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1.1.1 The Reg 25 request set out the following request in terms of materials for restoration:

*The Mineral Planning Authority questions if the likely availability of suitable fill materials and likely sources of inert material for the site's restoration are known?*

*In relation to the above point, the Mineral Planning Authority draws the applicant's attention to Draft Policy MLP 17: 'Prudent Use of Resources' of the Emerging Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan. Part C requires developers to "demonstrate that, throughout its lifetime, the proposed development will... balance the benefits of maximising extraction with any benefits of allowing sterilisation of some of the resource, taking account of:*

- i. the need for the mineral resource;*
- ii. the ability to deliver the relevant strategic corridor priorities;*
- iii. the ability to provide an appropriate landform for beneficial after-use;*
- iv. the ability to deliver high-quality restoration at the earliest opportunity;*
- v. the appropriateness of importing fill materials on to site, and the likely availability of suitable fill materials;*
- vi. the need to protect and enhance inherent landscape character; and*
- vii. the need to manage or mitigate impacts on the built, historic, natural and water environment and amenity".*

*Paragraphs 6.11-6.16 of the Emerging Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan set out further detail of the types of information which should be provided to meet these policy requirements.*

1.2.1 In order to assess the availability of inert waste to enable restoration at Lea Castle Farm, we have carried out a review of the Environment Agency's (EA) Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) 2018 for data for inert waste accepted and removed from sites with environmental permits for waste management activities within Worcestershire and the surrounding West Midland Metropolitan Districts. A review of major projects and the need for the deposition of inert waste is also considered below.

## Worcestershire

1.2.2 In terms of Worcestershire, there is only 3 EA permitted landfills accepting inert waste. These are:

- x Summerway Landfill (Wyre Forest District);
- x Weights Farm Landfill (Redditch District); and
- x Pinches 3 Landfill (Bromsgrove District).

The total inert waste received at these sites in 2018 was 197,256 tonnes.

1.2.3 In terms of inert landfill capacity in Worcestershire, the EA WDI sets out that as of 2018, Worcestershire has 1,591,000 tonnes of inert capacity. However, this has been steadily decreasing from 2,894,000 in 2016 and 2,525,000 in 2017. However, this capacity is not reflective of the 3 permitted sites above.

1.2.4 In terms of Summerway, the EA WDI sets out that as of 2018 the landfill received 73,761 tonnes of inerts, however, the landfill also exported 75,201 tonnes of inerts. On review of the planning history of the site, it appears that the operations involve recycling of soils and the importation and stockpiling of hardcore and road planings for off-site distribution. Therefore, this site doesn't provide capacity for the disposal of inert waste.

1.2.5 In terms of Weights Farm, this site operates as a Material Reclamation Facility and received 10,224 tonnes of inerts in 2018 and therefore only has a minimal contribution to the landfill capacity in Worcestershire.

1.2.6 In terms of Pinches 3 landfill, the most recent planning permission was granted on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 (Planning Application Ref: 08/000055/CM). Condition no. 2 sets out that working and restoration had to be completed within 10 years of the date of the permission i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. It is acknowledged that a planning application for proposed extraction of sand and gravel with progressive restoration by way of importation of inert waste material at Pinches (4) Quarry (Planning Application Ref: 19/000056/CM) is currently under consideration. It is noted though that the Supporting Planning Statement sets out that infilling won't commence until the end of 2026.

1.2.7 Therefore, based on the above, as of 2020, it appears that Worcestershire has an inert landfill capacity gap until at least the end of 2026 if the planning permission at Pinches (4) Quarry is approved.

## West Midlands Metropolitan Districts

1.2.8 In terms of the West Midlands Metropolitan Districts, Meriden Quarry (Area G) is the only EA permitted landfill accepting inert waste. The total inert waste received at Meriden Quarry in

