

- ⇒ The Application
- ⇒ In the Community
- ⇒ Residents' Meeting
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Important dates

ENRAGED Residents' Meeting.

The next **ENRAGED** Residents meeting will be held at Broome Village Hall on Wednesday 7th December 2005, 8:00pm. We will update you on the status of the planning application including Lafarge's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), **ENRAGED's** action plans, and importantly how you can help! Refreshments (tea and mince pies) supplied! **Be there.**

Parish Meeting. A Parish Meeting has been called for 12th December (19:30 at All Hallows). Please be prompt. The parish meeting will be chaired by the chairman of the parish council. However, unlike the normal conduct of the parish council, anybody who lives in the parish is able to speak. So have your say! **ENRAGED** will be there and present the facts and latest information and will update you on the status of the planning application including Lafarge's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). **Be there.**

Application registered

The Lafarge planning application has now been registered and assigned file reference **(P/C/7/2005/7019)**. Site notices have been placed and the application has been publicly advertised (Eastern Daily Press, 11th November 2005). If you are opposed to this scheme it is important that Norfolk County Council, Statutory Consultees, and other key stakeholders know your views. Write and tell them! Inside, we provide a comprehensive fact sheet and guide to policy. But in summary:

- Remember to include your full name and address
- Make it clear what your interest is
- Write in your own words
- Keep it short, but you don't have to! Write factually, write from the heart
- Remember to copy your letter widely

Write now... the clock is ticking. In theory NCC request that letters are received by 2nd December, but this date is only derived from the minimum date before which the application could be determined. In practice, with an application that is generating this much interest, it could be somewhat longer before officers make a recommendation to the committee. So don't panic, but don't be complacent either! **More information inside.**

Remember, quote this in all correspondence: (P/C/7/2005/7019) Ditchingham Quarry, Land off B1332 Norwich Road.

Planner (& Case Officer assigned to the Ditchingham Quarry application)

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Scheme Summary

Under UK planning regulations, developers wishing to apply for planning application [to develop a quarry such as that proposed at Ditchingham] must provide information that identifies how the proposed development (if allowed to proceed) will impact the environment by providing an environmental impact assessment (EIA). It is therefore vitally important that the applicant addresses all relevant factors including issues of landscape, visual amenity, highways, traffic, soils, ecology, archaeology, noise, hydrology and hydrogeology as honestly and comprehensively as possible. The requirement for an EIA comes from European Directive (85/33/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC). And to comply with statutory obligation, Lafarge are obliged to publish a Non Technical Summary (NTS) which they duly did, and mailed to a few local residents, (mainly to properties that immediately adjoin the scheme boundaries).

However, this was not so much a summary, but as with the exhibition in Bungay, had more of the characteristics of a glossy PR stunt. The NTS provides little new information, and although it does provide indications of some design modifications to the scheme since July, and does suggest some aspects of clarification, it does little to actually summarise the scheme and the Environmental Statement (ES). Not only is the NTS 'non technical', it generally lacks much of the important information that members of the local community and visitors to the ENRAGED web site have indicated are of concern. The full text of the NTS and our commentary on the NTS, are published on the ENRAGED web site (www.nraged.org.uk).

But if you do want to study the application, the experts' reports and the full ES are available to view at the planning offices of Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District Council. Copies of the ES have also been made available to the Parish Councils and can be purchased at a cost of £95 through calling the Lafarge Information Line on 01992 512764 (24 hour answerphone) if you wish to order a copy.

The facts are that between the exhibition, and until the planning application was lodged with Norfolk County Council (NCC), Lafarge has made little attempt at proactive communication or consultation with the community. And while ENRAGED, and other residents independently, have corresponded with Lafarge (principally through their agent, DL Walker), any information provided appears to have been on a reluctant and piecemeal basis.

So for all our benefit, ENRAGED has attempted to set out the facts as we understand them.

The original context of the scheme

- is set out in the planning scoping study request sent to NCC on 22nd April, 2005. This identified that *'the site has a mineral resource in the region of approximately 1.25m tonnes [although with this will likely be less]... processed mineral will be exported at a rate of between 90,000 tonnes to 125,000 tonnes pa. Furthermore, to assist in achieving an acceptable landform it is anticipated that up to 10,000 cu. M of inert fill could be imported onto the site per annum.'*
- and further clarified in the press release issued by Lafarge on 4th July, 2005. This stated that... *Lafarge Aggregates, the operators of the award winning sand and gravel quarry at Whitlingham, Norwich, are developing a planning application to submit to Norfolk County Council for mineral extraction near Ditchingham.... The company proposes to excavate approximately one million tonnes of high quality sand and gravel over an 8 - 11 year period. This would give an annual production rate of 90 -125,000 tonnes a year. A low profile readymix concrete ... will be developed alongside the processing plant... and in progressing the planning application.... Liaison has already taken place with the County's Highways Division.'*

