

**Froggs Hall  
Norwich Road  
Ditchingham  
BUNGAY  
Suffolk  
NR35 2JU**

David L Walker (JW Gough)  
Chartered Surveyors  
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24 September, 2005

**RE: The Ditchingham Quarry (Land off Norwich Road B1332).**

Dear Mr Gough

I refer to your letter of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005 addressed to Mr Smith, Clerk to Ditchingham Parish Council. This refers to your disappointment that you still had not received any information with regard to 'damage only accidents' whether from the parish council, or from myself.

For the purpose of this communication I am responding on behalf of **ENRAGED**. A local residents action established to resist totally the proposed Lafarge scheme. The action group is fully endorsed by Ditchingham Parish Council, our Norfolk County Councillor and our South Norfolk District Councillor, and our MP, Richard Bacon. Visit our web site [www.nraged.org.uk](http://www.nraged.org.uk)

You will recall, that when we spoke on the telephone, I advised you that:

- The parish council does not its self have the accident information immediately available and has requested that I liase with you, and provide this on their behalf;
- The information has to be collated from a number of different sources (ie local residents etc, who have recorded accidents in a variety of different forms, and for their own purposes); and
- Given the intended purpose of this information, we wish to make sure that it is accurate, de-duplicated, and where possible, corroborated.

You will also wish to reflect that: as Lafarge has not been able to provide any firm indication as to volumes of traffic; or direction of routing (ie towards Bungay, or towards Norwich) that the traffic implications impact potentially the entire length of the B1332. Hence we need to collect data from, for example, the parishes of Hedenham, Woodton, Framlingham, Brooke, etc.

As I made you aware when we spoke, it was inevitable that collating this information will take some time. I assure you that we will provide this data as soon as we are confident that it is accurate and appropriate that we do so.

Of greater concern perhaps.

**ENRAGED** has now received a copy of the scoping opinion from Norfolk County Council (NCC). It is with some surprise that we note that the NCC Highways Department has no record of any discussions with Lafarge or the Ditchingham Estate as to the proposed access to the site. This, despite indications provided at the Bungay exhibition that discussions with NCC were well advanced.

As we have discussed, and indeed you commented in your letter 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005 (Section 4.4 Traffic), you are disappointed that local residents were unhappy with the traffic assessment. Such unhappiness is hardly surprising as you will recall we were advised at the Bungay exhibition the [traffic] assessment was undertaken when the speed limit on the B1332 was set at the national limit (60mph), and since has been reduced to 50mph, (and is now 40mph from Belsey Bridge Road to 'Chicken Roundabout'). This clearly demonstrates that the Lafarge information is not current and therefore any assumptions drawn from it are unlikely to be robust.

There has been similar speed limit reductions introduced along the entire length of the B1332. These speed limits are consistent with the road being identified as not suitable for the volume and nature of traffic that it carries and the resultant 'safety' implications despite its 'primary distributor route' status. NCC Highways department acknowledges that much of the road south of the Kirstead bypass is not of the requisite geometric standard.

Further. With regard traffic volumes, we derive no comfort that 'the readymix concrete plant will not be promoted within the scheme'. Our understanding is that the existing Lafarge contract for 'plant operated within the Earsham Quarry complex' will terminate at around the same time as you propose the 'Ditchingham Quarry' site will commence operations. It is common knowledge that aggregate operators bear no hesitation in requesting 'enhancements' to initial proposals [hence we have no confidence that whilst not currently promoted, readymix will not be subsequently be reintroduced into the Ditchingham scheme].

Similarly, even though 'no landfilling is being proposed' there is every likelihood that it could be reintroduced at a later stage once gravel extraction has commenced.

You will of course acknowledge that the potential of either, or both, of readymix, and landfilling, together with an acceleration of the extraction rate [as was indicated may be possible] could more than double your current estimates of HCV movements. This without consideration of other traffic.

There are many other matters that **ENRAGED** find inconsistent and that are not acceptable to local residents within our understanding and interpretation of the current proposals. Not least that the 'Ditchingham Quarry' site is not identified as an area for mineral extraction in the local minerals plan. We will of course address these matters on your filing of the EIA and the planning application.

**Yours Sincerely**

Julian Green

**ENRAGED**

**Copies:**

- John Smith, Clerk to Ditchingham Parish Council; Alan Burrell, NCC; Richard Carden, SNDC; Richard Bacon, MP.
- Chris Tyack, Clerk to Hedenham Parish Council.
- Sam Ralph, Director Planning & Transportation Department, NCC.
- Mr Stuart Anderson, Projects Director, LaFarge Aggregates Limited; Michael Horton, Savills.
- Jerome Munro-Lafon, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co Ltd.
- Ruth Rolls, RR Environmental Communications.

**Attached:** NCC Scoping Opinion 07/09/05; DL Walker letters 09/08/05 & 19/09/05