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Your ref:

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My ref:

29 May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NORFOLK MINERALS SITE SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN
DOCUMENT (DPD) Single Issue Review of Silica Sand – Call for Sites**

I am writing to inform you that the “call for sites” for the Single Issue Silica Sand Review of the Norfolk Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan will take place for one month, from **1 June to 30 June 2015** (inclusive), and I would welcome proposals for any potential specific site allocations for silica sand extraction up to 2026. The silica sand resource in Norfolk occurs entirely within the administrative boundary of the Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk.

A form is available on the Norfolk County Council website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf for the submission of sites into the allocations process. The form contains a number of questions regarding the site being proposed and the area surrounding it. Information that will need to be provided includes:

- A map of the site location and proposed HGV access route
- landowner willingness for the site to be included as a silica sand extraction site
- borehole data, and a statement as to the quality, quantity and extent of the mineral resource which is of commercial interest
- information on planning constraints relevant to the proposed site location (including environmental designations, landscape, the historic environment, agricultural land, amenity and infrastructure)

The proposed specific sites will be subject to public consultation and therefore it is expected that the information provided, except for borehole data, may be made publicly available.

Specific sites for silica sand extraction can be proposed to Norfolk County Council by post and email (LDF@norfolk.gov.uk) and should be received by Norfolk County Council by **30 June 2015**.

Continued

Next steps

Following the “call for sites” process the County Council will assess the sites submitted, in consultation with other relevant authorities. If the County Council concludes that the submitted information is insufficient to determine whether a site is acceptable in principle, the proposer of the site will be given the opportunity to supply additional information. A site specific allocation will not be proposed in the draft Plan unless it is likely to meet the tests of soundness at Examination in Public.

After the “call for sites” period finishes, the next stage in the preparation of the Silica Sand Single Issue Review will be the publication of the Preferred Sites Document for public consultation, which is planned to take place in autumn 2015.

Background information

The Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan (adopted by full Council on 28/10/2013) contains a requirement for a Silica Sand Review of the Plan to be completed by 2016. The review is needed to address the predicted shortfall, of 2.6 million tonnes, in the quantity of silica sand extraction sites allocated in the Plan. It is predicted that around 750,000 tonnes of silica sand will be extracted from Norfolk per annum. It is expected that no more than one or two additional specific sites will need to be allocated over the plan period (to 2026) to meet the shortfall. If suitable sites are not submitted through this “call for sites” process then Preferred Areas and/or Areas of Search for future silica sand extraction will need to be designated instead.

In accordance with the Planning Inspector’s comments on the Minerals SSA Plan, “The review will also help ensure that attention is focused on suitable extraction areas within the silica sand resource area. Uncertainty and unwarranted pressure on unsuitable sites would be avoided.” Therefore, proposers of sites for silica sand extraction should ensure that sufficient information is provided to prove, at examination, that a site is suitable for allocation.

The Initial Consultation document asked a series of questions regarding the approach to be taken regarding the assessment of sites. The responses to the consultation are available to view on Norfolk County Council’s website at: <http://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/> by selecting the relevant document in the e-consultation database and then clicking on the magnifying glass icon in the online document.

The “Call for Sites” submission form, the Initial Consultation Document and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report are available on Norfolk County Council’s website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf

Any enquiries should be made to LDF@norfolk.gov.uk or to Caroline Jeffery, at the address on this letter. Please also contact Norfolk County Council if you do not wish to receive any further correspondence regarding the Silica Sand Review.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

text

Caroline Jeffery

Principal Planner (Minerals and Waste Policy)