

Our Ref: BG/jb CM/N/795/Comm

2 October 2013

Dear Resident

**UPDATE ON HIGHTHORN SURFACE MINE PROPOSALS**

A copy of this letter is being hand delivered to every home in Widdrington Village to update you on a recent change to the study area for the Highthorn Surface Mine.

You will be aware that we have identified an area of land to the north east of Widdrington Village as a potential storage area for the Highthorn surface mine. Having taken onboard feedback from local residents and the landowner we have agreed that a number of the fields to the north east of the village will be excluded from any subsequent planning application and will not form part of the Highthorn surface mine. The area in question is shown on the plan printed on the back of this letter.

As our plans develop we hope to further reduce the areas of land around residential areas, including Widdrington, that may be required for the Highthorn surface mine and we will continue to keep you updated as our designs progress. Test drilling is currently underway across the site and it will take several months to complete the initial assessment. As a result, more detailed plans will not be prepared until early next year at which point we will make sure you're the first to know what we're proposing.

If you have any further questions in the meantime or would like to meet with me to discuss the project further then please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details listed below.

Yours sincerely



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