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c/o Strategic Planning, Economy, Transport and Environment,
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Dear Sir or Madam,

Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals & Waste Plan Issues and Options Consultation 2017

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We have limited our response to three questions that are relevant to our expansion plans, namely:

- Question 12 regarding the Colnbrook rail depot;
- Question 17 concerning the demand for aggregate; and
- Question 83 about the potential replacement of the Colnbrook Energy from Waste Plant.

Question 12. Do you have any information that could help to inform the understanding on mineral movements within Central & Eastern Berkshire, as well as imports/exports of mineral, into and outside of the Plan area?

The document presents a potential issue of the loss of the Colnbrook Aggregate Rail Depot due to Heathrow's expansion. While we can't speak of alternate replacement rail depots within the Central and Eastern Berkshire region, we can provide information on the future of the Colnbrook depot which may provide you with some clarity as to the future of the site.

Although it is early in the design development phase, we are currently examining the reconfiguration of the Colnbrook rail depot so as to allow construction of a rail siding for Heathrow expansion construction materials alongside a continued aggregate operation. The rail siding would be connected to the same branch line and could accommodate up to 10 rail paths per day (equivalent to 65-70 HGVs per train). This reconfigured site would principally be used for the import of fill and other construction materials but would also have the potential to accommodate further construction support activities such as concrete batching plants, asphalt production and pre-cast concrete factory.

The facility is anticipated to remain in place post-construction and therefore options to use the depot for rail based mineral imports/exports could be explored.

Question 17. Do you agree that the demand information suggests that there will be a continued and possible increase in minerals demand in the near future or later in the plan period?

There is no doubt that there will continue to be a high demand for aggregate and minerals for at least the Plan period.

Specifically, we are developing an earthworks strategy that will aim to reduce the import of bulk material to the site, optimise material management and make the best use of land over time. We are also considering opportunities for the reuse and recycling of materials arising from demolition. Already we see potential to reuse waste road material in the construction of diverted roads, for example.

While the expansion programme will be a significant construction project, Heathrow is committed to ensuring that the maximum amount of material will be found on site wherever possible and reduce the reliance on importing material from elsewhere.

Question 83. Do you agree that the Colnbrook Energy from Waste facility is a vital strategic waste management facility for Central & Eastern Berkshire and Slough and so a replacement of the capacity within the area should be strongly supported?

We recognise that the Colnbrook Energy from Waste facility currently performs an important role in meeting waste management needs across a wide area and are in discussion the facility's operator, Grondon, regarding their future options.

We trust this information is useful to help inform the Plan. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this with you further.

Yours sincerely,

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