The current context of the scheme as set out in the Lafarge NTS

- **Highways:** *'... Independent consultants have liaised with the Highways Authority since 2002... Lafarge are silent* that this comprises one email (a personal opinion of one NCC highways official), or that the speed limit has since been reduced twice on the Belsey Bridge bends. **Lafarge are silent** on their estimates of an extra 42 HGV movements per day without readymix, or potentially an extra 90-125 HGV movements if a subsequent readymix batching application were successful. **Lafarge are silent** about the dangerous site access arrangements.
- **Air Quality/ Noise:** *'... The reports indicate that the use of standard best practice....' ... Lafarge are silent* that dust is inevitable, that noise will be significantly increased, or how they will control the noise levels on owner/ driver vehicles. **Lafarge are silent** that they reserve the right to consider an application for a readymix batching plant on planning merits at a later time, or that they reserve the right to apply for [effectively] 24*7 operations.
- **Landscape/ Visual Impact:** *'...The independent assessment was based on national published guidelines as well as the local planning policy framework ... Lafarge are silent* that this is an area of historic landscape.
- **Ecology:** *'...The site is currently in agricultural use and is of limited ecological value....' ...Lafarge are silent* that the site lies between 2SSis and 2 Country wildlife sites and is an important corridor for wildlife, and Lafarge avoid spelling out clearly that they are going to fell mature woodlands and grub up species rich hedges.
- **Land Classification, Soils and Drainage:** *'... "The best and most versatile" land resource would be restored to agriculture. Part of the remaining land would be restored to nature conservation...'* **Lafarge are silent** that there is a regrade area, the soils of which are to be stripped to make good landform for the extraction area.
- **Archaeology:** *'...Advice is being sought... on managing the site sympathetically...'* **Lafarge are silent** that NCC instructed further investigations on the site.
- **Groundwater and Surface Water:** *'... The proposals would have no adverse impact on local ground or surface water subject to appropriate mitigation measures...'* **Lafarge are silent** on what those measures are.

The future context of the scheme

- **Lafarge are silent** on the other sites identified by the February 2001 Deed of Option granted by the Ditchingham Estate to Lafarge that if exploited could result in loss of amenity to the residents of Ditchingham for up to 30 years.
- **Only in the context of a long-term presence** in Ditchingham does this scheme make commercial sense. It is generally understood in the industry that workings of c1m tonnes will result in only marginal returns given the full portfolio of investment risk. Why then would Lafarge want to exploit this site, particularly now that inert landfill and readymix (both products that add value to a modern minerals working) are not currently being promoted? You must draw your own conclusions.

WRITE YOUR LETTERS NOW!

ENRAGED believe that it is important that all letters of objection or other enquiry are seen as genuine, and are written by the sender. Standard letters contrived to show support for our campaign are not helpful. Individual letters carry much more weight. We want the recipient to be clear about your message. While it may seem obvious... this guide may help.

Your Name & Address	Your name and address. Include your postcode
Date	The date of writing. Try to post it the same day!
Who you are writing to	Name, title and address of MP, Councillor, case officer, or other person
Salutation	Dear Sir/ Madam. Or, Mr Smith etc
Reference	Planning Application no P/C/7/2005/7019
Subject Matter	Proposed Gravel extraction in Ditchingham
Your Interest	Who you are. Where you live. Why you are interested
Your Concerns.	These will be varied but you may wish to include topics on:
A discussion on these topics is presented on the following pages.	General Situation Landscape & Visual Amenity Land Classification Hydrogeology & Hydrology Archaeology Ecology Noise Traffic & Highways Dust Operations Policy Matters
Sign Your Letter	Yours faithfully (Sir/ Madam), or Yours sincerely (Mr/ Mrs Smith)
Copy your Letter	Copy your letter to Ditchingham Parish Council and to ENRAGED (this is VITAL so we can monitor who has written to whom). Ensure that the recipient is aware that you have done so.

While we can't write your letter for you we can help. We can:

- Provide you with backup information. For example, the correct references to national and local government policy.
- There is already a lot of information accessible from this web site. But there is a lot more available.
- Help you decide who to write to, and about what. Making sure that your letters are directed to the right focus point; and finally
- If you want help. Give us a call (01986 895700), or
- email us at enquiries@nraged.org.uk

The following paragraphs provide some ideas to help you focus your thoughts on the impacts of the Lafarge applications and how they run contrary to planning guidance.

Landscape and Visual Amenity

The parkland of Ditchingham Park is English Heritage Grade 2 listed. The Hall is Grade 1 listed and was restored in recent years with the benefit of an English Heritage grant of c£40,000 subject to conditions of public access. The parkland at Ditchingham Park comprises a site of County Significance.

The site contains a block of woodland in the centre of the site comprising Heater and Ten Penny Plantations, and is substantial and established (c120 and 200 years respectively, with more recent inter planting.) Lafarge intend to fell Heater Plantation and the inter-planting as part of their proposals. A hedgerow has recently been cut down to ground level and a veteran oak tree which stood at the centre of that row and a mature elm have been felled without consent. The woodlands on and surrounding the site contain a substantial number of mature native trees. The landscape of the site has to be considered in its wider context. With its natural undulations, ponds, woodlands, hedgerows and veteran trees and adjoining the Grade 2 listed parkland of Ditchingham Hall it forms part of the most attractive landscape in South Norfolk.

Clearly alterations to the landscape of the site need to be considered both in the context of looking in to it and across it and looking out from it to adjoining sites. The replacement of this fine landscape with an unsightly quarry with its industrial plant and surrounded by artificial bunds for up to 10 years and thereafter by an immature reformed artificial landscape will inevitably be highly detrimental.

