

APP/M1900/W/24/3346607

Former Hatfield Aerodrome

Supplemental Statement of Case re-opened Inquiry
On behalf of Brett Aggregates Limited

April 2026

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Project:	Hatfield Aerodrome	Job Number:	24.135
Client:	Brett Aggregate Limited	Date:	10/04/2026
Author Initial:	Owen Jones		
Issue:	Final	Status:	Final
File Origin:	24.135 Hatfield Aerodrome/10 Appeal/Hatfield Aerodrome Supplemental Statement		



1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Supplemental Statement does not seek to respond to every point made in the various documents submitted by Colney Heath Group (CHG), and not referring to a particular point does not indicate agreement. It responds instead to a discrete number of matters raised in CHG Ellenbrook Park User Study Winter 2025-6 (CD/17.18), Proposed Public Access Analysis (CD/17.23), Proof of Evidence – Public Access (CD/17.22) and reflected in CHG Statement of Case (CD/17.21-1), where it is considered that a response in writing would assist the inquiry and help to narrow the discussion.
- 1.2 This Statement of Case has been jointly prepared by Mr Gregor Mutch and Mr Owen Jones. It is supplemented by:
 - (a) A technical note responding to new surface water matters raised by CHG (Appendix 1), prepared by Ian Walton Bsc (Hons) MSc DIC MICE CEng (whose Proof of Evidence is at BAL/10.1 and BAL/10.2);
 - (b) A technical note outlining the phasing rationale (Appendix 2), prepared by Dr Luke Wilkinson BSc PhD FGS (whose Proof of Evidence is at BAL/09.1 and BAL/09.2).

2 Public Access

Phasing Option 2

- 2.1 In paragraph 2.02 of the Proposed Public Access Analysis (CD/17.23) and again in the Outline Statement of Case (CD/17.21-1) at paragraph 1.09, CHG states that their study covers only Phasing “Option 1” (Phases A, B, C, D, E, F and G in that order). CHG’s analysis has not considered at all Phasing “Option 2” (Phases A, B, C, E, D, F and G), which is the preferred option following the informal and formal public consultation (as explained at paragraph 2.08 of the Appellant’s Statement of Case (CD/17.21-1)).
- 2.2 In both Options 1 and 2, Phases A and B are worked first, which is beneficial for groundwater management (see Appendix 2). However, in Option 2, following working of Phases A and B, the northern part of the site area is then worked entirely, before the southern part of the site area (i.e., the quarry is worked for the majority of its lifetime moving north to south, rather than east to west – for an illustration of this please see p.13 of the Revised Public Access Strategy CD/17.02.0 and the associated animated clips at CD/17.02.2 and CD/17.02.3).
- 2.3 Phasing Option 2 offers the following benefits in terms of public access:
- (a) Always routes connecting entrances at Hatfield, Barlow to Notcutts throughout all phases.
 - (b) Always a route between Albatross Way and Notcutts throughout all phases.
 - (c) Northern mineral worked first leaving routes across the southern area undisturbed for longer.
 - (d) Once the southern area is being worked, the northern routes are established and remain in place.
- 2.4 The first 13 drawings of Option 1 and Option 2 are the same. However, from drawing 14 to the end (drawing 35) the routes are different between the two schemes. Option 2 offers more routes over the life of the development compared to Option 1 and these routes are disturbed less. This has been recognised by a number of respondents to the consultation.
- 2.5 CHG’s Proof of Evidence (CD/17.22) at paragraph 2.03 suggests a preference for splitting the quarry into three areas: the processing site, northern area, and southern area, and then working the southern area before the northern area. Option 2 adopts the key principles of that approach. There are two differences.
- (a) CHG suggests working south to north, whereas Option 2 suggests working north to south. The reason CHG suggests working south to north appears to be that they

consider that early access to the restored southern area would be “beneficial”, which reflects the public access benefits of the restoration scheme, including the provision of the cross-park multi-user routes (addressed below). On the other hand, the benefit of working north to south, as Option 2 proposes, is that the routes across the southern area are left undisturbed for longer, and when the southern area starts being worked, the northern routes are already established and remain in place. That achieves the overarching aim of improving east-west connectivity.

- (b) Option 2 works Phases A and B first before working north-south. It appears from CHG’s survey that the eastern part of the site is the more well-used part. Accordingly, the proposed phasing arrangements (under both Options) have the benefit of providing an enhanced and reinstated eastern part earlier in the development. As explained in Appendix 2 to this Supplemental Statement, working Phase A and B has been agreed with the Environment Agency as a long-established part of the groundwater management and mitigation proposals.
- (c) In the original Phasing Drawings for the 2024 Inquiry and 2023 Public Access Strategy (PAS), up to two phases were shown as entirely out of access at any one time. However, it is now proposed in the 2026 PAS to operate in substages of phases, meaning that Phase B can be kept open whilst working Phase A. The working would then progressively move north into Phase B, but as it moves north, more areas would be opened up behind at the south of Phase A, such that at no stage is all of Phase A and Phase B closed to public access. This improves flow across the park.
- (d) The extent to which the restored phases are integrated into the parkland following mineral extraction, and the associated extent of reinstated public access is evident from the Public Access Strategy and its various illustrations. This exhibits how the public amenity function of the Appeal Site as part of the wider parkland is not unreasonably affected when seen alongside the importance of mineral extraction.

