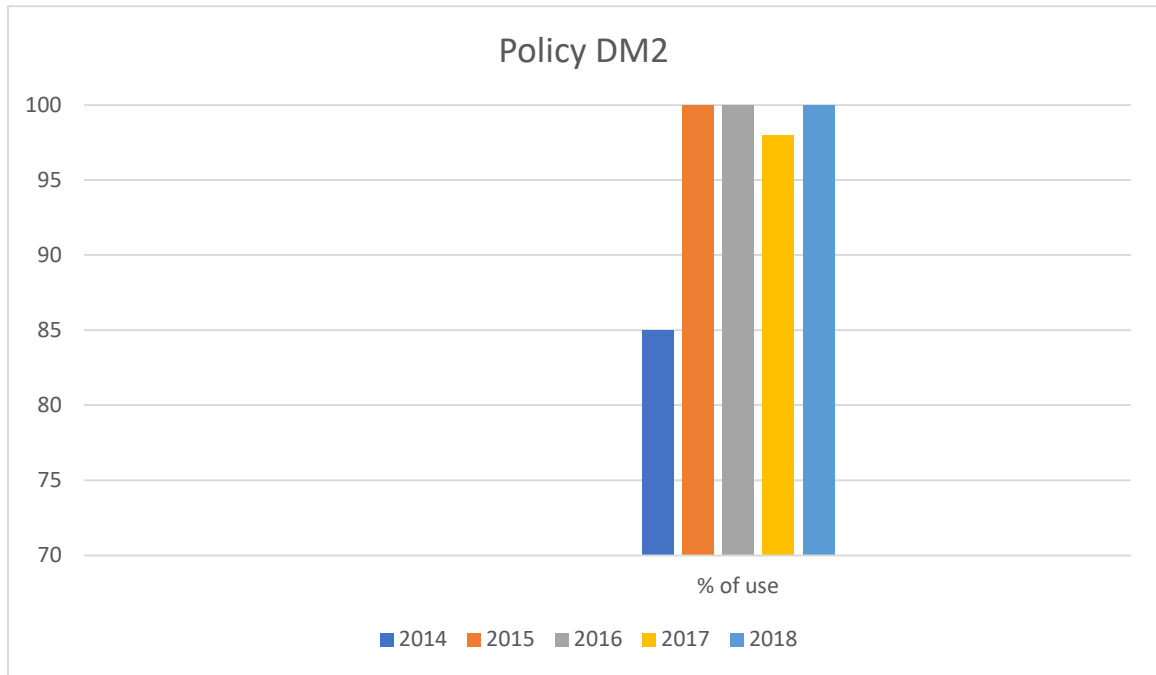
Amber

This policy is intended to ensure that in addition to being sustainable, minerals development has minimal impacts on amenity. This policy identifies a series of amenity-related criteria that planning applications must address. This policy also provides a checklist of issues that applicants can use in preparing their applications, and development management officers can use in assessing applications or negotiating with applicants. Again it is not intended that every criterion must be specifically addressed, but if development management officers refer to the policy in their decisions, or their reasoning behind their decisions, it is assumed that they are satisfied that the policy has been applied appropriately and the proposal is compliant with the requirements of the policy.

This policy has been used in 97% of the total number of applications determined during the review period, 2014-2018. Given that the target use is 100%, the policy has been given an Amber score, and guidance will be given to

development management officers. It is noted that the lowest use was in 2014, when the MS was just adopted, and this has significantly increased every year since.

The MPA considers that the policy is effective and no change is considered necessary, but guidance will be provided to officers.



Policy DM3 - Managing the Impact on Surface Water and Ground Water Resources

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development which would have an impact on water resources, including aquifers, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the local water environment would be protected and where appropriate enhanced. Provision should be made to ensure the protection and maintenance of the:

- a. quality;
- b. direction and rate of flow; and
- c. volume of flow of ground water, water courses and all other surface water.

Rivers, open watercourses, wetlands and ponds which have a significant ecological value, together with the land alongside these features, should be protected. Development should aim to prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the quality of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands.

Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be required for minerals development proposals in areas at risk of flooding or likely to contribute to flooding elsewhere, relative to the nature and scale of the development, and must take into account cumulative effects with other existing or proposed development. Where a risk of flooding is identified through FRA, proposals must include measures to ensure the avoidance and / or mitigation of that risk.

Development proposals will also be required to include provisions for the efficient use of water resources on site and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of proposals including a Flood Risk Assessment and/or incorporating Sustainable Urban Development System
- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% applications/permissions consistent with this policy in order to protect and enhance the water environment

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: All relevant applications have used this policy.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to provide the basis for ensuring protection of the water environment, both ground and surface water, and addressing/minimising flood risk. The Environment Agency (EA) and Dorset Council's Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) also have responsibilities in these areas.

The process of screening applications for potential constraints, and consultation of applications both internally and externally means that the FRMT will provide biodiversity advice/input, as will the EA. If in the opinion of any of the consultees further assessment is required, it is expected that the DM case officer will ensure that all the necessary assessments are carried out. It may be that in some cases further assessment is not required. Subject to the information and advice received the MPA will ensure that, should the proposal be permitted, appropriate conditions will be applied to ensure water environment is appropriately protected.

The MPA is satisfied that this policy is adequate to ensure that all necessary assessments will be undertaken and water environment impacts/potential impacts will be identified and where necessary can be protected. The policy allows the MPA to ensure that significant harm will be either avoided or mitigated.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM4 - Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Character and the Countryside

Policy Wording

Minerals development will only be permitted when the proposals include provisions to protect and/or enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and landscape.

Development will be expected to ensure the protection of the following designations of national importance, together with their settings, in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements:

- a. the New Forest National Park;
- b. the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and
- c. the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The importance of non-statutory designations, such as the West Dorset Heritage Coast and the Purbeck Heritage Coast, must also be taken into consideration.