Whilst no recognised footpaths or bridleways cross the site there is a network of local footpaths linking up to the Bigod Way which are regularly used by ramblers. These include walks along Pound Lane from the northern end of the the public bridleway (which exits on to Pound Lane at Mouse Cottage) to the northern end of Green Lane beside Yew Tree Cottage. There are a number of properties including those on Pound Lane and Free Lane, which have open views across the site. Views from, and quiet enjoyment of, Pound Lane and Free Lane will be affected by the proposed development.

Tree planting undertaken is of deciduous broadleaf varieties. It will be wholly ineffective for the next five to ten years and of no effect in the winter at all, either visually or for noise abatement. The construction of the new access point and the fencing of the working area, introduction of operational and security lighting will all impose on, and be detrimental to, the landscape and visual amenity of local residents.

Land Classification

Some 45% of the site comprises land which is designated best and most versatile agricultural land. Government policy directs against the use of sites which comprise best and most versatile agricultural land for planning purposes, save where such use is unavoidable. Clearly with the availability of aggregate elsewhere in Norfolk the use of this best and most versatile agricultural land [here] is avoidable.

While Lafarge has suggested [for the time being] that they do not currently propose landfill (this was their original intention) the only way that they can achieve acceptable landform is to 'regrade' (ie destroy) a far greater area of landscape to redistribute it more evenly.

Hydrogeology and Hydrology

Lafarge assert that 'any drawdown created by the quarry excavations will not affect the adjacent land. Ponds located to the south and west of the site will also remain unaffected'. But it is unclear as to the reasoning behind this statement. Lafarge make no reference to unlicensed abstraction (eg wells). No reference is made to the natural spring occurring beside the Bath House, nor does it appear that any detailed examination of the ponds and their water levels has been undertaken. It is not clear how surface runoff will be properly managed beyond ditches being dug to ensure there are no uncontrolled discharges. A torrential downpour on a 5m high (clay) bund will inevitably result in the discharge of water on all sides, possibly affecting adjoining properties or the highway.

Archaeology

The site lies within the area of archaeological interest and potential, yet it is with some surprise we note that Lafarge's archaeological experts evaluation does not have annexed to it the Enclosure Map, the Tithe Map, and other historic maps from the Estate archive showing the location of sites referred to in the report itself.

The field to the west of Fen Lane known as "The Park" formed part of the original deer park of Ditchingham Park which would, before the construction of Ditchingham Cottage in the early 18th century, have therefore joined the site which itself may have formed part of the same park pre 1700. The archaeological evaluation does not refer to or have annexed to it the history of Ditchingham Park by Tom Williamson which is clearly vital to the understanding of the history of the site itself.

Ecology

The site is an area where wildlife habitats within ancient and species rich hedges and hedgerow trees are important. Ditchingham Park which is a designated County Wildlife Site lies immediately to the north of the site, the Broads National Park lies c300m immediately to the south, is an important site from an ecological standpoint and is recognised as such internationally. This, together with 2 SSSIs and 2 County Wildlife sites nearby suggests that this site lying between them must be of considerable ecological importance, not least as a corridor for wildlife movement. Ecological considerations are varied and will include: Woodlands; Veteran trees; Ponds; Birds; Reptiles; Amphibians; Butterflies; and Invertebrates living in mature and ancient trees.

While Lafarge allege restoration will enhance wildlife habitats the facts are that the creation of a range of new wildlife habitats could be achieved by a slight modification of existing farming practices without the destruction of habitats that will result from the application. Modified farm management would have a far greater impact upon local and national biodiversity objectives.

Noise

The noise from the road is the only noise ever heard from those properties adjoining the site apart from the very occasional and brief agricultural operations. Any additional activity undertaken on the site will result in an increase in noise levels present there. Vehicle movements to and from the site will increase the noise levels from the B1332, particularly as vehicles will be accelerating away from the site in both directions.

The quarry's operation for 5½ days each week for 50 weeks a year means that local residents would have little respite from the noise, dust and traffic movements that will result. These operations will create disturbance at times of days where there is presently little or no noise at all. Lafarge wishes to reserve the right to open the quarry between the hours of 1300 on Saturday and 0700 on Monday, and at night, thereby providing potential for 24/7 operations.

It is not clear how Lafarge will be able to influence owner/ driver trucks to fit the highly promoted smart low volume reversing alarms that they say will be fitted.

Traffic and Highways

Lafarge projections on traffic movements are based on 100,000 tonnes per annum which equate to 42 additional HGV movements per day (an increase of 8.5%). However, they should take account of likely (future) vehicle movements and of the fact that production could be as much as 125,000 tonnes per annum. The important issue is that if either the net tonnage is greater, or if ready-mix batching or some other additional commercial activity is introduced the HGV traffic movements will be up to 2x greater than current estimates (an increase of 17%). To these figures must be added small builders, visitors and the like.

Any increase in the number of HGVs using the B1332 is to be discouraged. No steps have been taken (or are planned) to widen the road at Hedenham and Hollow Hill where 2 HGVs with wing mirrors are able to safely pass only with considerable difficulty. Lafarge has not been able to identify traffic routing, hence traffic could travel either southwards to the A143 'Chicken Roundabout' or northwards to the A47 at Trowse.

