

**Matter C Hearing Statement – Mr Paul Gilmour (186064)**

*In response to the inspectors guidance I do not feel it necessary to rehash my previous representations to address the main issues & question.*

*However, below I set out my additional comments:*

***THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2014, AM***

***Matter C: The Plan's approach to minerals and waste (BDP policies TP13-14)***

*Main issue: Is the Plan's approach to minerals and waste planning justified, effective and consistent with national policy?*

Questions:

*Minerals*

- 1) In the Plan area, are there minerals of national or local importance which ought to be the subject of safeguarding and policies to govern their extraction?

***No – please see attached letter from Lafarge Tarmac***



RH/SJC/14033

12 September 2014

Birmingham City Council – Planning Policy Dept

Dear Sir/Madam

***Birmingham Development Plan 2031 – Evidence Base Assessment - Mineral Safeguarding within Greenbelt Assessment Areas A-D***

Lafarge Tarmac is the United Kingdom's largest construction material producer and operates over 100 quarries nationwide. In the West Midlands regional aggregates area the company operates some of the most important extraction sites within the region, providing important national and regional construction aggregates from Sand & Gravel, Hardstone, Limestone and Clay extraction sites.

Minerals, by their nature, can only be worked where they are found, and therefore the company is a strong supporter of the requirement for Development Plans to effectively safeguard against the sterilisation of mineral deposits.

As part of our ongoing review of potential future extraction areas the company has undertaken a detailed review of the mineral deposits referred to as part of the Green Belt Assessment publication Oct 2013 of the above plan and the identified areas A, B, C & D as detailed in the report.

We note that the Mineral Products Association, of which the company is a member, has made representations expressing a preference for Areas A, C & D to be selected in preference to Area B due to presence of sand and gravel deposits.

We have no evidence to counter the comments made in respect of Areas A, C & D. The known information gathered from a number of sources details a mixture of deposits including a small amount of Sand and Gravel but we would agree that these do not contain economically recoverable deposits.

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Lafarge Tarmac Cement & Lime Limited Registered in England and Wales. Company No 66558  
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In respect of Area B, the company has sought to examine whether commercially viable deposits are present. Via the employment of internal company specialists, external Geological consultants, examination of historic records, site analysis and investigations we conclude that the sand and gravel present in area B is highly disrupted by the intrusion of sandstone outcrops, mudstones and clays. When this is considered alongside the need to protect the known infrastructure of trunk roads and motorways, we are confident that the deposits present **do not** offer a commercially viable resource capable of extraction for commercial gain.

The mapping of the resource originally identified by the British Geological Survey and revised in 1992 is based on observations of surface features but did not contain any drilling or investigation. The information is not supported by any of the historic boreholes, which show zero presence of sand and gravel, or the detailed site analysis and investigation carried out by the company. We would therefore not support the requirement that the area should be safeguarded for future extraction.

Yours sincerely



*OP* R M Halley  
Regional Head of Estates