Each proposal for minerals development should be accompanied by an objective assessment of any impacts upon the local landscape character and its setting (including historic landscape character) having regard to the status and significance of any heritage assets affected.

The assessment should be informed by the Dorset Landscape Character Assessment as a minimum. Where the proposed development is situated within or in proximity to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the New Forest National Park, the relevant Management Plan and Landscape Character Assessment must also be taken into consideration.

Development which affects the landscape will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that any adverse impacts can be:

- i. avoided; or
- ii. where an adverse impact cannot be avoided, the impact will be adequately mitigated; or
- iii. where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensatory environmental enhancements will be made to offset the residual landscape and visual impacts.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of proposals including an assessment of the adverse impacts upon landscape character
- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption:

The Policy has been applied to all applications where landscape is considered to be a potential constraint. One application was refused, partially on the basis of non-compliance with DM4

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to minimise impacts of minerals development on landscape and the countryside, and in cases where there are impacts to ensure these are properly mitigated or where mitigation is not possible to ensure compensatory enhancements are made.

The process of screening applications for potential constraints, and consultation of applications both internally and externally means that the Dorset Council Natural Environment Team will provide biodiversity advice/input. Natural

England and where appropriate the AONB Teams and others will also provide input. If in the opinion of any of the consultees further assessment is required, this comment will be made and it is expected that the DM case officer will ensure that all the necessary assessments are carried out. It may be that in some cases assessment is not required. Subject to the information and advice received the MPA will ensure that, should the proposal be permitted, appropriate conditions will be applied to ensure landscape/countryside is appropriately protected.

The MPA is satisfied that this policy is adequate to ensure that all necessary assessments will be undertaken and impacts/potential impacts on landscape/countryside interests will be identified and where necessary can be mitigated against. The policy allows the MPA to ensure that significant harm will be either avoided or mitigated. Where neither of these are possible compensation can be required if the proposal is to go ahead.

The MPA is satisfied that in the relevant cases where landscape has been a constraint and the policy has been referenced, landscape issues/impacts have been appropriately addressed and where necessary appropriate mitigation has been provided. The policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM5 - Biodiversity and Geological Interest

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development must not adversely affect the integrity of European or Ramsar or other internationally designated sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, unless the tests set out under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive are met.

Proposals for minerals development which do not adversely affect the integrity of European or Ramsar sites or other internationally designated sites will only be permitted where adverse impacts on biodiversity and/or geodiversity will be:

- i. avoided; or
- ii. where an adverse impact cannot be avoided, the impact will be adequately mitigated; or
- iii. where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensation will result in the maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity/geodiversity.

Where possible, proposals should enhance biodiversity and geological interest.

Proposals for minerals development must be accompanied by an objective assessment of the potential effects of the development on features of biodiversity and/or geological interest, taking into account cumulative impacts with other development and the potential impacts of climate change.

In addition, the assessment must have particular regard to the need to protect, maintain and / or enhance sites and species of international and national importance, in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements. It should also consider the potential for existing habitats on the site to be restored to higher quality habitats, during and after mineral working.

The assessment must also demonstrate how the proposal intends to address the need to maintain and/or enhance features of local and regional importance including Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. The proposals should seek to achieve this wherever possible and consistent with viable development.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of proposals including an assessment of the biodiversity and geodiversity interest
- Number of applications where biodiversity benefits are identified
- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% applications/permissions consistent with this policy in order to protect, maintain and/or enhance site and species of international and national importance

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: The Policy has been applied to all applications where biodiversity/geodiversity is considered to be a potential constraint.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to protect biodiversity and geodiversity, including impacts on the integrity of sites on international importance. The MPA provides advice to developers on whether any proposal requires an assessment of impacts on biodiversity, and the level of detail any such assessment will have to cover.

The process of screening applications for potential constraints, and consultation of applications both internally and externally means that the Dorset Council Natural Environment Team will provide biodiversity advice/input. Natural England and others will also provide input. If in the opinion of any of the consultees further assessment is required, this comment will be made and it is expected that the DM case officer will ensure that all the necessary assessments

are carried out. It may be that in some cases further assessment is not required. Subject to the information and advice received the MPA will ensure that, should the proposal be permitted, appropriate conditions will be applied to ensure biodiversity/geodiversity is appropriately protected.

The MPA is satisfied that this policy is adequate to ensure that all necessary assessments will be undertaken and biodiversity and geodiversity impacts/potential impacts will be identified and where necessary can be protected. The policy allows the MPA to ensure that significant harm will be either avoided or mitigated. Where neither of these are possible compensation can be required if the proposal is to go ahead.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM6 - Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site

Policy Wording

Minerals development will not be permitted within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site within Dorset.

Proposals for minerals development outside of the boundary of the World Heritage Site but which could affect the Site must be able to demonstrate that there will not be any impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value or integrity of the Site.

In the case of proposals which could affect the Site's setting, permission will only be granted if any adverse impacts can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority and on condition that such impacts would not affect the Site's Outstanding Universal Value or integrity.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of relevant proposals with assessment of impact on and mitigation for the World Heritage Site and its setting

Target:

- All permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption:

This policy has been used twice since adoption

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to protect the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site (within Dorset), its setting and its Outstanding Universal Value.

It has been used twice, in relevant proposals with potential to affect the World Heritage Site. The policy allows the MPA to ensure that the World Heritage Site and its setting will not be damaged or compromised.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM7 - The Historic Environment

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated through an authoritative process of assessment and evaluation that heritage assets and their settings will be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Adverse impacts should be avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level.

Where the presence of historic assets of national significance is proven, either through designation or a process of assessment, their preservation in situ will be required.

Any other historic assets should be preserved in situ if possible, or otherwise by record.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of proposals including an assessment of the historic environment and/or archaeological evaluation
- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: This policy has been used 64 times during the 2014-2018 assessment period. The Policy has been applied to all applications where heritage/historic environment is considered to be a potential constraint.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to protect the historic environment, in conformity with national policy.