2.6 Working Phases A and B first also aligns with the Hatfield Aerodrome SPG (CD3.3), which at paragraph 9.28 states as follows:

“The mineral reserve, when extracted should generally be worked at a reasonable rate to avoid a prolonged period of extraction but equally to allow restoration to keep pace. It is likely that reserves at the eastern part of the preferred area should be worked first”.

Sub-stages within phases

2.7 In the consultation meetings dated 11th December 2026 with CHG, a key topic of discussion was how to maximise the amount of public access. The possibility of opening public access

to parts of phases both ahead of minerals working by crossing the clay seals and behind the working area as restored land became established was discussed. This was seen as an improvement at both meetings. Brett took CHG through how subphases would work at our meeting on 2 February 2026.

- 2.8 CHG's submitted documents largely do not address this improved aspect of the revised Public Access Strategy (which is explained at pp.10-11 or PDF p.6 of CD/17.02.0 and illustrated in the animation clip at CD/17.02.1).
- 2.9 The working of phases in sub stages and by constructing paths across the clay barrier means that many more additional routes have been added compared to the 2023 Public Access Strategy.

Path between the lagoons

- 2.10 CHG requested that a path between the lagoons is included. This has been included into both phasing Options. It gives additional linkage from east to west in 32 out of the 35 sub stage drawings on the Public Access Strategy. CHG only refer to it offering additional paths during some of the duration of the development.

Multiuser Routes

- 2.11 The CHG Proposed Public Access Analysis (CD/17.22) downplays the significance of the multiuser paths. In paragraph 1.08 they suggest that they will not be constructed until about year 25.
- 2.12 However, three of the four multiuser paths would be established in full at the outset, and one of the four partly installed from the outset. At all times, two of the three east-west multiuser routes would be entirely in place and open to the public, as would the north-south multiuser route at the west of the quarry site. The middle and southern east-west paths would accommodate temporary diversions for one phase each. The diverted sections would be constructed to a temporary standard suitable for multiusers but not to the full HCC guidance standard for permanent multiuser routes. The multiuser paths would offer walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, and those with wheelchairs or pushchairs better access to the park, with their specification governed by condition 27. In summary:
 - (a) The north-south multi-user route at the west of the site would be established from the outset in its entirety and would be in place in its entirety throughout operations and restoration.
 - (b) The northern east-west multi-user route would be established from the outset in its entirety and would be in place in its entirety throughout operations and restoration.

- (c) The central east-west multi-user route would be established from the outset in its entirety, with the western section temporarily diverted during Phase E (drawings 16 to 21 of Option 2 within the Public Access Strategy).
- (d) The southern east-west multi-user route would be established from the outset in the eastern and western sections, but the central section would be temporarily diverted during Phase A (drawings 1 to 8 of Option 2 within the Public Access Strategy). From drawing 9 onwards, the full permanent east-west route would be in place uninterrupted.

2.13 The multiuser routes are designed to accommodate a wide range of users including those with mobility issues. They would conform with the standards laid out in 'Non-motorised routes in Hertfordshire design guidance' (September 2020) (CD/10.2). From this document, the key criteria for the multiuser paths are:

Some key features	Included in multiuser design and crossing points
Accessible Routes	All primary paths must be capable of being used independently by wheelchair and mobility-impaired users.
Sufficient width	The standard minimum width is 1.5m. The proposed multiuser paths are 2m wide.
Manageable gradients	All the multiuser paths are on flat routes across the park and do not cross bunds. They are also level where they cross above drainage features.
Gates	Gates at crossing points have to be wide-swing, self-closing, low-resistance gates with simple easy to use latches.
Suitable surface.	Compacted hoggins type materials would be used. These conform with this standard.
Hazard Free	Paths need to be free of obstacles or protrusions including vegetation, posts, boulders, benches, etc.
Signage	Clear signs are conditioned.

