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Silica Sand Review of the Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan - Preferred Options Consultation
26 October 2015 14:01:58

Norfolk Minerals Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD): Single Issue Review of Silica Sand – Preferred Options Consultation Document

I am writing to inform you that the Preferred Options Consultation on the Single Issue Silica Sand Review of the Norfolk Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan will take place over a six week period from **6 November to 21 December 2015** (inclusive), and I would welcome your comments.

As you are no doubt aware, your organisation is a consultation body under regulation 4 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and I would welcome your comments, on the Preferred Options Consultation Document and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (Parts A and B), in that respect.

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 2.5 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.

The Silica Sand resource in Norfolk occurs entirely within the administrative boundary of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Following an Initial Consultation on the Silica Sand Review, and a 'call for sites' earlier in 2015, the next stage in the process is the Preferred Options Consultation.

The Preferred Options consultation document contains one specific site for silica sand extraction and ten areas of search (AoS) which have been defined by planning officers. Areas of search are large areas within which permission for silica sand extraction may be granted on a smaller area of land. The Preferred Options document contains an explanation of how the ten areas of search have been defined and an assessment of the specific site and each of the areas of search. We would welcome your comments on the suitability of the specific site and ten areas of search for future silica sand extraction.

The areas of search and site contained in the Preferred Options document are:

Reference	Size (hectares)	Parish
AOS A	548	Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham, Dersingham
AOS B	240	Heacham, Snettisham
AOS C	65	Hillington, Fritcham with Appleton
AOS D	142	East Winch, Pentney
AOS E	979	Wormegay, Shouldham, Marham, Tottenhill, Shouldham Thorpe
AOS F	234	Runton Holme
AOS G	34	Bawsey
AOS H	29	Bawsey
AOS I	52	Runton Holme, Shouldham Thorpe, Tottenhill
AOS J	24	Tottenhill
Site SIL 01	21	Bawsey

Copies of the Preferred Options Consultation Document, the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (Parts A and B) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Task 1), are available for public inspection, free of charge, within normal opening hours up to and including 21 December 2015, at all public libraries in Norfolk, and at:

- Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH
- Breckland District Council, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, East Dereham, NR19 1EE
- Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1EX
- North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EL
- Norwich City Council, City Hall, Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH
- South Norfolk Council, South Norfolk House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, NR15 2XE
- The Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

All documents are also available on Norfolk County Council's website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf

Where possible the County Council would prefer representations to be made directly to www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf; however responses by post, fax and email will also be accepted. **All comments, in whatever form, should be made by 5pm on 21 December 2015.**

After the current consultation period finishes, the next stage in the preparation of the Silica Sand Single Issue Review will be the publication of the Pre-Submission document, which is planned to take place in spring 2016.

Any enquiries should be made to LDF@norfolk.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Jeffery

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