Dust

Dust generation and emissions from quarrying activities is dependent not only on site activity but on meteorological conditions over which Lafarge has no control. The site is surrounded by residential properties where a significant number of the occupiers of which suffer from asthma or other respiratory problems. It is wholly unrealistic of Lafarge to suggest that it will suspend operations when the wind is blowing towards any sensitive property. The fact is it will unlikely do so in practice and even then only after some damage has already been sustained. The proposed additional monitoring stations will not inhibit dust emissions!

Operations

Published extraction tonnage [of c1m tonnes] is only an estimate over 10 years. But actual tonnage is based on availability and demand. A fall in demand could result in a greatly extended extraction period and thus a longer period of damage and disturbance for the local community. An increase in demand is likely to have serious implications which may well include night/ weekend working as intimidated, or an extended campaign.

While Lafarge are keen to promote campaign digging and stock piling of materials, the facts are that soil stripping, removal of overburden, loading, construction and the moving or temporary equipment etc results in all year working of one form or another.

Looking longer term, if Lafarge are successful in securing planning permission for this site, and subsequently extend operations to the west of Fen Lane and potentially the other option sites, or beyond, aggregate operations in Ditchingham are likely to extend for some 30 years.

POLICY matters

The Norfolk Minerals Local Plan 2004 provides to set out the framework for minerals exploitation in Norfolk. It is policy based. Of importance is that this application runs contrary to a number of important policies in that plan.

- **MIN 1** protects areas of outstanding natural beauty, heritage coast or the Broads Authority. *The Ditchingham quarry site lies c300 metres from the Broads National Park boundary and adjoins the Grade 2 listed historical landscape of Ditchingham Park.*
- **MIN2** seeks to protect historic parklands and listed Buildings. *Ditchingham Park & Hall will clearly be impacted.*
- **MIN 3** protects the visual appearance of the countryside. *This area is one that should be protected.*
- **MIN4A&4B** are relevant as the site acts as a wildlife corridor.
- **MIN6** seeks to protect the amenity of nearby residents & other land users. *Lafarge does not adequately address the views of nearby residences or from local rights of ways*
- **MIN7** seeks to protect sites of historical interest. *Ditchingham Park & Hall is clearly such a site.*
- **MIN9** refers to the suitability of the access to & use of the highway. *Clearly the B1332 is unsuitable.*
- **MIN10** concerns water resources & drainage. *Lafarge has not considered fully the issue of unlicensed water extraction (eg wells etc)*
- **MIN11** seeks to protect quality agricultural land. *There is no guarantee this will be restored.*
- **MIN12** permits activity where there will not be any cumulative harm. *Earsham pits are less than 1km and quarries at Flixton, Mundam, Raveningham and Aldeby all within 8km.*
- **MIN14** looks to maintain the county's land bank of 7 years. *Ditchingham is not necessary for that purpose.*
- **MIN15** seeks to prevent the proliferation of new sites. *So why Ditchingham then (given the sites identified at MIN12)?*
- **MIN35** states that the factors that the NCC will consider in relation to applications, including: Environmental impacts upon: (a) the users and occupiers of land in the area, particularly residents and visitors due to noise, dust, vibration, fumes, smell, air pollution and other forms of disturbance and nuisance including those caused by lorry movements; (b) the landscape and visual character of the area particularly in the... Broads Authority Area, rural conservation areas, ... river valleys and areas designated in local plans; (c) woodland hedges and other topographic features; (d) areas of nature conservation, geological and scientific interest, particularly the Broads... SSIs, special protection areas...; (e) sites of ... historical interest and importance; (f) the quality and quantity of agricultural land and the structure and viability of farming; (g) the highway network and its capacity and road safety; (h) public rights of way and other sites of public access; (i) water resources, flood prevention, water courses and drainage. 2. The feasibility of restoration. 3. The appropriateness and benefit of the after use. 4. The need for the mineral at a strategic level, its quality, quantity and the availability of other potential resources. 5. National and regional guidance, Structure Plan and Local Plan policies and other planning policies as appropriate. *The application fails to meet this policy and the Environmental Statement and Supporting Statement fails to address a number of factors identified in this policy. Most importantly, Lafarge has not been able to produce any evidence in support of its argument for the need for the mineral at a strategic level and the absence of availability of other potential resources. When all its relevant features are considered, together with the number of adjoining properties, the amenities of which will be adversely affected, they highlight the unsuitability of this site as one for mineral extraction.*
- **MIN 36** identifies that planning permission will only be granted if NCC "is satisfied that the environmental impacts can be minimised and ameliorated and appropriate after uses is both feasible and achievable within the time scales proposed". *Lafarge has not demonstrated by detail contained within its planning application that the environmental impacts can be controlled to acceptable levels. The combination of the unsuitability of the highway, the damage to the historic landscape setting of Ditchingham Park and to the intrinsic value of the existing landscape itself, the damage to the amenity of a substantial number of adjoining properties, both visually and through noise, dust and light pollution, together with the destruction of woodland species-rich hedgerows and ponds and the potential very serious damage to wildlife are all detrimental environmental impacts.*

Further, with regard policies MIN36 & MIN37 that states "it may be appropriate to include public access in some form to widen the benefit to the community". *This scheme provides no community benefit whatsoever.*

The South Norfolk Local Plan contains policies with which this minerals planning application will need to comply. It is policy based.

