

24 September 2015
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Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Consultation
Environment & Economy
Oxfordshire County Council
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford
OX1 1NE

For the attention of Planning Regulation (Minerals & Waste)

Dear Sir/Madam

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 - Core Strategy Submission Document – Siemens Representations

The representations below are submitted on behalf of Siemens Magnet Technology Ltd in response to the consultation on the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 - Core Strategy Submission Document.

1. Overview

Siemens Magnet Technology (SMT) is the world's leading designer and manufacturer of superconducting magnetic resonance imaging magnets for medical applications. Based in Eynsham, around 95% of the magnets produced at its Oxfordshire facility are exported and the business has been awarded several Queen's Awards for export success. More than 30% of the MRI scanners installed in hospitals worldwide have at heart a superconducting magnet manufactured by SMT.

The Oxfordshire facility is located to the east of Eynsham, on Wharf Road just off the B4044, which provides access onto the A40. The facility is located adjacent to the Wharf Stream, a tributary of the River Thames. Fields on the opposite side of the Wharf Stream have known to flood on a regular basis. In terms of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP): Part 1 Core Strategy Submission Document, the facility is located within the 'Thames, Lower Windrush & Evenlode Valleys – Standland to Yarnton' minerals strategic resource area as allocated in Policy M3 and shown on the Minerals Key Diagram (Figure 9) of the Core Strategy.

Given the location of SMT's Eynsham facility, the highly specialised manufacturing which takes place there, and the specialised end use of the magnets produced, it is imperative that the continued successful operation of SMT's facility at Eynsham is protected from any potential development which could have a significant adverse effect on the plant. Due to the precise equipment used to manufacture the magnets, of key importance is the facility's sensitivity to dust generation and vibrations. In addition, a further concern is the need to protect the plant from exacerbating existing problems associated with flood risk, particularly given the site's proximity to the River Thames. It is in this context that the identification of a strategic mineral resource area to the north east of the facility and the identification of any potential mineral sites within this area, is of concern to SMT.

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2. Policy M3: Principal locations for working aggregate minerals

It is recognised that SMT's Eynsham facility is located within a minerals strategic resource area as allocated in Policy M3, namely *'Thames, Lower Windrush & Evenlode Valleys – Standland to Yarnton'*.

It is further recognised that specific minerals sites within those strategic resources areas allocated in Policy M3 will be identified in the MWLP: Part 2 – *Site Allocations Document*. Nevertheless, as part of the MWLP preparation process, which will inform the preparation of the Site Allocations Document, three mineral site nominations were proposed in the Eynsham area in response to the Issues and Options consultation in April 2007. These are:

- ▶ SG-20 Land between Eynsham and Cassington;
- ▶ SG-20a Wharf Farm, Cassington; and
- ▶ SG-20b Land at Eynsham.

All three sites are located to the north / north east of the Eynsham facility, the nearest site being SG-20b which is located within 170 metres of the facility's western boundary. As such, for SMT it is important that the allocation of an potential mineral site within the allocated mineral strategic resource area (in the Site Allocations Document in due course), takes due consideration of the Eynsham facility and any potential adverse effect on the operation of that facility in terms of development which may generate dust and vibrations as well as potentially increasing any risk of flooding. The SMT facility at Eynsham should therefore be acknowledged as a sensitive receptor. As such, our client, SMT, reserves the right to respond to any proposed site allocation on a case by case basis at the appropriate time.

3. Policy M4: Sites for working aggregate minerals

Core Strategy Policy M4 sets out the criteria against which sites for working aggregate minerals will be assessed. Criterion (k) specifically relates to the *"avoidance of, or ability to suitably mitigate, potential significant adverse impacts"* on a number of issues including *"water quality, water quantity, flood risk and groundwater flow"* as well as *"land uses sensitive to nuisance (e.g. schools & hospitals)"*. Furthermore, any potential mineral site would need to satisfy the core policies of the Core Strategy, notably:

- ▶ Policy C3: Flooding;
- ▶ Policy C4: Water environment; and
- ▶ Policy C5: Local environment, amenity and economy.

In the context of the need to protect existing sensitive land uses such as the SMT Eynsham facility from the potentially significant adverse effects of mineral extraction, these Core Strategy policies are supported. Notwithstanding this, our client, SMT, reserves the right to respond to any proposed site allocation on a case by case basis at the appropriate time.

We have no further comments to make with regards to the Core Strategy at this stage but would wish to be kept information on the progress of the document. Should you have any queries about the above representations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Yours faithfully



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