



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST MIDLANDS REGION

Mr J Wright
Minerals & Waste Planning
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8TE

Our ref: HD/P/5464/06

Your ref: JM/NH

Direct Dial: 01604 735450

E-mail: ann.plackett@english-heritage.org.uk

Date: 27 November 2007

Dear Mr Wright

LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE SPATIAL STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS FURTHER CONSULTATION

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2007 inviting English Heritage to comment on the above documents. We have a number of comments on the Minerals Spatial Strategy that are additional to our original responses of 6 October 2006.

2.0 Spatial Characteristics Relevant to the Framework Area, paragraph 2.7

There is no specific reference here to the historic environment. Mineral extraction is likely to have adverse impacts on archaeology and the setting of designated sites in particular. The same point applies to paragraph 2.7 of the Waste report.

Crushed rock, paragraph 4.38

This indicates that the preferred option is for the extension of existing quarries. We have particular concerns about the effect of further working at the Breedon Hill quarry, which is adjacent to what remains of 'The Bulwarks' scheduled monument (LE38), the Grade I listed church and The Old School (Grade II), which is located on the edge of the quarry to the east. We would welcome clarification as to whether you are proposing a further extension to that which was recently given planning permission. Early discussion about any future extensions and the appropriateness of extending this quarry would be desirable.

We would also like to question the use of high quality stone as aggregate. We propose that end-use controls over mineral extraction should be introduced to conserve better quality materials for non-aggregate uses.

The issue of the conservation of the primary resource also relates to the objective of maximising the use of recycled aggregates. It is clear that one of the issues concerning the apportionment process is the lack of any data on the use of secondary and recycled minerals. Without this data, it does not seem possible to monitor whether its use is increasing and whether it can substitute for primary



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minerals. We appreciate that this is not a matter that can be resolved by your authority alone, but hope that a prudent approach to the release of sites is pursued in order to reduce the environmental and social impacts of extraction and promote the sustainable use of this resource.

Building and roofing stone, page 27 - 28

Paragraph 3.2 of Annex 3 of MPS1 states that important sources of building and roofing stone should be safeguarded from other forms of development through policies in local development frameworks. Given the importance of building and roofing stone in conserving local character and distinctiveness in parts of the county such as Charnwood Forest, we recommend that the strategy includes a policy covering the safeguarding of the supply of this type of material.

We have no further comments on the two documents at this stage.

Yours sincerely

Ann Plackett (Miss)
Regional Planner