- **SP1** specifically identifies "in making due provision for development, the principal aim is to protect the essential character of the District, its biodiversity and the wealth of its main environmental assets. These include the historic character and setting of the built and un-built environment of towns and villages, environmentally sensitive areas such as historic parkland and river valleys and areas of conservation value." *Clearly the scheme at Ditchingham is not consistent with this policy objective: the particular landscape of the site is acknowledged to be of a type that is now increasingly rare as a result of the agricultural practices of the late 20th century. Nestling between the historic Rider Haggard estate to the southeast, the Broads National Park to the south and the Grade 2 listed parkland at Ditchingham Hall to the north the construction of: a gravel quarry on this site would be to destroy that landscape forever. It will also involve the destruction of a woodland that is estimated to be at least 250 years old; species-rich hedgerow; and at least one pond and will put at risk veteran trees and the protected species using the site.*

- **SPX1** seeks to sustain or promote sources of work opportunities for local people. *Lafarge has indicated that there will be four full-time jobs at the quarry filled from existing employees moving from other quarrying operations. But the quarry threatens jobs at All Hallows Convent, which organises conferences and religious retreats, employing 46 people. These jobs will be at risk as visitor numbers will diminish rapidly if the quarry is constructed because the very atmosphere that those attending the conferences and religious retreats come to experience will cease to exist.*
- **RUR12** encourages the positive management of woodland in the plan area. *The scheme is not consistent with this policy as it involves the destruction of a mature woodland estimated to be over 250 years old together with at least one veteran tree (one has already been cut down) and the removal of two species-rich hedgerows.*

Central Government Guidance to assist local authorities and developers, central government offers policy guidance:

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) states that pre-application discussions are critically important and benefit both developers and local planning authorities in ensuring a better mutual understanding of objectives and the constraints that exist. *Apart from a single public meeting held in Bungay in July 2005 and a meeting with a small number (approximately one half of those residents whose properties immediately join the site), Lafarge's pre-application discussions with the community have been limited. It has refused to send representatives to parish meetings or to correspond with ENRAGED. It has refused to comment in the press or on the local radio when issues relating to the quarry of genuine concern to residents have been raised. Further, Lafarge has clearly misrepresented its long-term objectives for this site by dissembling on the issue of associated economic activities for which permission may be applied at a later date (eg ready-mix concrete, sand bagging, infill etc) and with regard to the option it holds on three other sites in the locality adjoining or close to the application site. The investment made by Lafarge in relation to this site only makes economic sense in the context of its establishing a new minerals operation for the long, rather than the medium, term and that will involve the application for future extensions to the other option sites. Its repeated refusal to acknowledge the truth of this argument and to engage in discussions concerning it with the community, are itself an acknowledgement of its true long-term objective.*

- **PPS1** seeks to deliver sustainable development and to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities. *The development clearly runs contrary to these objectives.*
- **PPS7** refers to sustainable development in rural areas and to raise the quality of life and environment. But it also indicates that local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality. *This application is not in accordance with that objective. It is not in keeping with the scale of its location and the sensitivity of the character of the countryside in which it is sited. This site is both a high quality landscape and contains high quality agricultural land.*
- **PPS9** concerns conservation of biological diversity. *But the facts are this application seeks the removal of a substantial area of mature woodland estimated to be some 250 years old, together with two species-rich hedgerows a pond (or ponds) and at least one veteran tree.*

Mineral Planning Guidance Notes (MPGs) help local authority mineral planning officers to reach decisions on mineral planning issues, including imposing aftercare conditions for the development. MPGs give examples of best practice and suggestions for future directions for planning applications. Although they do not have the force of law, they are likely to be seen as conclusive in any dispute over the interpretation of planning regulations.

- **MPG1** deals with the general considerations of minerals development. *Lafarge in asserting that "a full evaluation of all the environmental factors relating to the application site and its local context is contained within this [the ES] Statement" misrepresents their consideration of this guidance. The ES contains omissions, errors and erroneous conclusions which all detract from the statement being considered as in any way comprehensive.*
- **MPG6** seeks to ensure that Local Mineral Authorities (MPAs) seek to maintain an adequate land bank. *Lafarge asserts that the county land bank may fall below the target level of 7 years by early 2006 but provides no analysis of the current figures to support its contention. The NMLP provides a clear framework within which applicants are obliged to submit applications for consent for mineral extraction and this has been ignored.*

Minerals Policy Statements concern the controlling and mitigating the environmental effects of mineral extraction and requires developers to demonstrate that any potential adverse effects have been properly and confidently considered and any adverse effects on local communities, environmental damage or loss of amenity must be kept to an acceptable minimum. *But Lafarge has rejected any suggestion that it should have conditions imposed restricting in the future if engaging in other commercial activities on the site with the exception of inert infill, neither has it indicated a willingness to have its future activities restricted by relinquishing the other option sites from the Ditchingham Estate as landowner.*

- **Annex1** Include extensive provisions relating to the mitigation of dust generated from mineral operations, *evidence in itself of the extent of this problem which on this site will be of a particular concern to the many local residents whose properties adjoin the site.*
- **Annex2** Include provisions for noise. *It is not clear that the measures proposed by Lafarge will satisfactorily abate the noise levels to reduce them below the government recommended maximum. The presence of so many residential properties adjoining the site means that a significant number of local residents will be affected by extraction and processing operations on the site no matter from which direction the wind is blowing. The screening by trees will be ineffective for many years and the effectiveness of the screening mounds is overrated. The fact that Lafarge acknowledges that there will be some particularly noisy short term activities that cannot meet the limits set for normal operations (and these would appear to extend for many weeks of the year) is a further argument against the suitability of this site for mineral operations given the number of people that will be adversely affected by such activity.*

Community Response

Through ENRAGED's efforts we have established and maintained the level of local interest in this application. We continue to add on a day to day basis members of the local community and those with broader interests to our contacts database.