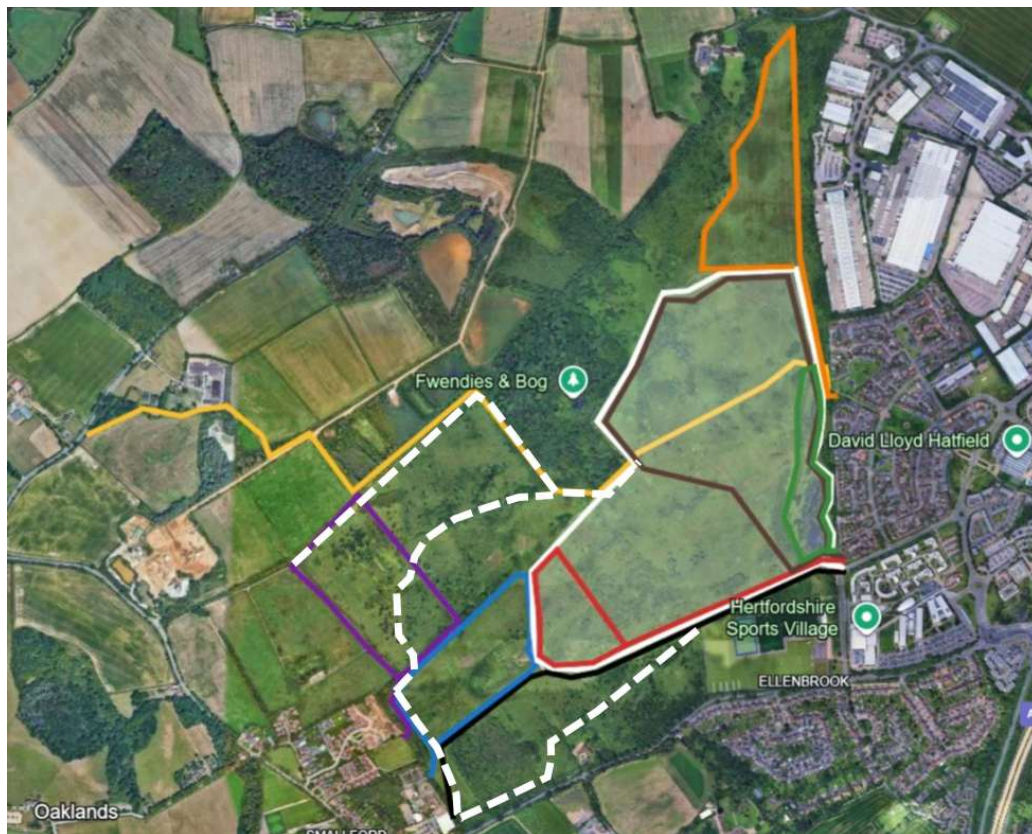
2.14 The provision of these formal multiuser routes represents a significant benefit of the proposed development that would have an overall positive impact on a wide range of people, including those persons with protected characteristics. The proposed multiuser routes would provide greater options for more people to access more parts of the park, both from the outset and – critically – upon incremental restoration. The final restored site would be beneficial for public access for people with access requirements.

Access Survey

2.15 The Appellant is aware of the usage of the park; it has visited the site on numerous occasions, undertaken consultations with residents, interest groups such as PROW and the Ramblers and Colney Heath Parish Council. The Parish Council has previously produced a user survey (CD15.13-1 and CD15.13-2).

- 2.16 The further 2026 survey (CD/17.18) produced by CHG is not an independently commissioned survey and the data (and therefore its conclusions) cannot be relied upon. For example:
- (a) There is no data regarding the number of canvassers who stood at each entrance point; the direction in Appendix 2 is that canvassers should “try to include some of the more remote areas at least once”. Canvassers are also directed that one or more routes can be recorded for one person; someone may have walked part of a route but not another part, yet the usage of the whole of a route is derived from this and used as part of the assessment of impact. Canvassers are advised that the same people may be surveyed on a different day as they may use a different route, leading to a potential duplication of recording in relation to all questions, with the exception of route.
 - (b) Insufficient information is provided in the survey pack to enable those surveyed to give informed answers to Q7; it is noted that the plan used to represent the initial site establishment is a plan from a previous application and not reflective even of the position debated in 2024.
 - (c) Q8 regarding disabilities shows that 14.7% of respondents have responded ‘yes’. The list of disabilities as explained at paragraph 4.46 is wide and does not suggest all respondents (a) themselves had any disability, or (b) would have a disability that would require access to any particular type of route.
 - (d) It is not clear what information was given to those being surveyed about the quarry and the extent to which this reflected the Appellant and HCC’s submitted evidence, for example there is reference to “being warned about dust”, whereas dust suppression would be in place.
- 2.17 It is worth noting that the survey identified out of 312 interviews conducted across an 85-hour period (i.e. 3.67 interviews an hour), only 20 people travelling through the park from one side to another (east-west) (CD/17.18 at paragraph 1.03).
- 2.18 CHG’s Proposed Public Access Analysis (CD/17.23) assesses three “Main Routes”. Below is an indicative overlay of the three main walking routes identified by CHG in CD/17.23 compared to proposed multiuser routes:

Indicative overlay of the three main walking routes identified by CHG in CD/17.23 compared to proposed multiuser routes:



Route 1 Black

- 2.19 It is suggested by CHG that up to 50% of users used this route (see CD/17.23 paragraph 8.01). However, CHG's survey showed only 5.12% of users use the black route (CD/17.18 at p.14). The eastern end is used by 45% of users but not to transit the park.
- 2.20 Currently those that are mobility impaired can only use the eastern end of this route. The proposed southern multiuser route opens this up across the park.

Route 2 Part of White and part of Blue

- 2.21 It is suggested that this route is used by a minimum of 16.32% of park users (blue section) to a maximum of 29.4% of park users (white section) (see CD/17.23 paragraph 8.21). However, CHG's survey does not show any evidence of use of both the white and the blue routes as a cross-park route. There is evidence of users either using the white route, or the blue route.
- 2.22 While not a Route evidenced as in use currently, the proposed central multiuser path will open up a route linking the Barlow entrance at Salisbury Village across to Smallford for people wishing to commute east-west across the park.

