



## **Minerals Plan Examination Comments from CPRE Somerset August 2014**

### **Matter 10: Site Reclamation**

1. Does the Plan make provision for restoration at the earliest opportunity?

NO. POLICY DM8 DEPENDS ON TABLE 7 WHICH HAS BEEN ALTERED GREATLY IN VERSION 2D OF THE PRESUBMISSION PLAN WITHOUT PUBLIC CONSULTATION. THE ADJECTIVE 'RELEVANT' IN THE NEW TABLE 7 IS TOO VAGUE. DEEP AGGREGATE QUARRIES ACTIVE OR DORMANT CAN NOT BE RESTORED UNTIL PERMISSION TO WORK THEM HAS EXPIRED.

2. Is adequate provision made for safeguarding the long-term potential of the best and most versatile agricultural land and conserving soil resources in appropriate circumstances?

NO. SMP8 NEEDS THIS PROVISION.

3. Does the Plan provide adequate opportunity for protecting and/or enhancing geodiversity, biodiversity, native woodland, the historic environment and recreation?

INDUSTRIAL USES ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (DULCOTE QUARRY). IF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROL LIES WITH DISTRICT PLANNERS RATHER THAN THE MPA WILL THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OUTLINED IN DM8 APPLY?

4. Should the paragraph on bonds and other financial guarantees make reference to such guarantees not usually being necessary (even in exceptional circumstances) where an operator is contributing to an established mutual funding scheme?

WE MUST HAVE CERTAINTY THAT FINANCIAL PROVISION EXISTS

7. Why is the criterion in the checklist relating to land stability only considered relevant to peat site restoration and not other mineral sites?

THE WORD 'MINOR' SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM TABLE 7, IMPACT 9