ENRAGED takes great exception to the glossy PR information circulated by Lafarge, and consider that even at its best it is misleading. We ourselves have taken great trouble to ensure that any statements we have made to third parties have been entirely accurate based upon the information we have been given by Lafarge and Savills, and as qualified by our own research. The fact that there is such a significant groundswell of objection within the community supports the view that this is an inappropriate site for mineral extraction.

We are concerned that Lafarge misunderstand the grounds of our objection which are based, not upon a knee-jerk reaction to change, but from a desire to preserve the landscape, environment, ecology, and visual amenity that we who live here (and all who visit) presently enjoy. We are also concerned to prevent the highways problems and dangers that will result from the implementation of the Lafarge proposals in Ditchingham. These objections are reflected in and supported by sound planning principles and policies.

So who do I write to?

It is important that your letters have the correct focus and are targeted appropriately. **Whoever** you write to, please make sure that you copy our elected representatives (Parish, District, and County Councillors, Richard Bacon (MP), and the NCC planning department. Copy ENRAGED too. We know it's a lot of copies, but it makes the point!

Elected Representatives

Norfolk County Councillor alan.burrell@norfolk.gov.uk www.norfolk.gov.uk 01508 521170	Alan Burrell 34 High Street Loddon, Norwich Norfolk, NR14 6AH
South Norfolk District Councillor rcarden@s-norfolk.gov.uk www.s-norfolk.gov.uk 01986 788279	Richard Carden Chapel Farm Denton, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0AW
Ditchingham Parish Council john@jo-an.fslife.co.uk 01986 892235	John Smith (Clerk) 'Jo-An' 6 Tunneys Lane Ditchingham, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 2RQ
Hedenham Parish Council 01508 482687	Chris Tyacke (Clerk) Blithe Cottage Earsham Road Hedenham, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 2DF
Broome Parish Council kirbycane_pc@msn.com 01986 892012	Mr P Austin (Clerk) The Nook 57 Loddon Road Ditchingham, Bungay Suffolk, NR35 2RA
MP for Norfolk South reevet@parliament.uk www.richardbacon.org.uk 01379 643728	Richard Bacon (MP) Constituency Office Grasmere Denmark Street Diss, IP22 4LE

Planning Departments and Case Officers

Norfolk County Council mike.jackson@norfolk.gov.uk www.norfolk.gov.uk 01603 222757	Mike Jackson (Director) Planning and Transportation Department Norfolk County Council County Hall, Martineau Lane Norwich, NR1 2SG
Case Officer for the Ditchingham Quarry application david.cassells@norfolk.gov.uk www.norfolk.gov.uk 01603 222757	David Cassells (Planner) Planning and Transportation Department Norfolk County Council County Hall, Martineau Lane Norwich, NR1 2SG
South Norfolk District Council jtomlinson@s-norfolk.gov.uk www.s-norfolk.gov.uk 01508 533845	John Tomlinson (Head of Planning Services) South Norfolk House Swan Lane Long Stratton Norfolk, NR15 2XE

This is only a few of the possible contacts that you could write to. Checkout our web site for more, or

Call us for further details

For more information [contact us](#) at:
Enquiries: ENRAGED PO BOX 809 Ditchingham Bungay Suffolk NR35 2WF
email: enquiries@nraged.org.uk phone: 01986 895700
or visit us at our web site www.nraged.org.uk

Statutory Consultees & Conservation bodies

CPRE Norfolk info@cprenorfolk.org.uk www.cprenorfolk.org.uk 01603 761660	Mr James Frost The Greenhouse 42- 46 Bethel Street Norwich, NR2 1NR
English Heritage customers@english-heritage.org.uk www.english-heritage.org.uk 01223 582700	Mr David Eve Brooklands 24 Brooklands Avenue Cambridge, CB2 2BU
The Garden History Society enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org www.gardenhistory.org 0207 608 2409	Mr Jonathan Lovie 70 Cowcross Street London, EC1M 6EJ
English Nature norfolk@english-nature.org.uk www.english-nature.org.uk 01603 598400	Ms Helen Dixon (Norfolk Team) 60 Bracondale, Norwich Norfolk, NR1 2BE
Norfolk Wildlife Trust admin@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk 01603 625540	Brendan Joyce Bewick House 22 Thorpe Road Norwich, NR1 1RY
The Countryside Agency Info.eastern@countryside.gov.uk www.countryside.gov.uk 01223 354462	The Secretary East of England Region 2nd Floor, City House Cambridge, CB2 1PT
The Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk 08708 506 506	The Secretary (Anglian Regional Office) Kingfisher House Goldhay Way Orton Goldhay Peterborough, PE2 5TK
Rural Development Scheme Martin.r.edwards@defra.gsi.gov.uk www.defra.gov.uk 01223 533401	Mr Martin Edwards DEFRA Eastbrook Shaftesbury Road Cambridgeshire, CB2 2DR
Lafarge stuart.anderson@lafarge.com www.lafarge-aggregates.co.uk 08703 368506	Mr Stuart Anderson (Projects Director) Lafarge Aggregates Limited Mineral Resources Panshanger Park Hertford, SG14 2NA
Lafarge www.lafarge.com	Monsieur Collomb (Président) Le Groupe Lafarge 61 rue de Belles Feuilles BP40 75116 Paris Cedex 16 France