Route 3 Yellow

- 2.22.1 This route, which does cross the park, is used by only 9% of users (CD/17.23 at paragraph 8.35). This may in part be explained by the reference in the survey to wet and flooding

conditions in the northern areas of the park (see CD/17.18 at paragraph 4.49). The Appellant has been asked to improve this route so as to make it made accessible in wet weather. The northern multiuser route will do this improving access across the north of the park.

Establishment and restoration

- 2.23 The Public Access Strategy focusses on the extractive phases. Establishment and restoration would be required for any quarrying operation, whatever the design of the scheme. Condition 27 requires submission of a public access scheme prior to commencement of development and for each Phase. If considered necessary, the Condition can specify that the schemes to be submitted should also cover the establishment period until commencement in the first Phase. Similarly, provision for a public access scheme during final restoration can also be added to Condition 27 if considered necessary.

Owen Jones

Appendix 1. Surface Water



Hatfield Aerodrome

Rebuttal Statement – Flood Risk and Drainage

Ian Walton Bsc (Hons) MSc DIC MICE CEng

Brett Aggregates Limited

Section 78 Appeal against refusal of planning permission by Hertfordshire County Council.
Planning Application Ref. PL/0232/21.

Proposed application for the establishment of a new quarry on land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome, including new access onto the A1057, aggregate processing plant and other ancillary facilities, together with the importation of inert fill material to restore the mineral workings.

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Limited

Ground Floor Belmont House , Churchill Way, Cardiff,
CF10 2HE

SLR Project No.: 403.065431.00001

PINS Reference: APP/M1900/W/24/3346607

Planning Reference No: PL/0232/21

9 April 2026

Revision: 00



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1.0 Introduction

Qualifications and Experience

- 1.1 I am Ian Walton. I am a Chartered Civil Engineer and a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of the British Hydrological Society. I hold a Master's degree in Hydrology for Environmental Management awarded by Imperial College, London and a BSc (Hons) in Engineering Science awarded by University of Exeter.
- 1.2 I have over 40 years of post-graduate experience as a Consulting Civil Engineer. I worked for John Taylor and Sons as a Public Health Engineer in the United Kingdom and the Middle East from 1983 to 1987. I joined Halcrow in 1987 and worked as a Tunnelling Engineer on a site in East London for a period of 18 months before joining Bureau Veritas (formerly Weeks Consulting) in 1989 where I managed the Civil Engineering and Flood Risk Departments within the company as an Associate, rising to Associate Director, over a period of some 20 years.
- 1.3 I joined SLR Consulting Limited in January 2013 as a Technical Director in the Hydrology and Hydrogeology Team
- 1.4 Over the last 20 years, I have specialised in the field of hydrology and currently provide technical advice on the quantification and assessment of flood risk, the management of flood risk and the impact of development on the water environment, including from surface water runoff. I am regularly engaged to provide expert evidence on flood risk and drainage matters at appeal hearings and public inquiries.
- 1.5 I have worked across the Built Environment, Waste Management, Industry, Mining and Energy Sectors principally supporting Client's planning and permit applications.

Appeal Scheme

- 1.6 A full planning application (reference PL/0232/21) was submitted by SLR Consulting Ltd ('SLR') on 3 September 2021 (validated 12 October 2021) on behalf of Brett Aggregates Limited (the 'Appellant') for: *"the establishment of a new quarry on land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome, including new access onto the A1057, aggregate processing plant and other ancillary facilities, together with the importation of inert fill material to restore the mineral workings"*. (the 'Appeal Scheme')
- 1.7 On 30 March 2022, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) as the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) subsequently requested further environmental information in the form of a Regulation 25 request. However, no additional information was requested in respect of flood risk and drainage matters.

My involvement with the Appeal Scheme

- 1.8 I was involved in the preparation of the Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan for the previous planning application ('the 2016 Application') and gave evidence at the subsequent appeal in 2021 ('the 2021 Appeal').



- 1.9 I prepared the Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan for the 2021 Application (the subject of this Appeal) and liaised with the Environment Agency, Hertfordshire County Council and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in overcoming the LLFA's initial objections and agreeing suitable planning conditions.
- 1.10 My evidence, set out herein, is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institution and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

Instructions

- 1.11 I have been instructed by the Appellant to provide a rebuttal to the issues that Mr Hartung raises in his statement '*CHG Hydrology & public access*' and Mr M.F. Rawlins raises in his statement '*Proof of Evidence - Public Access*' in so far as they relate to flood risk and drainage matters.



