Staffordshire County Council’s Statement

Day 2:

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

Issue: Whether adequate provision has been made for industrial minerals in the Plan

Policy 2
Industrial minerals

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Policy 2:

1. Should there be provision within the Plan for supplies of clay and shale to supply the Tunstead cement works in Derbyshire?

1.1 No.

1.2 It is understood that supplies from Keele and Kingsley Quarries in Staffordshire are used as an additive to the mix of minerals used for the cement manufacture at Tunstead and given that permission has been granted for a second kiln (yet to become operational) at the works that would increase operational capacity from 1Mtpa to 2.15Mtpa. Consequently, demand for minerals could double.

1.3 Lafarge Tarmac the former operators of Tunstead cement works submitted representations requiring that the new Plan recognise the potential need for additional provision of shale reserves in the event that supply from existing quarries be found to be insufficient.

1.4 In accordance with national policy\(^1\), the Council has investigated circumstances relating to the shale supply of the Tunstead cement works which involves the two quarries in Staffordshire that are operated by Ibstock Brick Limited.\(^2\) No current proposals for additional reserves have been identified and in response to the representations made on behalf of Tarmac, changes are proposed to the Plan’s monitoring framework to enable review of shale supply from the county. This would need to be undertaken in conjunction with monitoring mineral supply to the cement works as undertaken by Derbyshire County Council, the relevant mineral planning authority.

1.5 With regard to Keele Quarry, there are restrictions on output under conditions 29 and 30 of permission N.02/17/258 MW and also the requirements of a legal agreement obliges the mineral operator to use most of the Etruria Marl for the benefit of local clay product works (currently overlying mudstones of the Halesowen Formation are extracted and supplied to Tunstead).

\(^1\) Refer to paragraph 146 of the NPPF

\(^2\) Refer to paragraph 3.4 of the new Plan and Duty to co-operate statement (June 2015)
Policy omissions

2. Should there be a policy in the Plan aimed at making provision for the extraction of brick clay to serve brickworks outside Staffordshire?

2.1 There is no requirement for a local brick clay policy. The Council’s analysis finds that there is no requirement for identifying additional resources in the Plan to meet the needs of clay product works within or outside the county based on current evidence.\(^3\)

2.2 Cheslyn Hay Quarry supplies clay to a tile plant in Bedworth, Warwickshire and there are sufficient reserves to maintain supply to those works during and beyond the Plan period.\(^4\) It is also understood that Ibstock supply clay to their Aldridge Works, Walsall with clay from Redhurst Quarry, Staffordshire. The reserves at Redhurst Quarry are understood to be sufficient to maintain supplies to the Aldridge Works and the Lodge Lane Works in Cannock, Staffordshire over the next 25 years.\(^5\)

2.3 The representations made by Walsall Council on behalf of the Black Country Authorities require that an enabling policy is included for supply of clay to Sandown Brickworks in Walsall if there is evidence that this is necessary. These representations have been made in relation to the final draft Plan at the same time as Walsall Council were considering an application to allow an increase in the limit on the percentage of imported clays used in the production of bricks at the Sandown Brickworks from 65% to 95%.\(^6\) Staffordshire County Council were consulted on the application and confirmed no objection but stated the need for continued co-operation between the authorities in monitoring the requirements of the works and the clay reserves used to support manufacturing at the works.\(^7\) Permission was granted subject to a condition that requires information to be submitted annually confirming the tonnages of clay imported to the works.

2.4 Sandown Works is operated by Wienerberger but they do not have any operational quarries in Staffordshire although they extract clay at Kingsbury Quarry adjacent to the Staffordshire border in north Warwickshire. No representation has been received from Wienerberger relating to the supply of clay to their Sandown Works.

2.5 During 2015, discussions between West Midlands mineral planning authority officers enabled a review of clay supply issues and currently information is being collated to update information about brickworks and their supply.

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\(^3\) Refer to chapter 3 of the new Plan.

\(^4\) Refer to application ref SS.13/14/609 MW relating to review of permission under Environment Act 1995

\(^5\) Refer to application ref SS.14/08/608A MW (review under Environment Act 1995) and application ref SS.14/07/608A MW for extension of the quarry.

\(^6\) Refer to application ref 15/0303/FL which was granted permission 8/9/15.

\(^7\) Refer to SCC letter dated 30 April 2015 (ref WAL.15/0303 AA)
requirements, and brick clay extraction sites and their existing reserves, in a format that could be regularly updated by each authority. Consistent with this approach between the mineral planning authorities, changes are proposed to the monitoring framework for the Plan to monitor clay supply and reserves used to supply works outside the county. It is anticipated that this requirement will need further discussion with the industry to address any concerns regarding the commercial sensitivity of data.

3. **Should there be a policy in the Plan aimed at making provision for the extraction of dimension stone?**

3.1 No. The Council’s assessment is that there is no evidence of a strategic need for additional building stone resources and as accepted in the Mineral Product Association’s publication, need is best considered on a site by site basis.

3.2 The scale of stone production is relatively small compared with other mineral operations in the county. In 2006, total building stone production was reported as 2000 tonnes based on the council’s own survey of operators and in 2010, national figures suggested that 5000 tonnes of building stone was produced from sandstone resources in Staffordshire. The table below provides further information about the five permitted building stone quarries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarry name</th>
<th>Cessation of mineral working</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadmoreside</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Permission SM.13/04/169 M granted 2013 to allow extension of time to work remaining 3600t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cliff Wood</td>
<td>2028</td>
<td>Permission SM.11/15/162 M granted in 2013. Proposal based on 180,000t of reserves, produced at 12,000tpa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Gate</td>
<td>2042</td>
<td>Subject to review under Environment Act ES.14/06/509 M to be worked at 500 to 1000tpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redstone</td>
<td>2035</td>
<td>Permission SM.04/27/115 M granted 2005 to allow extension of time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tearne</td>
<td>2042</td>
<td>Subject to review under Environment Act SM.14/05/117 M to be worked at 500 to 1000tpa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 In preparing the Plan, no site options for building stone were submitted for consideration. No evidence has been promoted by building conservation interests to demonstrate a need for additional building stone resources for the repair of heritage assets.

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8 Refer to note of meeting 30/11/15 between West Midlands Mineral Planning Authorities.
9 Refer to page 6 of “Dimension Stone – an essential UK industry” – Mineral Products Association
3.4 The Plan makes provision for safeguarding building stone under policy 3 but it is considered on the basis of currently foreseen requirements that only the Hollington Formation should be safeguarded.