

Proposed Submission Draft Minerals Site Allocation DPD – Consultation

Minerals sites in the Malmesbury Community Area - Briefing Note

Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council have jointly published the Proposed Submission draft Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) for a final round of formal consultation, along with a series of evidence reports¹.

The Proposed Submission draft Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD responds to comments received through previous rounds of consultation in 2010 and sets out a series of proposals for locating new sand and gravel quarries within the plan area² to meet the councils' locally derived forecast provision requirements of 1.2 million tonnes per annum through the plan period up to 2026. The DPD has been developed with a restoration led approach at its heart (seeking biodiversity and amenity enhancements **not** the landfilling of putrescible waste), advocating upfront consideration of suitable after uses for the minerals sites in the document.

Within the Malmesbury Community Area, the document identifies 1 site for potential new sand and gravel quarrying. Details of this site are presented below and in more detail through the site profile on the following pages.

Proposed minerals site name/location	Size of site – hectares(ha)	Estimated resource yield (tonnes)	Current land use
Land at Cotswold Community	38.56	2,760,000	Agricultural/former educational and residential facility

The Proposed Submission draft Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD and evidence base documents will be available for comment throughout the 6-week consultation period running from the **30 January to 12 March 2012**. The Council encourages anyone wishing to view and comment on the consultation documents to use the council's consultation website:

<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

For those without access to a computer, hard copies of the documents can be viewed in the Council's offices in Chippenham (Monkton Park), Devizes (Browfort), Salisbury (Milford Street) and Trowbridge (County Hall and Bradley Road) and Swindon Borough Council (Wat Tyler House) as well as all local libraries.

Once the consultation period has closed, the Proposed Submission draft Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD, supporting evidence base and all comments received during the consultation will be presented to Full Council for final approval, before being submitted to the Secretary of State in June/July 2012. From that point, the document will be in the independent examination process.

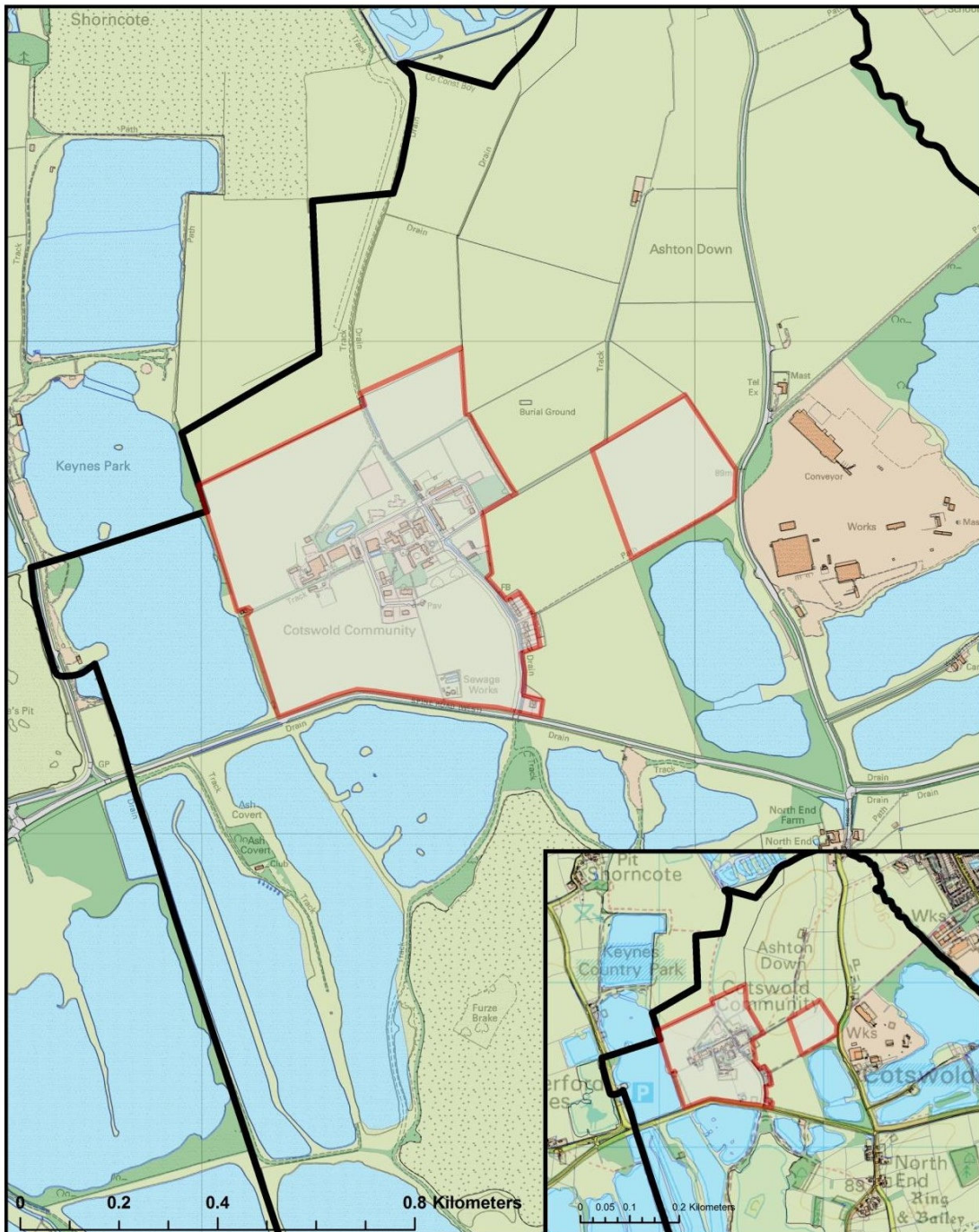
For further information please contact the Minerals and Waste Policy Team (Economy and Enterprise) at Wiltshire Council by telephone (01225 713429) or email: mineralsandwastepolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk.