Objectors Support

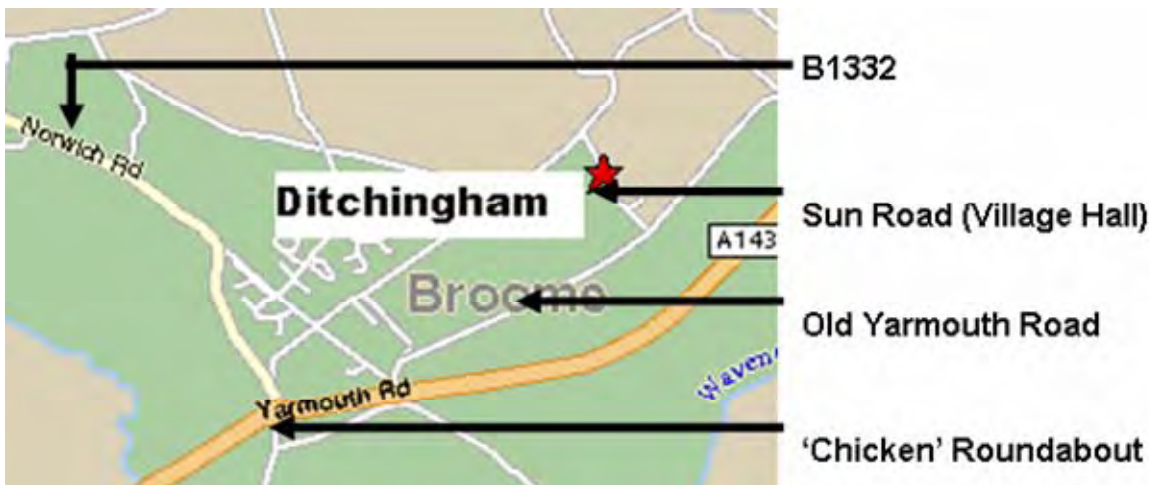
ENRAGED's view is that this scheme must not be deferred, for example, because land bank reserves are adequate at the current time, or for some other reason, but that the scheme must be totally rejected and not allowed to proceed in any shape or form. Now or in the future!

Put simply, ENRAGED resolve is absolute, the Lafarge application will fail, but it needs your support. Our resistance is fully endorsed by Ditchingham Parish Council, our Norfolk County Councillor, our South Norfolk District Councillor, and our MP, Richard Bacon (but you must still write to them so that they can demonstrate that they represent the views of local residents). ENRAGED has commissioned professional advisors to help us fight this scheme (planning, minerals policy, highways, environment, ecology). Our advisors are a competent team; with their help we are confident of beating the Lafarge scheme... but professional advisors cost money, much of which is already committed. Even this newsletter, the protest boards, postage and administration costs money. We need financial support too. Please help if you can. **We urge you to help us oppose this scheme.**

Objectors Checklist

Included below is a checklist for objectors. This is no doubt a long way from complete, but if this keeps your mind focused, we will stand a better chance of success. Let us know what we have forgotten!

- **Residents' Meeting:** next ENRAGED Residents' meeting will be held at Broome Village Hall on Wednesday 7th December 2005, 8:00pm. We will update you on the status of the planning application including Lafarge's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), ENRAGED's action plans, and importantly how you can help!



- **Parish Meeting:** called for 12th December (7:30pm at All Hallows). The parish meeting will be chaired by the chairman of the parish council. However, unlike the normal conduct of the parish council, anybody who lives in the parish is able to speak. So have your say! ENRAGED will be there and present the facts and latest information, and will update you on the status of the planning application including Lafarge's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- **Need a lift?** If you need transport to or from the meetings on 7th or 12th December call us on 01986 895700. We will organise it for you.
- **Write Letters:** we want the recipient to be clear about your message. Follow our guidelines, write in your own words, express your own views. It is important that you write directly and widely to Parish, District, and County councillors, and our MPs. Write directly to the planning officers and the statutory consultees. And copy widely, including ENRAGED.
- **Application number:** Remember, quote this in all correspondence: (P/C/7/2005/7019) Ditchingham Quarry, Land off B1332 Norwich Road.
- **Planning Officer's details:** Mr. David Cassells, Norfolk County Council, Planning and Transportation Department, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2SG; email david.cassells@norfolk.gov.uk; phone: 01603 222757.