2.0 Background

- 2.1 In response to the matters raised by the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) as part of their consultation response to the 2021 planning application, I prepared a technical memorandum dated 7 August 2023 (CD/2.11 Appendix 6-12) that provided details of the proposed restoration drainage strategy. Whilst the Technical Note focused on the restoration scheme, it explained there are several aspects of the surface water management strategy that will be put in place during the operational phase.
- 2.2 This strategy took account of the potentially increased runoff that might occur due to the reduced permeability of the material used to infill the workings.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the restored surface will drain by gravity to the restored mineral lagoons primarily by a series of swales, shallow channels with gently sloping sides. Under normal conditions, runoff from the restored site will infiltrate into the upper mineral horizon through the base and sides of the lagoon, however, for larger storms, an overflow to the Nast Culvert will be provided.
- 2.4 The general arrangement of the swales is shown by Drawing SWM003 enclosed at Annex A to this rebuttal and a typical cross section through a swale on Drawing SWM005. Please note that the dimensions shown are in millimetres.
- 2.5 The drainage strategy was prepared to demonstrate that the proposals were feasible and deliverable, rather than providing a detailed design which, as in this case, would normally be made the subject of a condition of the planning permission.
- 2.6 The overall drainage strategy was accepted by the LLFA and draft conditions have been agreed with the Council that requires details of the surface water drainage arrangements for each phase are to be agreed in advance of works to that phase (see draft Condition 43).
- 2.7 To be clear, a phase by phase drainage strategy has not been prepared at this stage as this will be developed to discharge the pre-commencement condition for each phase.
- 2.8 Prior to final restoration and the partial infilling of the lower mineral lagoon to form the 'restoration lagoon' shown on Drawing SWM003, the runoff from each phase will drain by gravity to the upper mineral lagoon.
- 2.9 Rather than provide a paragraph by paragraph rebuttal of Mr Hartung and Mr Rawlins statements, I have responded to the key issues they raise.



3.0 Mr Hartung: CHG Hydrology & public access issues

Hydrology

- 3.1 At several points in his statement, Mr Hartung provides an estimate of the volume of runoff that will result from the restored site. These estimates do not follow current accepted best practice for the estimate of rainfall runoff.
- 3.2 Mr Hartung describes Ellenbrook Fields as underlain by '*sandy soil*' with '*Most of the rainfall (85%) is claimed by evaporation and Infiltration into the aquifer*'. This is at odds with paragraph 2.16 of Mr Rawlins statement who advises that '*currently the park becomes very wet and muddy following heavy rain*' and would suggest that the soils underlying the site are considerably less permeable than stated by Mr Hartung
- 3.3 I also note that the near surface material (overburden) will be used to form the perimeter seals to each phase of the quarry to prevent the ingress of groundwater and so have clearly been assessed by the Appellant to be sufficiently impermeable for this purpose.
- 3.4 The analysis of the pre and post-development runoff rates set out in my technical note have not been questioned by LLFA.

Pumping

- 3.5 Again, at several points in his statement, Mr Hartung makes reference to '*active pumping*'.
- 3.6 Each restored phase will drain to gravity to the upper mineral lagoon and the final restoration to the restoration lagoon shown on Drawing SWM003.
- 3.7 There are no proposals to pump surface water runoff from restored areas of quarry.

Phasing of drainage

- 3.8 Mr Hartung infers from the lack of drainage details included on the drawings showing the phased access arrangements that no drainage provision is to be made within the restored phase until the final restoration of the quarry.
- 3.9 This is simply incorrect. The draft condition agreed with the Council requires that surface water drainage arrangements for each phase are to be agreed in advance.
- 3.10 The restoration of each phase will include drainage provision and this is to be secured by the Council by condition.

Free access

- 3.11 The access and drainage design for each phase will be developed hand-in-hand.



- 3.12 On this basis access within each phase will not be constrained by the proposed drainage arrangements.
- 3.13 Mr Hartung is correct to assume that if the multi-user path were agreed to cross a swale, then either a short culverted section of swale or a flat bridge over the swale would be required. However, that can easily be achieved while keeping the entire length of the path to the HCC Specification required.
- 3.14 The swales themselves are likely to be dry except during periods of heavy rainfall and with the shallow slide slopes could be crossed on foot. The section of the swale shown on Drawing SWM005 is an indicative detail and the side slopes could be reduced if considered appropriate to further facilitate access as part of the detailed drainage design for each phase.
- 3.15 As I mentioned above, Mr Rawlins statement advises that '*currently the park becomes very wet and muddy following heavy rain*'. With the proposed drainage measures in place, each phase of the restored quarry will be positively drained and would therefore reduce the instances of the park becoming wet and muddy thereby improving access for users.

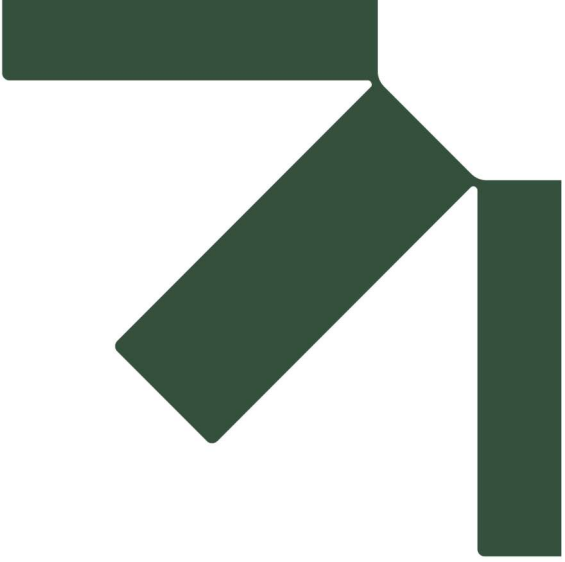


4.0 M.F. Rawlins: Proof of Evidence - Public Access

Drainage provision

- 4.1 As I discuss in response to the similar points raised by Mr Hartung, while the outline Public Access Strategy does not show drainage features, that is not its purpose. The detail of the drainage for each phase has not yet been designed and will be agreed by condition. Drainage of each phase will be implemented incrementally post-working as part of the restoration scheme.
- 4.2 Each phase will be restored to include drainage measures.





