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Engineering & Environmental Solutions

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BY POST AND EMAIL

Dear Ms. Macdonald

**Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals & Waste Development Framework
Minerals Site Allocation Document
Cannon Hill Plantation (MSAD AS02) and Uddens Plantation (MSAD AS17)**

We write in response to our recent telephone conversation in connection with the above. On behalf of our clients, the Forestry Commission (hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission'), we would be grateful if the Council would treat this letter as formal notification of the Commission's request to withdraw the Cannon Hill Plantation (MSAD AS02) and Uddens Plantation (MSAD AS17) sites from the Dorset County Council Mineral Site Allocation Document (MSAD).

Recently the Commission has been informed by its chosen mineral developer, the Raymond Brown Group that it no longer wishes to progress the above sites through the MSAD process. The Council has requested further information on the proposed development of the sites to enable them to make a full assessment of the suitability of the site for inclusion in the MSAD. As the Commission no longer has neither a mineral developer nor a replacement to address these issues and to continue to promote either of these two sites, it is with regret that the Commission has had no alternative but to take the decision to withdraw these sites.

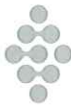
We understand that for any mineral allocation site to be included in the adopted MSAD, the Council require that site to be deliverable, i.e. it has the approval of the surface and/or mineral owner as well as mineral developer signed up to prepare a planning application and Environmental Statement to then work the minerals in the event that planning permission is granted. The inability to meet the Council's requirement on deliverability is further reason to withdraw these sites.

Notwithstanding its decision, the Commission has reviewed the reasons for disagreement to the inclusion of Cannon Hill and Uddens Plantations made by individuals and various organisations during the Consultation on the MSAD Discussion Paper which took place between 17 October and 12 December 2008. Furthermore, the Commission has also considered the subsequent comments made by Dorset County Council in response to the

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reasons for disagreement which were contained in their report to the Council's Minerals and Waste Policy Joint Advisory Committee on 17 March 2009.

The Commission firmly believes that by careful consideration and re-design of the site boundaries and layouts, the various environmental and public access impacts arising from the exploitation of the mineral reserves at these two sites can be mitigated against and any concerns over mineral development allayed, thereby potentially allowing these sites to be reconsidered for mineral development at some point in the future when the MSAD is re-assessed. Hence, the Commission intends to canvass interest in the mineral sector in the hope of appointing an alternative mineral developer willing to take forward either of these sites.

Early indications suggest that the County's annual requirement for sand and gravel is approximately 1.9 million tonnes and that for the period 2005 – 2020, the MSAD will need to provide for potentially up to 30 million tonnes. Given the estimated reserves of sand and gravel at Cannon Hill and Uddens (c. 3 million tonnes) and provided the environmental issues can be overcome then these sites have the potential to make a significant contribution to satisfying the County's future demand for aggregates when the MSAD is reviewed.

Finally, we wish to re-emphasise that the Commission remains firmly committed to pursuing its other mineral site allocations in the MSAD, namely Great Plantation, aka Helthfelton (MSAD AS06) and Moreton Plantation (MSAD AS10). It is hoped that these sites will be deemed suitable by the Council for the extraction of sand and gravel to meet national, regional and local requirements and will be included in the adopted MSAD.

Yours sincerely
For Wardell Armstrong LLP



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