



# Blackdown Growers

North Fosse Farm, Fosse Way,  
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WARWICKSHIRE  
CV33 9BQ

9932

17<sup>th</sup> April 2014

To Whom It May Concern

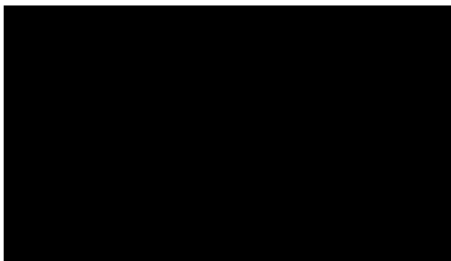
Re. Map GT02 (Sites for Gypsies and Travellers)

This is to confirm that we owned and cropped these fields for a number of years and grew very successfully - delicate horticultural specialised crops. In the growing of these crops it is very important to select well drained fertile land that is reasonably sheltered and a good crumb structure.

This land which is classified as grade 3 - 4 on the general land maps is in fact under classified and should be marked up higher on the land maps.

As we are specialist **Growers of Herbs and Baby Salad Leaf** using the latest modern, growing and harvesting techniques this land is extremely valuable for use in the growing of All Year Round (AYR) production to reduce Air Miles and Carbon Footprint of Fresh Produce and also help reduce the UK's reliance on Imported Produce.

This in turn allows us to continue to employ and expand our local workforce from the Warwick and Leamington areas who have come to value and depend on their occupation within our Company.



**LEAMPAK**



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2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

Mr Dave Barber  
Development Services  
Warwick District Council  
P O Box 2178  
Riverside House  
Milverton Hill  
Royal Leamington Spa  
CV32 5QH

Dear Mr Barber

**Re. Site for Gypsies and Travellers 17th March 2014**

Thank you for your letter as dated above. We are writing in response to your invite to add our views to the consultation running until 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014. We would like to point out that this reply is written after a long and hard review of the effects on our business and made as a result of genuine firm conclusions.

This proposal takes away valuable growing land that can be used for specialist Herbs and Baby Salad Leaves that is in very close proximity to our Business. Suitable good quality nearby land is absolutely imperative for our business to survive.

We employ around 42 people from the local area who value their employment all year round and around 10 local seasonal workers. Many of these employees are drawn from the local area and very much value employment with us in a happy settled environment which if changed by the local land uses being taken away could bring in hardship for them and their families.

This proposal would make the entrance system to our properties unworkable. As you are aware the Fosse Way is a very fast road and without adequate facilities for low speed agricultural vehicles it will become very dangerous.

Our Business began in 1970 at Bericote Road in Leamington Spa and this growing farm was purchased in 1992 as a base for all our outdoor growing operations which it successfully achieves. Our turnover is around £8m a year and we estimate we inject around £1.7m into the local economy. Considerable monetary cost has been injected into this site of around £2.5m over the last 21 years.

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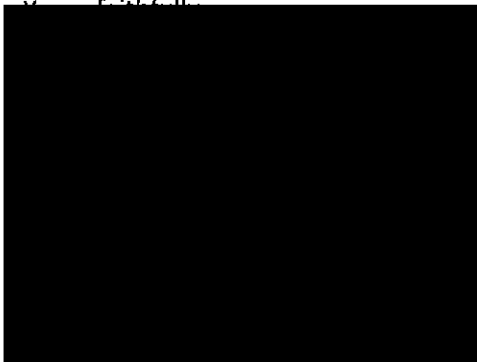
e.mail: [info@blackdowngrowers.co.uk](mailto:info@blackdowngrowers.co.uk)

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In summary if this proposal went ahead it could have very serious implications on our business and the loss of employment, revenue and food which is urgently needed currently in the UK.

As we are specialist *Growers of Herbs and Baby Leaf Salad* using the latest modern, growing and harvesting techniques this land is extremely valuable for use in the growing of All Year Round (AYR) production to reduce Air Miles and Carbon Footprint for Fresh Produce and also help reduce the UK's reliance on Imported Produce.

We would urge you to look at the whole situation regarding this proposal and find a suitable site or sites that are available that do not impact on our local employees who live in the area in the way that this one does.



**LEAMPAK**