

Area North Committee – 23 January 2013

10. Somerset Minerals Plan – Preferred Options

SCC Service Manager: *Guy Robinson, Interim Minerals and Waste Policy Manager*
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Consultation website: *http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk.*

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on developments on minerals planning policy in Somerset. The Senior Minerals Planning Officer and Interim Minerals and Waste Policy Manager will attend the meeting to give a short presentation. The presentation to Area North will provide an opportunity for any specific local issues to be raised and local knowledge gathered.

Public Interest

On 11th January 2013 Somerset County Council launched a consultation on the "Preferred Options" of the Somerset Minerals Plan, which will form part of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. Publishing the preferred options is an important step towards adoption of new minerals planning policy in Somerset, which is a statutory requirement for the Council. The preferred options are informed by the Minerals Options consultation which closed in February 2012.

Recommendations

- 1) Note and comment on the report and presentation
- 2) Members are invited to respond individually to the consultation
- 3) Note that a formal response from SSSC will be made by the Portfolio Holder (Finance & Spatial Planning)

Main report

From quarrying of aggregates and building stone, to issues linked with minerals transport, site restoration and peat extraction, the Minerals Plan will set out the Council's approach to minerals planning until 2030. It will cover all mineral types, focusing in particular on the spatial context for extraction in Somerset, and addressing the relationship between minerals and non-minerals development.

Minerals are needed to support sustainable economic growth and our quality of life. Since they are a finite resource and can only be worked where they are found – which, for Somerset's aggregates, centres in the Mendip Hills – it is important to make best use of minerals and manage impacts of their extraction appropriately. The Preferred Options document contains 14 draft "Strategic" policies, plus 12 draft policies on Development Management that will help the Council to protect features that make Somerset unique; for example: landscape; biodiversity, the historic environment, water resources; and public rights of way.

The preferred options have been informed by public consultation and detailed research, and respond to requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and areas of emerging interest, such as the use of local building stone to maintain our cultural heritage and national interest in energy minerals (including the extraction of shale gas).

The consultation runs until March 8th 2013. It will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to comment on the direction of minerals policy. The results of the consultation will inform the preparation and publication of the "Pre-submission" Somerset Minerals Plan.

All relevant documents will be made available on the County Council's website: www.somerset.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste. The County Council's consultation portal will be used to promote and disseminate the Preferred Options consultation which can be accessed via the following website <http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk>. Officers from the County Council's Minerals and Waste Policy Team will also be present at two drop in sessions (details below) where interested parties can come and talk about the consultation.

Drop in sessions:

