CLAIMS:

1. A smoking article (2) comprising:

a combustible heat source (4) with opposed front and rear faces and at least one airflow channel (16) extending from the front face to the rear face of the combustible heat source (4); and

an aerosol-forming substrate (6) comprising at least one aerosol former downstream of the combustible heat source (4),

characterized in that a non-metallic, non-combustible, gas-resistant, first barrier coating (14) is provided on substantially the entire rear face of the combustible heat source (4), and allows gas to be drawn through the at least one airflow channel (16),

wherein the non-metallic, non-combustible, gas-resistant, first barrier coating has an elemental metal or alloy content of less than 50 mole percent.

2. A smoking article (2) according to claim 1 wherein the first barrier coating (14) has a thickness of at least about 10 microns.

3. A smoking article (2) according to claim 2 wherein the first barrier coating(14) is substantially impermeable to air.

4. A smoking article (2) according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the first barrier coating comprises clay, glass, or alumina.

5. A smoking article (2) according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the combustible heat source (4) is a carbonaceous heat source.

6. A smoking article (2) according to claim any preceding claim wherein the combustible heat source (4) comprises an ignition aid.

7. A smoking article (2) according to claim 6 wherein the ignition aid is an oxidizing agent.

8. A smoking article (2) according to any preceding claim wherein a gas-resistant, heat resistant, second barrier coating is provided on the inner surface of the at least one airflow channel (16).

9. A smoking article (2) according to any preceding claim wherein the second barrier coating is substantially impermeable to air.

10. A smoking article (2) according to any preceding claim wherein the aerosol-forming substrate (6) comprises homogenised tobacco-based material.

11. A smoking article (2) according to any preceding claim further comprising:

a heat-conducting element (22) around and in contact with a rear portion (4b) of the combustible heat source (4) and an adjacent front portion (6a) of the aerosol-forming substrate (6).

12. A smoking article (2) according to any preceding claim further comprising:

an expansion chamber (8) downstream of the aerosol-forming substrate (6).

13. A smoking article (2) according to claim 10 further comprising:

a mouthpiece (10) downstream of the expansion chamber (8).

14. A combustible heat source (4) with opposed front and rear faces for use in a smoking article (2) according to any preceding claim, the combustible heat source (4) comprising:

at least one airflow channel (16) extending from the front face to the rear face of the combustible heat source (4) and

a non-metallic, non-combustible, gas-resistant, barrier coating (14) on substantially the entire rear face of the combustible heat source (4) that allows gas to be drawn through the at least one airflow channel (16),

wherein the non-metallic, non-combustible, gas-resistant, first barrier coating has an elemental metal or alloy content of less than 50 mole percent.