

# FEBEN SMITH Session 23 Swanworth Quarry

## Public Hearing Replies to Questions: September 2018

### Relating to Site MS-3 PK-16 Swanworth Quarry 'Extension'

#### From ID Nos. 1005917 & 1148254

Question 178.

No, for all the reasons already explained by ourselves and by others.

Question 179.

No - the LVIA and the AONB all state that these exposed rolling uplands, that form the Purbeck Plateau, could not be camouflaged successfully. Plus, the close proximity of the ancient historic area, Corfe Castle and The World Heritage coastline makes this a very exceptional part of the Dorset AONB which merits the highest level of protection from development, and especially industrial-scale quarrying development.

Question 180.

No – the Site Assessment and SA are totally inadequate. They fail to address many significant matters (e.g. all other reasonable alternatives, traffic implications, impact on WHS Jurassic Coast and Corfe Castle settings and uncertainty as to supply of inert landfill for restoration) as well as failing to set out the balancing exercise that should have been undertaken. Furthermore as Swanworth is due to close in 2024, the starting point for assessing all impacts (traffic, visual, environmental etc.) should be on the basis that Swanworth has closed and been restored as required.

Question 182.

Corfe Castle is viewed from the B3069 - especially from the layby, (mentioned in the LVIA – VP2 and Table 5). This is a favourite viewing spot which will now be only one field away from the new quarry with all its industrial connotations of noise and dust spoiling the tranquillity of this unique spot. This layby was quoted by Simon Jenkins (ex- Chairman of the National Trust) in his book "England's 100 Best Views".

Question 183.

Both the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site and Corfe Castle are connected via The Purbeck Way, a popular tourist attraction. So the peaceful walk from Corfe Castle down to the coast and the World Heritage Site would be spoilt by the vision of a 35 acre aggregate quarry, easily visible as mentioned in the LVIA. Not only this, but visitors would have to pass under the planned bridge carrying heavy quarry lorries. This walk could not then be promoted as, "passing through some of the most attractive landscapes of the AONB".

Question 185 a and b.

Any reasonable reader of the SA would conclude that it does not provide sufficient evidence to justify the principle of development at this plan-making stage. The site allocation is incompatible with the Minerals Strategy and the NPPF, the Site Assessment and the SA are totally inadequate and the hurdles that would have to be overcome in any planning stage appear insurmountable.

## FEBEN SMITH Session 23 Swanworth Quarry

Question 185 c.

The mitigated measures suggested to camouflage the quarry will look completely out of place in this landscape. The fields designated show upwards to the skyline, so no berm or trees will hide the upper parts of the quarry and in any event they will look unnatural. This open Purbeck Plateau, often with excessive south westerly winds driving in from the sea, would not be suitable for tree growth as anyone can see who visits this area.

Question 186.

There does not appear to be any sign in the paperwork of the Councils having undertaken any balancing exercise.

Question 190.

The inclusion of a new copse outside the Combe area will be out of character with these exposed rolling uplands - a special feature of the Dorset AONB and the coastline. Trees do not thrive in the exposed winds. As mentioned in the LVIA, this area will be highly visible from the Purbeck Way south of the B3069 and to nearby residents.

Question 192.

The Mineral Policy 2014 states there is more than enough aggregate coming from Portland and The Mendips with its rail link to Hamworthy, Poole. We feel that the DCC has overstated and misunderstood the impact of Swanworth ceasing production in 2024 and the claimed economic and environmental benefits of the extension and has failed to consider the opportunities that will arise for the other suppliers to meet all forecast demand.

Question 193.

Yes – it would appear to be not just misleading, but wrong.

Question 194 - ANY OTHER ISSUES.

- A) As a local resident, I feel the size of the quarry is being played down especially with all the references to the new quarry being set lower down in the fields. In fact, looking at the site maps, the new quarry takes up 3/4 of both fields making them far more visible. This quarry will have an impact from the Purbeck Way, south of B3069, and for local residents, travellers on Purbeck Breezer no. 40, (the local bus) and the view westwards from Worth will all be looking into a large open-cast quarry with a cliff drop visible on its most westerly side. This vision is shown in LVIA – photo viewpoint 06 – phase 1, and this is after 5 years of screening.
- B) In the LVIA, it reports that under the predicted visual effect, the Purbeck Way south of B3069 would be highly affected but neutral on completion, when restored. Twenty years ago the current quarry was meant to be restored into a Nature Reserve but since then and further planning permissions this has not happened. I question that this site will ever be finished or restored but extended in decades to come. This quarry will be leaving a permanent scar for future generations.
- C) In addition, as mentioned above, since Swanworth is due to close in 2024, the starting point for assessing all impacts (traffic, visual, environmental etc.) should be on the basis that Swanworth has been closed and restored as required.