The process of screening applications for potential constraints, and consultation of applications both internally and externally means that the Dorset Council Natural Environment Team will provide heritage/historic environment advice. Historic England will also provide input. If in the opinion of any of the consultees further assessment is required, this comment will be made and it is expected that the DM case officer will ensure that all the necessary assessments are carried out. It may be that in some cases further assessment is not required. Subject to the information and advice received the MPA will ensure that, should the proposal be permitted, appropriate conditions will be applied to ensure that heritage and the historic environment is appropriately protected.

The MPA is satisfied that this policy is adequate to ensure that all necessary heritage/historic environment assessments will be undertaken, and impacts/potential impacts will be identified and where necessary can be appropriately mitigated. The policy allows the MPA to ensure that significant harm will be either avoided or mitigated. Where neither of these are possible the heritage assets will be recorded if the proposal is to go ahead.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM8 - Transport and Minerals Development

Policy Wording

Minerals development which could have an adverse impact as a consequence of the traffic generated by it will only be permitted where it is demonstrated, through a Transport Assessment that:

- a. a safe access to the proposed site will be provided;
- b. there will be no adverse impact on the Strategic, Primary and/or Local road network;
- c. developers will provide the funding for any highway and transport network improvements necessary to mitigate or compensate any adverse impact on the safety, capacity and use of a highway, railway, cycleway or public right of way and that these improvements will be delivered in a timely manner; and
- d. the proposal, where possible, has direct access or suitable links with the Dorset strategic highway network or primary route network.

Sustainable transportation should be used where possible and practical, including through minimising distance travelled by road and maximising the use of transport means such as rail, water, pipelines or conveyor belts to transport minerals where practicable and environmentally acceptable. Mineral site transport plans should be established.

Monitoring Indicator:

- % of proposals facilitating sustainable transport in compliance with the policy
- Number of applications accompanied by a Transport Assessment
- Number of applications containing sustainable transport assessment

Target:

- 100% of applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: The Policy has been applied to all applications where transport is considered to be a potential constraint.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to minimise environmental impacts of transportation associated with mineral extraction and processing, and to promote the use of the most sustainable means of transport possible. Any proposal where traffic generated could lead to adverse impacts will be required to submit a Transport Assessment to assess impacts and demonstrate that they can be successfully mitigated.

The process of screening applications for potential constraints, and consultation of applications both internally and externally means that the Dorset Council Transport Development Management Team and in some cases Highways England will provide advice/input on transport impacts and mitigation. If further assessment is considered necessary and has not been supplied, it is expected that the DM case officer will ensure that all the necessary assessments are carried out. It may be that in some cases assessment is not required. Subject to the information and advice received the MPA will ensure that, should the proposal be permitted, appropriate conditions will be applied to ensure that transport related impacts are mitigated to appropriate extent.

The MPA is satisfied that in the relevant cases where transport has been a constraint this policy is adequate to ensure that all necessary assessments will be undertaken and impacts/potential impacts will be identified and where necessary can be mitigated.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM9 - Extraction and restoration within airfield safeguarding areas

Policy Wording

Proposals for minerals development partly or completely within the following Airfield Safeguarding Areas will only be permitted when the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed extraction, restoration and afteruse will not give rise to new or increased hazards to aviation:

- a. Bournemouth Airport
- b. Yeovilton Aerodrome

Monitoring Indicator:

- % of minerals development planning applications compliant with the requirements of the policy

Target:

- 100% applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: There have been three relevant applications during the review period 2014-2018 and this policy was used in each case, with the information requested by Bournemouth Airport being provided.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to ensure there is no risk to aircraft through light spill, tall construction plant and birdstrike caused by mineral activity. It is relevant to both mineral working and afteruse. Proposals within the designated Airfield Safeguarding Area require consultation with the airfield operator.

There have been three applications during the review period involving this policy, and in all cases the necessary assessment was carried out and a Birdstrike Management Plan prepared, and covered in the conditions attached to the permission.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM10 - Planning Obligations

Policy Wording

In cases where:

- a. restrictions upon, or measures required to mitigate the impacts of, the winning or working or handling of minerals and the recycling of aggregates are essential for proper planning; and
- b. such measures lie outside the normal scope of conditions which could be attached to the planning permission,

the Mineral Planning Authority will seek to establish planning obligations with the developer and landowner through unilateral undertakings or legal agreements.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of relevant permissions issued which include legal agreement

Target:

- All permissions which require or qualify for a legal agreement to have one

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any qualifying proposed development permitted without the benefit of a legal agreement

Use since adoption: There have been seven relevant applications during the review period, all of which have involved the use of legal agreements.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy provides the basis of, and support, for the use of policy obligations where these are considered necessary.

All relevant permissions have included the use of a Section 106 Agreement. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is available for use as and when required, and strengthens the MPA position in negotiations with applicants.

The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary.

Policy DM11 - Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will, through the determination of applications made under the Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions legislation, seek to achieve up to date and relevant working and restoration standards achievable by the imposition of appropriate planning conditions and, where necessary, through voluntary agreements and planning obligations.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of times policy used in ROMP decisions

Target:

- All relevant applications/permissions consistent with this policy through the achievement of optimum working and restoration standards

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: There has only been one Review of Mineral Permissions application determined in the plan period, and this referenced the policy.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy supports the process of reviewing old mineral planning permissions, as required by the Environment Act 1995, in order to bring old minerals permissions up to modern environmental standards by attaching new planning conditions. This gives the MPA the opportunity to ensure as far as possible that conditions attached to mineral planning permissions remain up-to-date and relevant, without significantly infringing existing working rights.

It has been used once during the review period. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is available for use as and when required, and is fit for purpose and being used appropriately. No change is considered necessary.