Contact ENRAGED

Remember, use the ENRAGED web site to keep yourself informed (www.nraged.org.uk); email enquiries@nraged.org.uk; call us on 01986 895700, or write to us at Enquiries ENRAGED PO BOX 809 Ditchingham Bungay Suffolk NR35 2WF.

ENRAGED making the News

It is evident that there is a significant groundswell of objection within the community that supports the view that Ditchingham is an inappropriate site for mineral extraction. It is clear from the local press and local radio that the quarry is of considerable concern to not just immediately impacted residents but to a much broader community. Just the weekend after the application was lodged with NCC, we saw headlines *Quarry campaign stepped up....* Dozens of protest signs began to appear this week followed by other articles over the last month: *Quarry may threaten future of Convent.* '... [the quarry]... could throw into doubt the whole future of ... All Hallows; ' *Teachers worried by quarry scheme.* 'Noise and dust from quarry... would have a negative impact on nearby schools and nurseries for children'; and just last week *Villagers unite to oppose quarry.* 'People at Hedenham, near Bungay, announced yesterday they would support their neighbours'. Clearly, as word spreads, and the implications for communities from Ditchingham to Norwich become apparent, not least as a result of additional traffic movements on the B1332, there is likely to be even greater interest.

Nuns label quarry a 'desecration' of land

Nuns at the 150-year-old convent, the Community of all Hallows, which stands just off Belsey Bridge Road, say plans for the Quarry could desecrate the 'peaceful and contemplative existence' of the area. All Hallows was founded in 1855, but now the 13 nuns and 33 other staff at the convent say that the quarry could result in irrevocable damage to their community.

As well as helping at the hospital, the convent currently hosts conferences and private retreats for groups like 6th Formers, Macmillan nurses and the clergy.

'The noise would be intrusive for people on retreat and affect chapel services which are held throughout the day,' The Reverend Mother Elizabeth said. 'The desecration of this landscape could mean an end to the peaceful and contemplative

existence that the community and visitors have enjoyed for so long.'

The current application for the Fen Lane site is just 1 km from the convent, but if Lafarge were to exploit the 'Cemetery site' identified in the February 2001 option deed, it could be as close as just 100m.

All Hallows has very generously extended their invitation to host the parish meeting at their St Gabriel's Conference Centre on 12th December, and for M. Collomb to stay should he accept the Parish Council's invitation.

Children affected by plans

Staff at schools near the proposed quarry site in Ditchingham are extremely concerned about the extra HGV traffic the quarry will generate on the B1332. Pauline McGowan who is headmistress of Woodton Primary School said, '...the road outside the school is too narrow for two lorries to safely pass each other. The prospect of up to 40 heavy gravel lorries a day in addition to all the other lorries presently using this road does not bear thinking about...'

Entente Cordiale!

At the 7th November meeting of Ditchingham Parish Council, the Council confirmed its full support of ENRAGED efforts to coordinate residents' objections to the French multi-national company Lafarge Aggregates' plans to dig a quarry for sand and gravel on the Fen Lane site in Ditchingham which local residents consider to be 'wholly unsuitable'.

And in an effort to defuse the growing hostility amongst residents in the villages of Ditchingham and Hedenham, Ditchingham Parish Council is inviting the Chairman of the French group to visit the site himself so that he can personally appreciate the reasons for residents' concerns.

Julian Green, chairman of ENRAGED and proposed by the Council as such at a meeting earlier this year, supported the proposal to formally extend the invitation to M. Bertrand Collomb and his wife in order that he may appreciate at first hand what is being proposed by his company in the parish. Mr Green commented: 'Whilst we have recently been celebrating the famous victory of our

Norfolk-born hero Horatio Nelson over the French at the Battle of Trafalgar, we are anxious to ensure that the battle over Lafarge's application (which we are determined will never be permitted) does not become a second Trafalgar. As it is Lafarge's reputation which will suffer huge damage pursuing these wholly inappropriate proposals, we thought it only sensible to invite the French Chairman of the company to come and see for himself what his company is really planning to do before its reputation is further diminished here in the UK.'

Another resident, Trevor Ellis said that 'here is a large French-owned multi-national company seeking to remove £7m worth of gravel and sand from the Parish of Ditchingham to the detriment of the amenity of local residents. We who live here are going to have to put up with danger caused by the additional heavy goods vehicle movements on the B1332, the destruction of historic landscape and wildlife habitats, noise, dust and industrial activity. The scheme proposes no public benefit whatsoever, not even additional jobs.'

And Jonathan Chadd who lives overlooking the proposed site said: 'Lafarge needs to appreciate that this is simply the wrong place for a gravel pit with existing quarries at Earsham, Flixton, Raveningham, Aldeby and Mundam all within five miles of Ditchingham, and most of those quarries having additional reserves, this quarry is neither needed nor is it sensible. Perhaps when the chairman and his wife see for themselves the views over this historic landscape from our house, which adjoins the site, they will realise the mistake the company has made in selecting it. We look forward to welcoming them and showing them around this particularly attractive part of South Norfolk.'

Lafarge holds itself out as operating to the highest business ethics and on maintaining excellent community relations. On that basis, the Parish Council are confident that, although both the Ditchingham Estate and Lafarge's local representatives have declined to attend local parish meetings, the invitation to the French boss will be accepted if only to demonstrate that he is prepared to take full responsibility for what is being done in his company's name.