Annex A

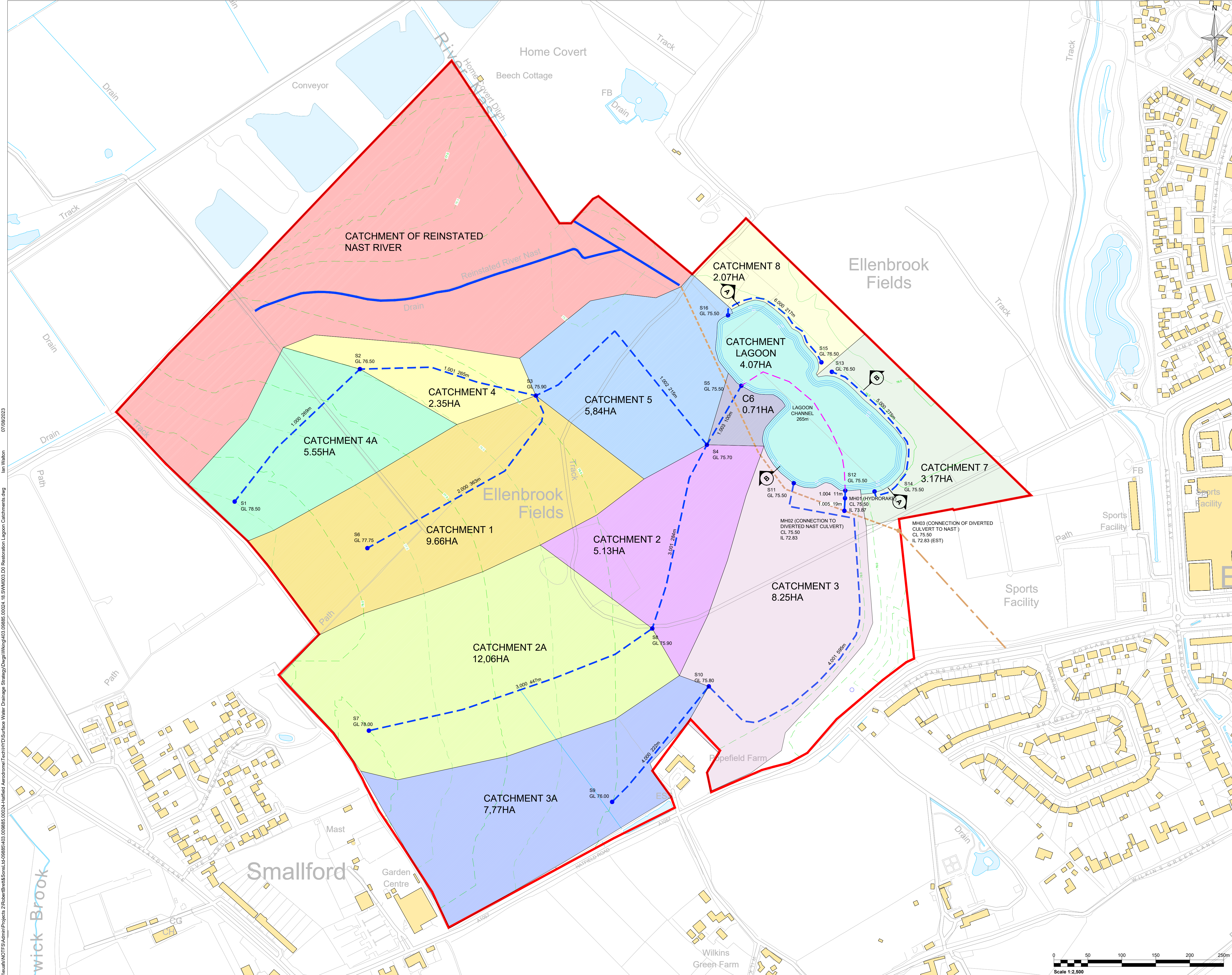
Drawings SWM003 and SWM005

Hatfield Aerodrome

Ian Walton Bsc (Hons) MSc DIC MICE CEng

**Section 78 Appeal against refusal of planning permission by Hertfordshire
County Council. Planning Application Ref. PL/0232/21**

9 April 2026



Notes:

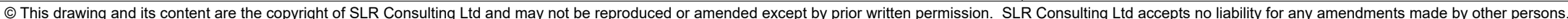
- REFER TO DRAWING SWM004 FOR SECTIONS A-A AND B-B
- REFER TO DRAWING SWM005 FOR DETAILS OF THE OUTFALL, INLETS TO THE LAGOON AND SWALES