Policy MON₁ - Plan, Monitor and Manage

Policy Wording

The Mineral Planning Authority will work with local authorities in and around Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, the minerals and waste industry, regulatory authorities, landowners, local communities, environmental bodies, the Aggregates Working Party and Government departments to plan, monitor and manage minerals development. To achieve this the Mineral Planning Authority will seek a commitment from the minerals industry to supply annual production figures for minerals and recycled aggregates.

Monitoring Indicator:

- Number of applications including conditions related to the supply of production figures on a regular basis

Target:

- All relevant applications/permissions consistent with this policy

Monitoring trigger/threshold for review:

- Any approval not consistent with this policy

Use since adoption: Monitoring has been ongoing since the MS was adopted.

Commentary and RAG Score

Green

This policy is intended to ensure that the MPA monitors the ongoing use and application of the policies in the MS, testing their relevance and effectiveness.

The MPA has carried out ongoing monitoring of the MS and its implementation, recording the results in the Annual Monitoring Reports and the Local Aggregates Assessments that are produced annually.

Table 1 - Summary of Monitoring Status

Policy Number and Title		RAG Status
1.	Policy SS1 - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	Green
2.	Policy SS2 - Identification of Sites in the Mineral Sites Plan	Green
3.	Policy CC1 - Preparation of Climate Change Assessments	Red
4.	Policy RE1 – Production of Recycled Aggregates	Green
5.	Policy AS1 - Provision of Sand and Gravel	Green
6.	Policy AS2 - Landbank Provision	Green
7.	Policy AS3 - Crushed Rock	Green
8.	Policy AS4 - Wharves and Depots	Green
9.	Policy AS5 - Borrow Pits	Green
10.	Policy BC1 - Provision of Ball Clay	Green
11.	Policy BC2 - Ball Clay Transportation	Green
12.	Policy BC3 - Extraction of Sand and Gravel in association with Ball Clay within the AONB	Green
13.	Policy PK1 - Provision of Purbeck Stone	Green
14.	Policy PK2 - Considerations for Purbeck Stone Quarries	Green
15.	Policy PK3 - Service Areas	Green
16.	Policy PK4 - Crushing of Purbeck Stone at Dimension Stone Quarries	Amber
17.	Policy PK5 - Importation of Stone from Outside Purbeck	Amber
18.	Policy PD1 - Underground Mining and High Wall Extraction of Portland Stone Policy	Green
19.	Policy PD2 - Surface Quarrying of Portland Stone	Green
20.	Policy PD3 - Relinquishment of Permission	Green
21.	Policy PD4 - Minimising Impacts of Existing Permissions on Portland	Green
22.	Policy PD5 - Restoration of Sites on Portland	Green
23.	Policy BS1 - Building Stone Quarries	Green
24.	Policy HY1 - Proposals for Exploration and Appraisal	Green
25.	Policy HY2 - Proposals for Production Facilities and Ancillary Development	Green
26.	Policy HY3 - Transportation of Hydrocarbons	Green

Policy Number and Title		RAG Status	
27.	Policy HY ₄ - Decommissioning and Restoration of Production Facilities and Ancillary Development	Green	
28.	Policy HY ₅ - Underground Gas Storage & Carbon Storage	Green	
29.	Policy IS ₁ - Industrial Sand	Amber	
30.	Policy SG ₁ - Mineral Safeguarding Area	Amber	Red
31.	Policy SG ₂ - Mineral Consultation Area	Pre LGR: Amber	Post LGR: Not needed
32.	Policy SG ₃ - Safeguarding of mineral sites and facilities	Amber	
33.	Policy RS ₁ - Restoration, Aftercare and Afteruse of Minerals Development	Amber	
34.	Policy RS ₂ - Retention of Plant, Machinery and other Ancillary Development	Amber	
35.	Policy RS ₃ - Local Liaison Groups	Green	
36.	Policy DM ₁ - Key Criteria for Sustainable Minerals Development	Amber	
37.	Policy DM ₂ - Managing Impacts on Amenity	Amber	
38.	Policy DM ₃ - Managing the Impact on Surface Water and Ground Water Resources	Green	
39.	Policy DM ₄ - Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Character and the Countryside	Green	
40.	Policy DM ₅ - Biodiversity and Geological Interest	Green	
41.	Policy DM ₆ - Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site	Green	
42.	Policy DM ₇ - The Historic Environment	Green	
43.	Policy DM ₈ - Transport and Minerals Development	Green	
44.	Policy DM ₉ - Extraction and restoration within airfield safeguarding areas	Green	
45.	Policy DM ₁₀ - Planning Obligations	Green	
46.	Policy DM ₁₁ - Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions	Green	
47.	Policy MON ₁ - Plan, Monitor and Manage	Green	

2.6. Table 1 shows that the majority of policies are considered to be working effectively and do not require any review at this stage. Some policies - CC₁; PK₄; PK₅; SG₁, 2 & 3; RS₁ & 2; DM₁ & 2 - are not working as effectively as they should and will require further consideration.

3. National Planning Policy Framework Assessment

3.1. Since the preparation of the Minerals Strategy 2014 was based on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012, a brief review of the MS has been undertaken comparing it with more recent versions of the NPPF. This is set out below.

