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07 May 2024

Dear Colin

Ref: Planning application (ref. SCC/3837/2021/IDO) in respect of an Interim Development Order (IDO) consent for the determination of mineral planning conditions made under the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 at Hanson's Westdown Quarry (incorporating an area known as Asham Wood Void). This relates to IDO/M/4/A (original planning reference 1492 – dated 28 June 1948) registered as IDO on 27 October 1992. This permission covers the Asham Wood Void area and extends across an area of ~32.3ha.

As you are aware, Heidelberg Materials (formerly Hanson UK) has been working since 2021 to secure an outcome in respect of the reopening of Westdown quarry.

Our applications to update existing planning conditions were first submitted in January 2021, before being validated by Somerset Council (then SCC) later that year. By November 2023, despite all considerations by statutory consultees being satisfactorily resolved, the route to determination remained unclear.

Conscious that remaining reserves in our nearby Whatley quarry are becoming increasingly constrained, we took the step at this time to simplify the scheme with a revised proposal concentrating solely on a scheme within the confines of Westdown in the hope that this would help resolve queries raised by SC's legal team about Asham quarry void's inclusion in aspects of the scheme. This resulted in us effectively putting all parts of the scheme involving the Asham quarry void (including the significant legacy aspect of our proposed scheme) into abeyance.

In hindsight it appears that putting the parts of our application relating to Asham quarry void into abeyance has been misinterpreted by some. So, for the avoidance of doubt, we are now withdrawing in full the application relating to Asham quarry void previously placed into abeyance under reference SCC/3837/2021/IDO.

It is our firm belief that this move should remove any outstanding ambiguities concerning our Westdown proposals. And, given that all issues raised by statutory consultees have now been satisfactorily resolved, this should allow for our application to be forwarded to the next appropriate planning committee for determination.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter via email and I trust that the steps Heidelberg Materials has taken today in withdrawing all aspects of the Asham quarry void application will enable a smooth transition to determination.

Your sincerely



Trystan Mabbitt
Consenting and Development Manager

