

1. Introduction

- 1.1 I am the county councillor for the Colney Heath and Marshalswick division on Hertfordshire County Council. Most of the quarry site lies within that division. County Councillors Beth Kelly and Paul Zukowskyj are also present and represent neighbouring communities affected by this application.
- 1.2 This statement sets out why I consider that it is not possible to strike a balance between maximising the use of the mineral resource and protecting the amenity of residents and users of the park as required by the Hatfield Aerodrome Supplementary Planning Guidance.

2. Failure of the Public Access Strategy

- 2.1 The Inspector has identified a failure of the Public Access Strategy to achieve convenient cross-park access during the life of the quarry.
- 2.2 I am aware that the appellant and the other parties have been engaged in discussions as to how this might be achieved. Given the constraints imposed by active quarrying on the site, I am unconvinced that this can be done. The appellant has not, to my knowledge, produced any evidence from other sites where they have succeeded in providing convenient access whilst quarrying.
- 2.3 The presence of heavy machinery, HGVs etc. mean that access to the site will have to be limited. The access road, the bunds and other necessary infrastructure will limit the convenience of cross-park access.
- 2.4 It will be like walking along a corridor, with free access to the corridor, but not to the adjoining rooms. Not only will your access be limited, but the bunds and other infrastructure will limit your views and enjoyment.

3. Integration of the restored phases into the unaffected part of Ellenbrook Park

- 3.1 My principal objection relates to the integration of the restored phases into the unaffected part of Ellenbrook Park (EP).
- 3.2 The freshwater lagoons will form a permanent barrier splitting EP into two. I have not seen the statement from the Environment Agency referred to earlier in the day.
- 3.3 The appellant has argued that this is no different to the fence surrounding the area where at some times of the year cattle are grazed (para 2.27 of appellant's statement of case CD 17.21-1). I disagree, wildlife can move relatively freely across that area, the fencing is not a permanent infrastructure and could, relatively easily, be removed. It would also be possible to insert into the fencing access points designed to allow public access when grazing is not occurring. The proposed lake will be a permanent feature, a barrier that cannot be crossed.
- 3.4 The appellant has this morning confirmed that the lagoons cannot be situated elsewhere. Therefore, the integration will be impossible as it is the location of the lagoons, not their overall size which is the issue.
- 3.5 When the site was developed over 25 years ago, this area was set aside as a park for the enjoyment of the residents. The quarry will adversely impact that enjoyment permanently. Whilst quarrying is a temporary activity, the lagoon will

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be a permanent feature designed to meet the requirements of the quarrying not as a feature of the country park.

4. Summary

- 4.1 For the above reasons, I consider the Inspector should conclude that it is not possible to strike a balance between maximising the use of the mineral resource and protecting the amenity of residents and users of the park.
- 4.2 Future generations may benefit, but the cost to current generations is unacceptable. I assert that the reason there are no other schemes to quarry this site is because the site is not appropriate for a quarry.
- 4.3 Therefore, given the other concerns raised previously in the inquiry, I ask that in his amended report the Inspector recommends in the strongest possible terms, refusal of this application to the Secretary of State. If, the appeal is successful, then I trust the concerns of residents are recognised, and robust, enforceable conditions are imposed to minimise the harm to the site and the surrounding area.

John Hale

21 April 2026