Key:

New plan-making requirement of the NPPF 2019 not contained within the previous 2012 version
Revised plan-making requirement of the NPPF, containing some changes from the 2012 version
Requirement of the NPPF which has not changed from the 2012 version in relation to plan-making

Table 2 - National Planning Policy Framework Focused Review

	NPPF Requirement	NPPF Paragraph Reference	Assessment results
	<i>General Requirements</i>		
1.	Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.	NPPF Para 8, 9, 16	Yes - the MS is based on delivery of sustainable development, and policies such as SS1 and DM1 ensure this.
2.	Apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development.	NPPF Para 11	Yes - policy SS1 achieves this.
3.	Provide a positive vision for the future; a framework for addressing housing (minerals) needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities.	NPPF Para 15	Yes - the vision and objectives focus on the sustainable supply of minerals and protection of the environment and communities.
4.	Plans should be: Aspirational and deliverable Contain clear and unambiguous policies Accessible through the use of digital tools Serve a clear purpose avoiding duplication	NPPF Para 16	Yes, the MS achieves these.
	<i>Plan Content</i>		
5.	Include strategic policies to address priorities for the development and use of land. They should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development.	NPPF Para 17, 20	Yes, each mineral type has strategic policies setting out how much mineral will be supplied and spatially where it will come from.
6.	Outline which policies are 'strategic' policies	NPPF Para 21	Essentially all policies are strategic, as the MS does not have any

	NPPF Requirement	NPPF Paragraph Reference	Assessment results
			policies focussed on local issues such as delivery of sites.
7.	Strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15-year period <u>from adoption</u> .	NPPF Para 22	Yes this is the case.
8.	Indicate broad locations for development on a key diagram, and land use designations and allocations on a policies map.	NPPF Para 23	Yes there is a key diagram and a policies map showing land use designations. The MS does not make any allocations.
9.	Strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, and at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period.	NPPF Para 23	Yes they do.
10.	Include non-strategic policies to set out more detailed policies for specific areas.	NPPF Para 18, 28	This is achieved through the Mineral Sites Plan 2019, adopted at the end of 2019 and intended to support the MS and deliver the mineral strategies.
<i>Transport</i>			
11.	Development should only be prevented on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.	NPPF Para 109	Yes.
<i>Making effective use of land</i>			
12.	Promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions.	NPPF Para 117	Yes, in terms of minerals.
13.	Set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.	NPPF Para 117	Yes the MS does this, in terms of mineral supply.
<i>Climate change, flooding and coastal change</i>			

	NPPF Requirement	NPPF Paragraph Reference	Assessment results
14.	Take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperature.	NPPF Para 149	Yes, the MS does include a policy that proactively seeks to mitigate climate change and addresses these issues.
15.	Strategic policies should manage flood risk from all sources.	NPPF Para 156	Yes, there is a policy addressing flood risk resulting from mineral developments.
16.	Avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas and not exacerbating the impacts of physical changes to the coast.	NPPF Para 167	The MS does address this issue, in the context on mineral planning which does permit some development within floodplains.
<i>Natural environment</i>			
17.	Contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services.	NPPF Para 170	These points are generally addressed, though the latter ones to a lesser extent.
18.	Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure, and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.	NPPF Para 171	These points are generally addressed, though the latter ones to a lesser extent.
19.	Conserve the special character and importance of Heritage Coast areas.	NPPF Para 173	These are referenced.
20.	Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species, and identify and pursue	NPPF Para 174	These are addressed in the context particularly of mineral site restoration.

	NPPF Requirement	NPPF Paragraph Reference	Assessment results
	opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.		
21.	Sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas.	NPPF Para 181	Air quality is addressed through the MS.
22.	Ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities.	NPPF Para 182	This is addressed through minimising impacts of new minerals development.
	<i>Minerals</i>		
23.	Provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance.	NPPF Para 204	Yes
24.	Take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials.	NPPF Para 204	Yes
25.	Safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas.	NPPF Para 204	Yes
26.	Encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practical and environmentally feasible, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place.	NPPF Para 204	Yes
27.	Safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals, the manufacture of concrete and concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material.	NPPF Para 204	Yes
28.	Set out criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health	NPPF Para 204	Yes
29.	Recognise that some noisy short-term activities, which may otherwise be regarded as unacceptable, are unavoidable to facilitate minerals extraction	NPPF Para 204	Yes

	NPPF Requirement	NPPF Paragraph Reference	Assessment results
30.	Ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high-quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place.	NPPF Para 204	Yes

3.2. Other NPPF revisions include (but are not limited to):

- uses of land and developing green and brown field land;
- greater emphasis on design of development;
- more guidance on the change of use of land in the Green Belt;
- more guidance on flood risk;
- consideration of undeveloped coasts and public access to the coast;
- more guidance on designated landscapes;
- consideration of ground conditions and impacts of air quality on natural environment; and
- greater emphasis on energy security.

3.3. While the amendments to the NPPF do have an impact on the MS, the MPA do not consider that they require an urgent review of the MS.

3.4. The **25 Year Environment Plan** (Feb 2018) is also relevant, setting out Government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first.

3.5. The MPA are satisfied that the MS, particularly Policy DM5, is aligned with the protection principles of the Environment Plan and seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment but this will at some point need strengthening to ensure minerals development is aligned with national policy objectives and explicitly seeking to increase natural capital as part of development.

4. Issues Identified

4.1. Following assessment, the following policies were identified as requiring further consideration:

Policy CC1 - Preparation of Climate Change Assessments	Red
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- 4.2. Assessment shows that this policy is not being consistently applied - in fact, a relatively low level of use has been demonstrated and this is the reason the policy has been scored Red. In addition, given the growing importance of climate change and the declaration of a Climate Emergency by Dorset Council, there is a case for a fuller review of this policy to ensure it is in line with current views on climate issues.
- 4.3. There may be some confusion as to its use, with case officers applying their own assessment, instead of requiring the submission of a climate change assessment by the applicant. Indications are that the use and application of the policy has improved over the five years since the MS was adopted.
- 4.4. The MPA acknowledge that this policy is not being consistently used and applied, but consider that it is available and serves the purpose of requiring developers to address the issues of CO₂ emissions and how these could be limited. It also requires a demonstration that mitigation and adaptation measures have been incorporated into a proposal.
- 4.5. The MPA will issue guidance to officers on the intended use of the policy, and the importance of ensuring that the issue of climate change is appropriately addressed in an application. It is expected that this will significantly increase the application of this policy. The MS will be assessed again in 2021 to consider whether the use and application of this policy has improved. This will enable any implications of the Dorset Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy for the Minerals Strategy to be considered.