Thursday 24th January 2013

1pm – 7pm
Peter Street Rooms
Peter Street
Shepton Mallet
BA4 5BL

Thursday 21st February 2013

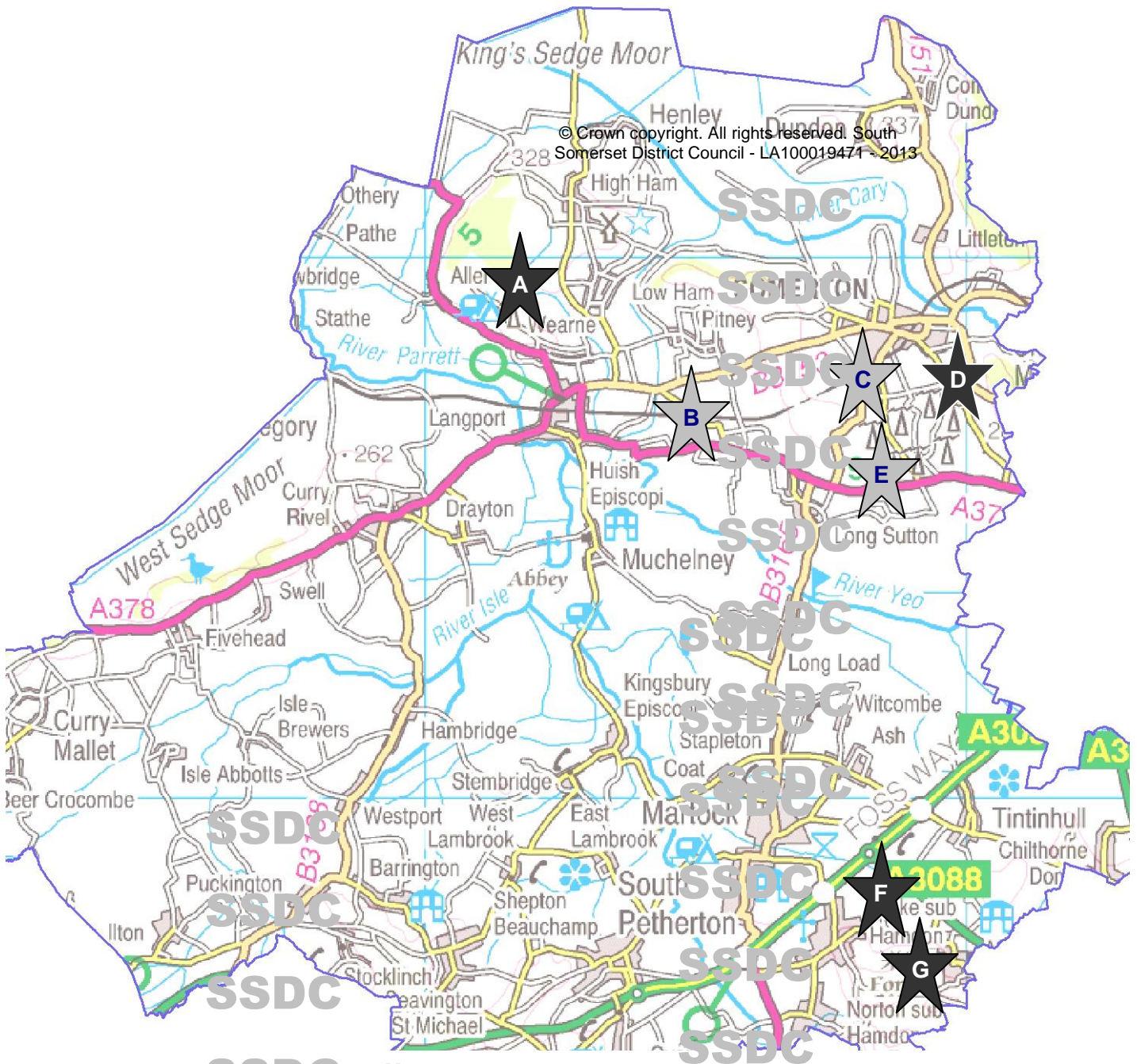
12 noon – 7pm
Stuckey Room
Great Bow Wharf
Bow Street
Langport
TA10 9PN

For more information please contact Guy Robinson, Interim Minerals and Waste Manager on 01823 357140 or grobinson@somerset.gov.uk

Attached is a map showing the locations of current active and dormant quarries in Area North.

Quarries in Area North

(Active and dormant)



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Parish
 Huish Episcopi
 Long Sutton
 Somerton
 Somerton
 Somerton
 Stoke Sub Hamdon
 Montacute

Ward
 Turn Hill
 Tintinhull
 Wessex
 Wessex
 Wessex
 Hamdon
 St Michael's

Map Ref	Quarry Name
A	Bowdens Lane Quarry, Bowdens Lane, Langport, TA10 0QL
B	Downslade, Hermitage Road, Upton, Long Sutton, TA10 9NW
C	Badgers Cross, Badgers Cross Lane, Somerton, TA11 7JF
D	Ashen Cross, Ashen Cross Road, Somerton, TA11 7HR
E	Appledoor Field, Langport Road, Long Sutton, TA11 7JD
F	Ham Hill North, Ham Hill, Stoke Sub Hamdon, TA14 6RW
G	Ham Hill South, Ham Hill, Stoke Sub Hamdon

Status
Active
Dormant
Dormant
Active
Dormant
Active
Active

Please note – placement is indicative only!