Legend:

- SITE BOUNDARY
- RESTORATION LAGOON
- PRINCIPAL SWALES
- MODEL NODES
- PROPOSED NAST CULVERT DIVERSION
- EXISTING NAST CULVERT
- PROPOSED RESTORATION CONTOURS
- FLOWPATH REPRESENTED IN FLOW DRAINAGE MODEL

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
 www.slrconsulting.com					
Drawing Status & Suitability Code					
Client BRETT AGGREGATES LIMITED					
Project HATFIELD AERODROME DRAINAGE STRATEGY (RESTORATION)					
Drawing Title PRINCIPAL DRAINAGE CATCHMENTS					
Scale 1:2500		@ A1		SLR Project No: 403.009885.00024	
Designed AB	Drawn AB	Checked ILW	Authorised		
Date 06/07/23	Date 07/07/23	Date 01/08/23	Date		
Drawing Number SWM003					Rev 0

07/08/2023 Ian Walton



Rev	Amendments		Date	By	Chk	Auth
						
www.slrconsulting.com						
Drawing Status & Suitability Code						
Client BRETT AGGREGATES LIMITED						
Project HATFIELD AERODROME DRAINAGE STRATEGY (RESTORATION)						
Drawing Title DETAILS						
Scale 1:50		@ A1		SLR Project No. 403.009885.00024		
Designed AB	Drawn 07/07/23	Checked ILW	Authorised			
Date 06/07/23	Date 01/08/23	Date 07/08/23	Date			
Drawing Number SWM005						Rev. 0



Making Sustainability Happen

Appendix 2. Phasing and Hydrology

To: Simon Treacy

From: Luke Wilkinson

Company: Robert Brett & Sons Limited

SLR Consulting Limited

cc:

Date: 8 April 2026

Project No. 403.065431.00001

RE: Hatfield Aerodrome Appeal
Rationale for Phasing with respect to Groundwater.

1.0 Introduction

In a previous Technical Memorandum, I explained the rationale and reasons for the location of the infiltration lagoons (The Upper Mineral Lagoon (UML) and Lower Mineral Lagoon (LML)) during the operational life of the Hatfield Quarry as set out in the 2021 planning application. It also showed that the buttress designed to provide hydrogeological separation between the lagoons is suitable to carry the public path proposed in the Public Access Strategy for Ellenbrook Fields Mineral Working Proposal (February 2026). Both lagoons are designed solely for the purpose of infiltrating clean water into the Upper (and when deemed necessary) Lower Mineral aquifers on the downgradient side of the quarry. They are entirely separate from the proposed 'silt lagoons' within the plant site which are associated with the processing of sand and gravel.

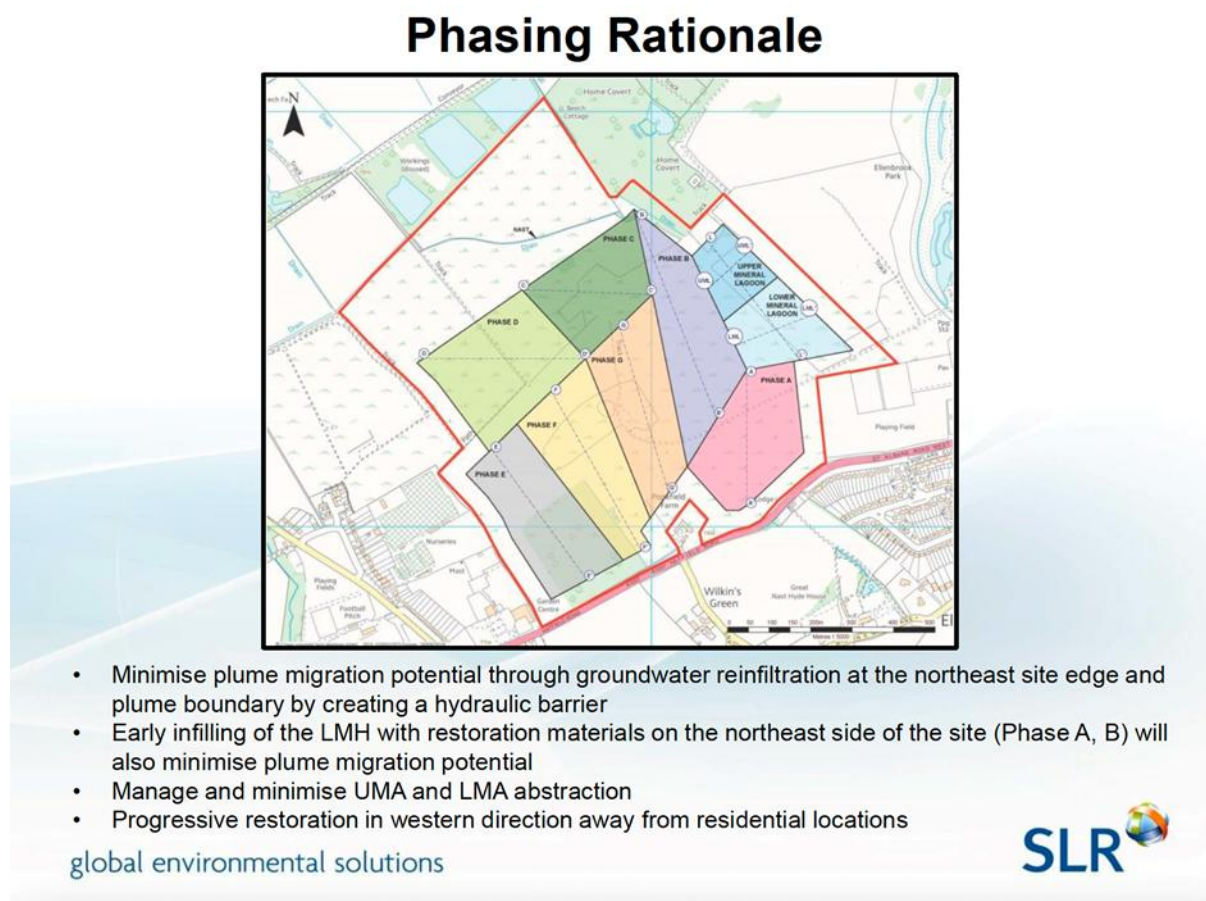
In order to assist the Inquiry, the purpose of this note is to confirm the rationale and reasons for working and restoring Phases A and B first as part of overall plan to work the quarry from east to west.