Policy PK4 - Crushing of Purbeck Stone at Dimension Stone Quarries	Amber
Policy PK5 - Importation of Stone from Outside Purbeck	Amber

- 4.6. The issue associated with these two policies appears to be a simple misquoting of the policy number in the drafting of the report. Apart from these errors the policies appear to be being used as intended. Officers will be reminded to check the numbers of policies referred to in reports.

Policy IS1 - Industrial Sand	Amber
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- 4.7. As described in section 2, it is impossible to identify a specific permitted reserve of sand solely for non-aggregate or industrial use, as an individual quarry may produce both aggregate and non-aggregate sand. It is also difficult to distinguish between non-aggregate sand used for industrial purposes e.g. foundry sand or for brick-facings), and sand used for other non-aggregate (e.g. recreational or sports) purposes. It makes it difficult to identify a realistic landbank for 'industrial' sand. It is generally the case that specific quarries producing sand which is or can be used for non-aggregate purposes have adequate permitted reserves to continue producing sand that could go for either use.
- 4.8. It might be more appropriate to rely on policies AS1 and AS2 to maintain the Poole Formation and other types of sand landbank, and to draw from this as required for aggregate and non-aggregate use rather than to have a specific non-aggregate landbank. However, these issues really need to be explored with the wider involvement of producers and users of the non-aggregate sand and this is best done through a more formal review of the policy.
- 4.9. Given what has been described, namely that the policy has never been used and existing quarries meet current demand, the MPA do not consider that this needs to be carried out urgently. The policy will continue to be monitored for another year and the situation will be reviewed in 2021. At this stage of a more formal Review of the MS, the purpose, use and application of this policy will be considered.

- 4.10. Having reviewed the application of this policy, and from experiences during the review period, the MPA has the following observations:
- The MPA takes a pragmatic view when responding to a mineral safeguarding consultation, seeking to achieve some level of prior extraction or re-use on site - it does not expect to achieve prior extraction or re-use of all mineral. However, even with this approach, prior extraction is not necessarily easy to achieve.
 - It is often the case that the developer has to find an operator willing to take the mineral, otherwise they need to arrange for the separate removal of mineral. In addition, a separate/temporary permission is generally required to allow a quarry/processing plant to receive/handle the mineral, potentially resulting in delays.
 - The intention is normally to remove some proportion of mineral, leaving an undisturbed surface above the winter water-table to allow built development to proceed with minimal delay. If the water table is high, it may not be possible to achieve any prior extraction without compromising site drainage.
 - An alternative to prior extraction is to identify and set aside in separate stockpiles any aggregate that is excavated during digging of foundations for roads, buildings etc. The excavated aggregate can then be re-used onsite instead of imported aggregate, subject to the quality being acceptable. Machine operators may need separate training to identify the relevant deposits of aggregate as they work.
 - The MPA has not consistently been consulted (by Districts, prior to April 2019, and development management Area Teams after that) on relevant applications within the MSA which could or would sterilise minerals. Conversely, it has often been consulted in cases where the criteria established through the Minerals Strategy should have screened out the need for consultation. The recently adopted Mineral Sites Plan 2019 provides more detail on criteria to screen out the need to consult the MPA.
 - Given the numbers of consultations, the MPA does not (currently) routinely follow up on all comments made objecting to potential sterilisation. The Districts (formerly) and the currently the Area Teams does not routinely report back on decisions made following comments/objections on mineral safeguarding grounds. This makes it difficult to properly monitor the application of the policy.
 - The MPA does not have access to geological expertise unless specifically procured. When an application involving potential sterilisation is supported by a geological assessment claiming that prior extraction or reuse on site is not possible, it can be difficult to assess the quality/accuracy of the assessment, and/or to refute it.
 - The Minerals Strategy 2014 safeguards a number of types of building stone across west and north Dorset and in many cases where the MPA is consulted over proposals for built development, e.g. housing, on the safeguarded building stone. Given the relatively low level of demand for most of these stones and the priority given to housing development, in many cases (apart from the higher profile Purbeck Stone and Portland Stone) when a consultation is received safeguarding requirements are waived in response.
 - Dorset has a relatively wide range of minerals of differing types and uses. It is possible that the range of minerals safeguarded needs to be re-assessed and only the higher-value/important minerals retain their safeguarded status.
 - The recently adopted Mineral Sites Plan 2019 develops the mineral safeguarding policy, and will be applied along with the Minerals Strategy 2014 and the provisions of the two plans together reviewed and assessed. However, this is currently progressing as the Mineral Sites Plan 2019 was only adopted at the end of 2019.
- 4.11. The MPA need to determine whether the policy is actually not fit for purpose and a review is required; or whether changes to its application and use are what is required. Actions/options are considered to be:
- 4.12. To formally review the policy, and make changes to it and to supporting text to make it more effective. This would involve considering issues such as:

- a. Is the policy too generalised, and given the range of minerals in Dorset are a range of more specific safeguarding policies for different mineral types required?
 - b. Does the policy seek to safeguard too many mineral types, or too large an area? Does its application need to be refined?
 - c. Do the criteria screening out applications that do not need to be consulted on changed/amended?
- 4.13. To keep the policy as it is, but make changes to the way it is used and applied, to make it more effective and applied more appropriately, and then re-assess the policy and its use/application again to see if it has improved. As part of this approach, the following actions would be taken:
- a. The Area Teams would be provided with better advice on screening applications and applying the policy.
 - b. Developers should have improved advice/guidance on the way safeguarding policy is used in the Dorset Council/BCP Council areas. This could include the preparation of supplementary guidance on mineral safeguarding Dorset, reviewing the range of minerals and how each is safeguarded.
 - c. The MPA would be more selective in the applications it responded to, but would monitor those responses to see how the safeguarding response/advice was received/used.
- 4.14. Given that the Mineral Sites Plan 2019 with its mineral safeguarding content has only recently been adopted, the MPA consider it appropriate to continue to monitor both Plans for at least another year, to assess how effectively the Plans work together. It is considered it would be premature to move immediately to a review of the Minerals Strategy 2014 safeguarding policy.
- 4.15. It is proposed that no change in the policy is initiated in the short term, but the MPA will take steps to improve how Policy SG1 is used and applied, including:
- a. Preparing updated and improved advice for Area Teams' planning officers and validation staff on the application of the policy - this could include briefing sessions on the application of the policy
 - b. Reviewing and revising the GIS information on which the policy is based, and ensuring that is made available
 - c. Preparing supplementary guidance on safeguarding in Dorset Council/BCP Council for the information of developers, landowners and the general public.
 - d. Being more selective in the consultations it responds to, but following those through to their ultimate determination.
- 4.16. The MPA do currently consider that the policy has the potential to work effectively and be fit for purpose provided. The steps set out above are expected to improve the effectiveness of the policy.