¹ For minerals and waste matters, Wiltshire Council prepares its policy framework jointly with Swindon Borough Council.

² For minerals planning, the plan area delineates the boundary of Wiltshire and Swindon, excluding the New Forest.

Site Name: Land at Cotswold Community

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c::J Land at Cotswold Community
c::J Plan area

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Land at Cotswold Community: Site Development – key issues and potential mitigation measures	
Site description	The site is located to the east of Keynes Country Park on land which is predominantly classified as Grades 2 and 3 Best and Most Versatile. The nearest settlement is Ashton Keynes, approximately 1.6km to the south east. The nearest operational quarry is at Shorncote to the north of the site. The southern boundary of the site is formed by the western spine road. The estimated yield for the site has been calculated incorporating additional mineral reserves located beneath the former Cotswold Community School and the non-scheduled section of the eastern part of the site.
Biodiversity and geodiversity	A number of species (including great crested newts and bats) have been recorded in the nearby County Wildlife Sites (west and south) and from the Cotswold Community. Extended Phase 1 survey and robust construction method statement will be required to address these issues. Retention of tree lines and hedgerows for connectivity is key and phased working with continual restoration will be required.
Human health and amenity	Where appropriate, reasonable and practicable, dust and noise generating activities should be located away from sensitive receptors through a minimum 25m stand-off distance and use of appropriate measures to reduce noise and through a minimum 100m stand-off distance to reduce dust impacts.
Landscape and visual	The site can accommodate change. The western part of the site is heavily screened, the PRoW currently located to the north of the site is in a poor condition and could be redirected/improved. The eastern part of the site is more open to views but this could be overcome by advance planting. The surrounding character of the site is influenced by nearby working quarries.
Archaeology	The area and site has a number of historical features associated with it. Any applicant will need to work closely with the County Archaeologist to develop and implement sufficient and suitable mitigation plans.
Historic built environment	Mitigation in the form of bunds, 'stand-offs' and screening would be required to reduce impacts on listed buildings in the centre of the site.
Traffic and transportation	Access should avoid using the C85 Spine Road West and the adjoining junction with the current Cotswold Community access as these routes are not suitable to serve this site due to current road alignment and land constraints. Significant upgrading of these routes will be required before use. Adequate access will be possible if the site is treated as an extension to the adjoining quarry to the north. A Transport Assessment should be submitted with a planning application and, where considered appropriate in law, financial contributions sought through the planning application process for highway improvements/maintenance costs.
Water environment	Part of the site lies within Source Protection Zone 3 and groundwater investigations will be required to ensure protection of groundwater. Any potential environmental impacts on nearby Country Wildlife sites and water based business interests will need to be considered and suitable mitigation provided. The site is situated within Flood Zone 3. A Flood Risk Assessment should be submitted with any subsequent planning application. A robust construction method statement and Hydrogeological Impact Assessment should also include details of groundwater protection and stockpile storage areas.
Preferred restoration objective	The site must be sensitively designed and worked in a phased manner. Suitable restoration proposals for this site should be sympathetic to the uses taking place at Keynes Country Park and would include open water,

	<p>ponds, reedbed, wet woodland or grazing pasture. RAF Fairford have no significant concerns with the risk of birdstrike in this location. Restoration must aim to meet targets for named habitats and species in the Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan (CWP BAP) and the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP).</p>
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