2.0 Phasing Rationale

The rationale for the location of the lagoons and for working Phases A and B first has been agreed with the Environment Agency since 2015 as part of a comprehensive suite of precautionary actions in a groundwater and water monitoring and management plan.

The agreed location and phasing rationale was presented to the Environment Agency in September 2015 as per Figure 1 (copy of 2015 slide) overleaf. The bullet points included in the sidebar of Figure 1 explain the physical (i.e. hydrogeological), benefits and rationale for the phasing of quarrying and restoration.

Figure 1: Phasing Plan, 2015.



As explained in the Environmental Statement Water Environment Chapter (CD/2.11 Chp06) at paragraph 6.170:

"The lagoons located would be constructed early in the site development and their operation would form a hydraulic barrier with flow being directed towards the east, thereby isolating Phase A and B from the offsite plume

Infilling of the LMH in Phase A and B with low permeability material would form a barrier to flow from the eastern side of the site further reducing a pathway for bromate migration reaching the mineral site,"

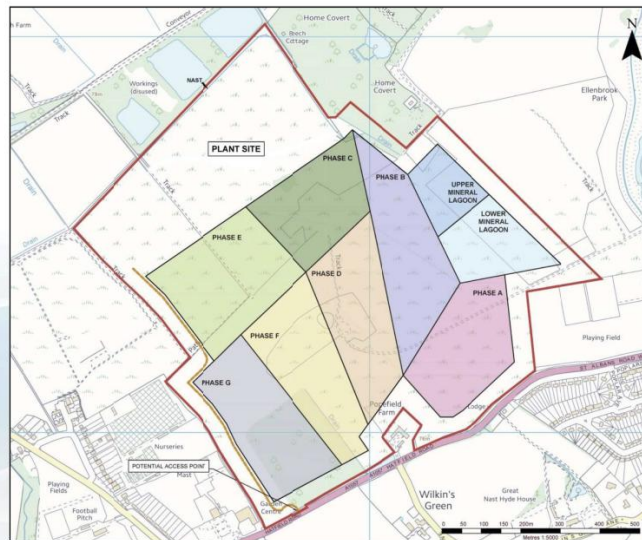
As stated, most recently in my 2024 evidence to the Appeal, the LMH void will be restored with low permeability backfill, as quarrying phases move east to west. The backfilled phases will provide a further degree of separation between bromate in groundwater off-site to the east in the LMA and groundwater within the active mineral excavation. The backfill will not disturb the regional groundwater flow direction and plume, because the quarry represents a minor component of the LMA, outside the bromate plume, and it will not change the current equilibrium because this is controlled by the large regional hydrogeological regime.

The principle of working Phases A and B first before moving westwards to minimise plume migration potential was discussed and agreed with the Environment Agency and with HCC's expert hydrogeologist Jenny Lightfoot as part of the 2021 inquiry, where groundwater was considered in detail. The following figure was included as part of the 2021 inquiry discussions (as per CD/1.3d at p.18/30).



Figure 2: Proposed Phasing Rationale, as submitted as part of the SOCG process at the 2021 Inquiry

Phasing and Lagoon Rationale



- Western side of lagoons (Phase A & B) will be sealed when filled
- Lagoon location will reduce the potential for lateral LMA plume movement by creating a hydraulic barrier
- UMA water can be groundwater to the UML and LMA (subject to testing), if required
- LMA water will only be discharged into the LMA

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Accordingly, the appeal continues to propose commencing work with Phases A and B, as has been agreed for groundwater management purposes over a decade. This is the optimum approach for groundwater management as it creates a hydraulic barrier reducing the potential for plume migration from the outset of the quarrying activity.



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