Policy SG2 - Mineral Consultation Area	Pre LGR: Amber	Post LGR: Not needed
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- 4.17. As noted in section 2, post LGR this policy is not required, and will be deleted when a full or partial review of the MS is undertaken.

Policy SG3 - Safeguarding of mineral sites and facilities	Amber
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- 4.18. As noted in section 2, there are issues with the application of this policy. There have been cases where through consultation the MPA became aware of non-mineral development allocations proposed through a local plan that would potentially impact on minerals interests. Through discussion with the local planning authority the MPA made them aware of the presence of the minerals operation, to ensure an acceptable distance remained.
- 4.19. Similarly, the MPA objects to planning applications where non-mineral development is proposed within the vicinity of a mineral operation. A good example of this is on Portland, where mineral operations are located

in close proximity to non-mineral development. The MPA has noted that local planning authorities have generally respected the comments and advice provided.

- 4.20. The problems come in cases:
- where the MPA is not aware of non-mineral development proposals 'in the vicinity of' minerals operations, and is not consulted, and so development that could lead to future problems may be permitted, and
 - as with the Policy SG1, the MPA does not routinely follow up on comments made, and is not always aware of cases where advice may not be accepted, or decisions overturned on appeal.
- 4.21. The MPA has recognised the issue identified in a) above and has addressed this through Policy MS8 of the Mineral Sites Plan 2019, which establishes a 250m buffer around permitted and allocated mineral sites within which local planning Area Teams are required to consult the MPA if non-mineral development is proposed within or adjacent to these buffers. This is intended to pick up more of the cases of encroachment of non-mineral development, some of which might previously been missed.
- 4.22. The suggestions made for improvements to implementation of Policy SG1, particularly improved monitoring of applications where comments are supplied to be aware of final outcomes, are relevant for improvements to SG3 as well. SG3 provides a policy basis for safeguarding minerals sites and infrastructure, but its implementation and action has not been as effective as it could be. The application of Policy MS8 of the MSP along with SG3 is expected to improve its effectiveness. Time is needed to properly monitor the action of these policies (SG3 and MS8) together, to assess their effectiveness together.
- 4.23. The MPA will monitor over the course of the next year, and review the situation in 2021. No urgent review is considered necessary.

Policy RS1 - Restoration, Aftercare and Afteruse of Minerals Development	Amber
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- 4.24. The restoration strategy established through the MS is based on the landscape types of Dorset. These are distinct types of landscape across the county that are relatively uniform in character, sharing broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use and settlement pattern. Specific land management guidelines relevant to each landscape type have been prepared and provide a broad framework for managing change. The guidelines establish specific principles for mineral site restoration within each landscape type, which are appropriate to that landscape type. They provide practical and locally relevant advice to developers, landowners, local authorities and the general public as to what will be expected through restoration of the land following mineral working. As a result, the restoration process is intended to ensure that the finished site will integrate easily into the landscape in which it sits.
- 4.25. Background Paper 16 to the Minerals Strategy 2014 set out all the landscape types along with the relevant land management guidelines for each landscape type, to be applied during site restoration. Paragraph 15.7 of the Minerals Strategy 2014 noted "The Landscape Management Guidelines are available as Background Paper 16: Restoration. Further and more detailed guidance on restoration will be provided through a subsequent Supplementary Planning Document, **should this prove necessary.**" (emphasis added)
- 4.26. The intention was to produce a Restoration Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) if it appeared to the MPA that this was needed - if, for example, applicants were finding difficulty in interpreting the approach to restoration as set out in the policy. In reality, there have been no queries about the application of the policy and no indication of difficulties in applicants understanding the approach. The MPA has therefore to date not considered it necessary to prepare a Restoration SPD. However, this policy has been scored Amber for not achieving its targets.
- 4.27. Regarding guidance and control of the restoration process, it is noted that the policy has been consistently applied during determination of relevant applications. What is not clear is whether in each case the specific guidelines for the relevant landscape type(s) have been reviewed, and specifically applied to develop a restoration approach which is appropriate to the local landscape and ecological setting, and complies with the restoration strategy.

