



British Ceramic Confederation

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Our ref: CPH/ HPC/BCC
30th November, 2007

Planning Control (PL)
Environment and Heritage Services
County Hall,
Glenfield,
Leicester. LE3 8TE

Dear Sir,

LEICESTERSHIRE MDF :
Minerals Spatial Strategy : Preferred Options Further Consultation

I refer to the consultation document issued in October 2007. This response supplements our comments submitted on 6th October, 2006 on the original consultation on preferred options.

The section on the future provision of fireclay correctly identifies the pending shortage of fireclay (paragraph 4.59) and the desirability of establishing additional operating capacity at the Donington Island site to provide a long term strategic facility for the stockpiling and blending of fireclays. We support this proposal. Fireclays are a scarce resource essential to the manufacture of certain types of brick. The provision intended is consistent with the requirement of MPS1 Annex 2.

We also welcome and endorse the policy in paragraph 4.69 regarding provision for the extraction and beneficial use of fireclay. In that context we are aware of the intention of UK Coal to submit a revised application for opencast operations at the Minorca site which is expected to yield significant volumes of good quality fireclay over a 4-5 year period of operation. Although there has been a slight decline in fireclay consumption over a two year period, this is the result of short term variations in the market for particular bricks. The industry anticipates that demand in future years will stabilise and if anything increase.

We would support in principle the Minorca application provided it included provision for the avoidance of the sterilisation of fireclays and their stockpiling as appropriate. Moreover we suggest that its potential to alleviate the problem of fireclay shortage should be recognised in the MDF.

Yours faithfully,

C. P. Hall,
Commercial & Public Affairs Director.