

**DITCHINGHAM COTTAGE  
DITCHINGHAM  
BUNGAY  
NORFOLK NR35 2JY  
Tel: 01986 895160 Fax: 01986-894946  
E mail: jchadd@leathesprior.co.uk**

23rd February 2006

FAO J W Gough  
David L Walker  
Albion House  
89 Station Road  
Eckington  
Sheffield S21 4FW

Dear Mr Gough

**RE: Lafarge Aggregates Limited - Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry off Norwich Road  
Ditchingham**

Thank you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006. I have now obtained from Professor Tom Williamson details his availability for the site visit to Ditchingham Hall and Park and would suggest any of the dates set out below:

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February –morning  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

If a later date is necessary then I suggest that you propose some alternatives convenient to others and we will confirm which ones suit.

I understand that you are proposing to liaise with David Eve of English Heritage, Jonathan Lovie/Linden Groves at the Garden History Society, Judith Cantell the County Landscape Architect and the Mineral Planning Officer to arrange a mutually convenient date and time. As the Georgian Group are now involved as a conservation body with a very particular interest in this application would you please ensure you include them in your list of those to be invited to attend as well as the NCC Historic Buildings Officer Stephen Heywood (01603 222707).

The Georgian Group is at 6 Fitzroy Square London W1T 5DX and the case officer is James Dyke his telephone number is 08717502936 (email: james.georgian@virgin.net). He will also require a copy of the application and the Environmental Impact Assessment which I should be grateful if you would confirm you will send to him by return. I am unclear as to why this body has not been consulted previously as one of the statutory consultees given the historic importance of the Hall and its Park and the grants that have been provided for their restoration in recent years. Clearly now that it has confirmed its interest it should be invited to attend. Would you please confirm who your client has instructed as its historic landscape consultants and the name of the individual dealing with this matter?

English Heritage has confirmed that the Environmental Impact Assessment is defective in failing to include any historic landscape assessment. It has therefore objected to the application proceeding in the absence of any such assessment being undertaken by the applicant and produced to it for comment. In fact this is only one of many defects in the EIA which is riddled with inaccuracies and omissions as ENRAGED has pointed out in its commentary on it. The fact that each of the experts employed by your client provides a different size for the site and that its ecologist reported on the veteran trees on the field on the western side of Fen Lane are just two examples of this. The defects identified in the letter of objection from the Environment Agency and the comments made by Mr Luff on the Hydrology and Hydrogeology reports are further examples of the inadequacy of the documentation filed in support of the application.

I have to ask why the application was filed at all for a site outside the Minerals Plan at a time when there was clearly no need for additional sand and gravel quarries in the area, the land bank exceeded the statutory required limit and the Horstead appeal was listed for hearing. The result of this ill judged timing is that your client has now been forced to withdraw its application realising that it was doomed to be refused. It has, however, in the interim put a large number of individuals and statutory bodies to a great deal of wasted time and expense by its cavalier disregard for, and failure to comply with, the proper planning process. It has failed firstly to consider sites within the Minerals Plan, secondly to engage in open and honest dialogue with the community and then produced an inadequate Environmental Impact Statement in support of its application. It is the local residents as Norfolk ratepayers and taxpayers who are funding your client's irresponsible stop/start approach to planning applications for minerals extraction which does nothing for its reputation as a respected operator. The situation is compounded by the fact that when it decides to resubmit the application all those who have already considered it and commented upon it will need to spend yet more time going through the whole exercise all over again incurring yet further expense for the ratepayers which will not be met by Lafarge having to pay a second application fee. In the meantime the communities of Ditchingham and Hedenham remain blighted by the pending application.

In view of the above it is clearly important that the assessment of the impact of the proposed quarry on the Hall and its surrounding historic landscape is completed without delay so that you and others who are not familiar with the site and its landscape context can realise that this application is never going to be approved and thus prevail upon Lafarge to withdraw it permanently.

I look forward to hearing from you with a date for the site visit.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Chadd**

cc Stuart Anderson Lafarge Aggregates Ltd  
David Eve English Heritage  
Linden Groves Garden History Society  
Richard Carden SNDC  
John Smith Ditchingham Parish Council  
James Dyke The Georgian Group

Robert Tamworth Ditchingham Estate  
Alan Burrell NCC  
Stuart Ashworth NCC  
Professor Tom Williamson UEA  
Chris Tyacke Hedenham Parish Meeting