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APPENDIX 3

BORROW PIT ALLOCATIONS (MLP PROPOSAL 6)

A3.1 The following describes the proposed borrow pit sites referred to in MLP Proposal 6:-

Hammerwich Borrow Pit (Inset Map 18)

A3.2 This site, required in connection with the Birmingham North Relief Road (BNRR), covers an area of some 13 ha. and is estimated to contain in the region of 0.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel. It lies some 250 metres to the south of the Village with the nearest property Meerash Farm some 160 metres to the north.

A3.3 Whilst the site lies within the South Staffordshire Green Belt there are no other landscape or ecological designations affecting the site. The site has an undulating landform with the western half sloping down to Hanney Hay Lane. Because of access difficulties, its size and location the site could not be worked as a freestanding site. However because of its location immediately abutting the line of the BNRR it could be developed solely as a borrow pit in conjunction with the construction of the road.

A3.4 As the site lies in the Green Belt it will need to be restored to a high environmental standard. Surplus materials from the road construction could be accommodated if accessed from the construction site. Other than that it would be inappropriate to allow the importation of waste materials and the site would have to be restored to a lower level.

A3.5 A mixture of forestry/agriculture would be appropriate. Screening and landscaping would be required along the northern and eastern boundaries tied with the landscaping of the BNRR.

Laney Green Borrow Pit (Inset Map19)

A3.6 This site, required in connection with the Birmingham North Relief Road (BNRR), covers an area of some 22 ha. It lies 400 metres to the north east of Junction 11 of the M6 Motorway near to Cannock and contains an estimated 2.0 million tonnes of sand and gravel.

A3.7 It lies in the South Staffordshire Green Belt and a Landscape Improvement Area in the South Staffordshire Local Plan. It is mainly flat good quality agricultural alongside the A460 sloping down to the west. Abutting the western boundary is a Grade 1B site of County Biological Interest consisting of mixed deciduous woodland. There are residential properties adjoining the north east corner and at the southern end. The Site is crossed by the BNRR and in particular the Middle Hill Interchange associated with the A460 diversion.

A3.8 It is considered that substantial and permanent fixed plant could not be satisfactorily screened as the site is highly visible from A460. Direct access onto the already heavily trafficked A460 is opposed by the Director of Development Services. Consequently, it is considered that the site could only be worked on a short term basis as a borrow pit in direct association with, and with direct access onto the BNRR construction sites.

A3.9 The construction of the road itself will create significant environmental disturbance. That disturbance should not be increased by allowing excavations to take place too close to properties and by ensuring there is adequate advance landscaping to minimise any perceived level of visual intrusion.

A3.10 On this basis therefore the site should be worked solely in connection with the BNRR subject to the following parameters:

1. No working within 200 metres of properties at Middle Hill.
2. Advance landscaping be provided to the Wheatsheaf Public House and properties on the eastern side of A460.
3. **That there be no working within a specified distance of the woodland which abuts the western boundary of the allocated area.**

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