- 4.28. Policy RS1 contains 15 criteria, covering the various aspects of restoration, aftercare and after use. They provide a checklist for development management officers when assessing a proposal for restoration. They also provide a policy basis for negotiations with applicants. It is unlikely that every single criterion will be specifically addressed in every application, and it is difficult to assess this for every proposal received during the assessment period. It is assumed that DM officers have utilised the criteria as needed, in their determination of any given application, and for the purposes of this assessment the reference to 'applications/permissions consistent with this policy' in one of the targets above is taken to mean confirmation that the policy has been considered and applied.
- 4.29. What appears to happen more commonly is a more general approach to addressing restoration/aftercare/afteruse in planning applications. Many planning applications proposing mineral extraction include a form of restoration that is (generally) consistent with the local ecological and landscape context; the Dorset Council Natural Environment Team (NET) are routinely consulted and provide comments and advice on whether the approach is relevant and appropriate to the site, as do other consultees such as Natural England, Historic England, Highways England, the Environment Agency and so on.
- 4.30. Subject to their views the permission issued generally includes a condition requiring restoration of the site in accordance with a specific restoration scheme, to be submitted within a set period of time. The NET will again provide comments on the proposed restoration scheme and subject to their input, the restoration scheme will be approved. Other consultees, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Highways England and others may also provide comments on proposed restoration. In this way an appropriate restoration scheme comes forward for approval and implementation. The detail of Policy RS1 is available if required, or if there is a dispute over the need for/approach to restoration.
- 4.31. Although Policy RS1, including all its criteria, may not be explicitly addressed in all cases the MPA are satisfied that site restoration is being properly addressed and given the input of the Natural Environment Team and other expert consultees appropriate restoration, aftercare and after use proposals are being approved for implementation.
- 4.32. The preparation of a Restoration SPD, although not considered a priority, would be helpful in clarifying the approach to restoration set out in the Minerals Strategy 2014 and would make it easier for applicants to identify and apply the relevant management guidelines for any proposed minerals development. The MPA will therefore aim to prepare a Restoration SPD in support of Policy RS1. No urgent review is considered necessary.

Policy RS2 - Retention of Plant, Machinery and other Ancillary Development	Amber
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- 4.33. The MPA are satisfied that this policy has been used appropriately in the majority of relevant cases, but apparently has not been used consistently in all cases. In some cases a conditional requirement has been attached to a permission requiring the removal of machinery etc., but Policy RS2 has not been quoted. Case officers may consider that it is not necessary in all cases to specifically quote the policy. Since it has apparently not been used in all relevant cases, an Amber score has been awarded.
- 4.34. The MPA consider that the policy is relevant and appropriate, and does not need a change. It remains available for use. Guidance will be provided to officers, reminding them that the policy is available for use. The MPA is satisfied that the policy is fit for purpose and being used appropriately and no change is considered necessary. The policy will continue to be monitored, and will be assessed again in 2021. No urgent review is considered necessary.

Policy DM1 - Key Criteria for Sustainable Minerals Development	Amber
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- 4.35. As with Policy RS1, this policy provides a checklist of issues that applicants can use in preparing their applications, and development management officers can use in assessing applications or negotiating with applicants. It is not intended that every criterion must be specifically addressed, but if development management officers refer to the policy in their decisions, or their reasoning behind their decisions, it is

assumed that they are satisfied that the policy has been applied appropriately and the proposal is compliant with the requirements of the policy. Similarly, if a policy is not referred to in any given application, it may be the case that the development management officer considers that it is not relevant.

- 4.36. This policy has been used in 96% of the total number of applications determined during the review period, 2014-2018. Given that the target use is 100%, the policy has been given an Amber score, and guidance will be given to development management officers. However the general trend has been an increase in use since adoption, year on year with the policy being used less in the earlier years of the plan's adoption but usage increasing.
- 4.37. The MPA considers that the policy is effective and no change is considered necessary. The policy will continue to be monitored, and will be assessed again in 2021. No urgent review is considered necessary.

Policy DM2 - Managing Impacts on Amenity	Amber
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- 4.38. As with Policy DM1, this policy also provides a checklist of issues that applicants can use in preparing their applications, and development management officers can use in assessing applications or negotiating with applicants. Again it is not intended that every criterion must be specifically addressed, but if development management officers refer to the policy in their decisions, or their reasoning behind their decisions, it is assumed that they are satisfied that the policy has been applied appropriately and the proposal is compliant with the requirements of the policy.
- 4.39. This policy has been used in 97% of the total number of applications determined during the review period, 2014-2018. Given that the target use is 100%, the policy has been given an Amber score. It is noted that the lowest use was in 2014, when the MS was just adopted, and this has significantly increased since.
- 4.40. The MPA considers that the policy is effective and no change is considered necessary. The policy will continue to be monitored, and will be assessed again in 2021. No urgent review is considered necessary.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. This assessment has identified that while issues have been identified with the implementation and use of some of the policies during the 5-year period during the review period to date, the MS is considered to remain effective.
- 5.2. The policies where there is a greatest lack of clarity regarding their use are Policies CC1 (climate change), IS1 (industrial sand) and safeguarding (SG1 and SG3).
- 5.3. Each of these along with the other policies scoring Amber have been separately considered, and although some action is needed in certain cases the MPA is satisfied that no urgent Review of the overall MS, or any of the component policies, is required in the short term. The key actions are to provide further guidance to development management officers, and to validation teams and planning officers from the local planning Area Teams, on the operation of these policies; and to bring forward the preparation of one and possibly two Supplementary Planning Documents - on mineral safeguarding firstly, and possible site restoration as well.
- 5.4. The Mineral Sites Plan 2019 is meant to complement the MS and to contribute to delivering the strategies set out. As the MSP was only adopted at the end of 2019, the MPA want the two plans to have at least one year of working together before making changes to the MS (as the older of the two). This is considered a strong reason not to move to an early review of the MS.
- 5.5. In addition it is recognised that there are a number of current uncertainties which will have an impact on future supply and capacity requirements of minerals:
 - The Government is driving forward development to boost the housing market and enable the necessary infrastructure to support this.
 - The publication of the recent White Paper and the changes to the planning system this proposes are significant, and difficult to predict. Given the ongoing, and increasing, priority given to construction projects and house building, the need for minerals may increase.
 - Offsetting this are Britain's exit from the European Union, and the uncertainty surrounding the ramifications of this.
 - The far-reaching impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of this are also difficult to predict, certainly in terms of mineral planning.
- 5.6. Given the recent adoption of the Mineral Sites Plan 2019 together with the current high level of uncertainty in mineral planning terms, the MPA is satisfied that the most appropriate approach is to continue monitoring of all policies of the Minerals Strategy, and to undertake another assessment in 2021. The Local Development Scheme will be amended accordingly to reflect this.