

Date: 27 October 2010  
Your Ref.  
Our Ref: SB/3552/2  
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To whom it may concern

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DX 8804 Hemel Hempstead

Dear Sir/Madam

### **HIGHBARNES AREA CHALK MINES PROJECT**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the existence of abandoned chalk mines located in the Highbarnes area in Hemel Hempstead and to confirm Dacorum Borough Council's co-ordinating role.

This area has been the subject of at least two mine related collapses followed by some initial investigation and limited mine treatment works. Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited has been commissioned by the Council to undertake the project management of a scheme to apply for funding to carry out further exploratory and remedial works. As part of this commission Hyder has completed investigations to confirm:

- the likely extent of any mine workings
- the level of risk to residents above or adjacent to the workings
- the mitigations required to address the risk identified
- the need and type of any treatment of mine workings

Hyder has prepared a Feasibility Study Report summarising the findings of the investigations undertaken to date, the likely extent of the mine workings and an assessment of the mining stability risk. The Feasibility Study Report can be found at [www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarnes](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarnes). The key purpose of the report is to assess the feasibility of treatment of the mine workings as a basis for an application by the Council under the Homes & Communities Agency's Land Stabilisation Programme for a grant to fund further investigations and treatment works.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Council has submitted an application to the Homes and Communities Agency for funding from the Land Stabilisation Programme to enable the Council to arrange for the completion of the detailed investigations, including boreholes, and the carrying out of treatment works.

The Council has also applied to the Government for a Derelict Land Clearance Order. The purpose of applying for this order is to enable the Council to receive 100% of the required funding for the project. Further investigations and works are dependent on whether the application is successful and full funding is made available.

The outline programme submitted with the funding application anticipates a start on site by October 2011 with completion in February 2012. However, it is important to emphasize that these are provisional dates only and may well be subject to change due to factors outside the Council's control.

If you would like more information concerning the Highbarns Area Chalk Mines Project please refer to the Council's website, which contains a range of information, or contact me and I will do my best to assist you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

**Steven Baker**  
**Assistant Director (Legal, Democratic & Regulatory)**