

COLNEY HEATH GROUP

Statement of Case – Noise Impact on Ellenbrook Fields

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Submitted to the Appeal at the request of the Inspector reference APP/M1900/W/24/3346607, Land at former Hatfield Aerodrome.

Summary

1. The appellant's selection of receptor sites is not sufficient to present a representative measure of background noise and in consequence the impact of the increase in noise due to the proposed development is underestimated
2. The readings from Noise Assessment 10 do not represent the properties to the South of the application site; the first three were taken beside the busy A1057.
3. There are no specific noise readings for Lawrence Close, despite it being the closest residential area to the quarry operation and subject to noise for the entire duration of the quarry. This is a serious omission.
4. Popefield Farm readings should have been taken in the courtyard and gardens not outside on the main road A1057.
5. Our overall conclusion is that the noise levels are such that the Country Park will not be fit for purpose and therefore you cannot integrate a Quarry and a Park together.

Monitoring Points and Data

- a) Popefield Farm
 - b) No.403 St. Albans Road West & The Lodge
 - c) No.616 Hatfield Road
 - d) Pasture View & Radio Nursery
 - e) Walker Grove & Nimrod Drive
 - f) Jove Gardens
6. Locations a, b, c above do not show a true representation of baseline or ambient sound levels in our area. The readings were taken at the kerbside by the main road A1057. Traffic noise fluctuations are “averaged” out and produce a very high LAeq,T reading. The Lodge may be high as the traffic brakes and speeds up because of a traffic camera and bend. No 616 Hatfield Road is situated by the approach to a roundabout and its front door is within a metre of the road.

7. The three points are only measuring the A1057 road noise, not the properties. Therefore when calculating any increase in noise levels the baseline line is not a true representation of the noise levels.
8. Popefield Farm sound levels should have been taken within the courtyard and gardens to represent the daily routine of the residents.
9. Location d covers Pasture View and the “Radio Nursery” which no longer exists
10. Lawrence Close, a new housing estate, has not been included in the assessment, with up to date readings, despite it being the closest residential location to the quarry workings.

Areas affected

11. Popefield Farm

- This is located in the South with access from the A1057. It is surrounded by progressive phases A, B, D and F during the lifetime of the quarry. It may be impacted by three sources of noise from the Plant Site, Extraction, and on-site Transport.
- The garden is quiet, but the roadside is noisy.
- Popefield Farm's noise from the quarry operations is expected to be 55dB(A) during the lifetime of the quarry but the 55dB(A) is based on the measurements taken on the A1057 road rather than the Farm Courtyard.
- Any increase in noise (greater than 10dB(A)) should be based on readings in the Farm Courtyard not on the noise from the traffic on the A1057.
- Even aside from the points above we believe that the increase in noise from multiple sources is likely to exceed the 10dB(A)

12. Jove Gardens

- Jove Gardens is set back from the perimeter fence by 100m of open space and 650m from the plant site. It does not have its own bunds and fencing.
- Jove Gardens is very quiet.

13. Lawrence Close

- Lawrence Close is a new estate and has not been included in the Applicant's Noise Assessment 10 despite it being the nearest residential site to the haul road and plant site.
- Lawrence Close borders directly on the perimeter fence and is only separated from the quarry by a 3m bund and wooden fence.

- The site's haul road is within 65m of Lawrence Close with HGVs-32T and dumper trucks contributing noise. The estate will be subject to noise from the haul road for the entire duration of the quarry.
- The housing developers were aware of a potential quarry and constructed their own bund and fence as a defence against noise from the haul road. However, the location of the plant site is 17 degrees N therefore the bund and fence will have little impact on plant noise.
- Any noise impact will come from the Haul Road, the Plant Site, and later in the development Phase G
- Lawrence Close is very quiet.
- As there are no readings specifically for Lawrence Close, we cannot verify the baseline or ambient, but it could be as low as 33 dB therefore in this case the combined noise sources could add 14dB(A) or 4dB(A) above the guidance value. This combined noise level becomes MAJOR over the lifetime of the quarry

14. Pasture View and Radio Nursery

- Pasture View is 558m to the south of the Cemex plant site and 665m from Brett Plant site.
- Radio Nursery no longer exists and has been replaced with Lawrence Close

15. Ellenbrook Fields

- Ellenbrook Country Park will be impacted by noise from the quarry as access routes run beside the Mineral workings, Haul road, and Plant site.
- The whole park is subject to 49dB(A) of noise as modelled in the EARA PoE. (Shown in yellow).
- Park users will be impacted by excessive noise on the proposed (dotted) routes as detailed on the Public Access Strategy June 2023, when they pass any of the three sources. Half of the walkways will be over the 55dB(A) threshold and assuming a base level of 33dB(A) all will be over the 10dB(A) mineral guidance for noise.
- An extra bund on the southern border of the Plant site, would make no difference to the Park itself but would reduce pathway noise to 45dB(A), providing the path was within 25m of the bund.
- We cannot verify the baseline or ambient, but it could be as low as 33 dB therefore in this case the combined noise sources will add 16dB(A) or 6dB(A) above the guidance value.

Conclusion

16. The appellant's selection of receptor sites is not sufficient to present a representative measure of background noise and in consequence the impact of the increase in noise due to the proposed development is underestimated.

17. The readings from Noise Assessment 10 do not represent the properties to the South of the application site; the first three were taken beside the busy A1057.
18. There are no specific noise readings for Lawrence Close, despite it being the closest residential area to the quarry operation and subject to noise for the entire duration of the quarry. This is a serious omission.
19. Popefield Farm readings should have been taken in the courtyard and gardens not outside on the main road A1057.
20. It is clear that more than one noise source will impact on Popefield Farm, the summation of these sources are not made clear in SLR, Appendix 05: Updated Noise Impact Assessment October 2022, and therefore the noise impact cannot be called "NEGLIGIBLE"
21. For the calculation of predicted noise then the details of the bunds and acoustic fencing and attenuation should be made available.
22. The derived noise figures from Noise 10, Table 10-5 appear to have been transferred to the Noise SoCG incorrectly.
23. Our overall conclusion is that the noise levels are such that the Country Park will not be fit for purpose and therefore you cannot integrate a Quarry and a Park together.