

# **REOPENED PUBLIC INQUIRY**

**21 April 2026**

**APPEAL REF: APP/M1900/W/24/3346607**

**by Brett Aggregates Ltd**

**Proposed establishment of a new quarry,  
on land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome**

## **Inspector's Pre Inquiry Note**

1, On 11 November 2026, the Secretary of State (SoS) wrote to the Planning Inspectorate asking that the above Inquiry be reopened, to consider further, certain aspects of the public access strategy and the phasing plans.

2. I held an Inquiry in November 2024 into all of the issues affecting this appeal and I wrote and submitted a report to the SoS that summarises all of the evidence presented to me at that time. The Secretary of State will make a final decision on the appeal in due course but before that and prompted by evidence in my report, he has asked that I reopen the Inquiry to seek further evidence specifically on

*a) the potential for changes or redesign or any other provisions, to lead to improved public access to Ellenbrook Park, including the unaffected eastern part of the park*

In this context the SoS specifically refers to convenient cross-park public access during the life of the quarry that is envisaged by the 2000 Agreement and Minerals Local Plan Policy 18(X), particularly the two paths that currently link Sleepshyde with Salisbury village

and

the integration of the restored phases into the unaffected part of Ellenbrook Park in a timely manner, with particular reference

to the lagoons located close to the appeal site's eastern boundary.

*b) implications arising from any changes or provisions identified above, including any implications for the submitted Environmental Statement and signed Deed of Variation.*

*c) the proposed amended and additional conditions.*

2. I need to stress that this is a reopened Inquiry specifically at the request of the SoS to provide additional information concerning public access but only in the context of the letter that he wrote on 11 November 2025. Some of the written evidence submitted in response to the Appellant's proposals, for revised public access and phasing, addresses issues that have not been raised by the SoS in his letter.

3. Not only is this Inquiry not an opportunity to revisit any of the numerous other matters that were discussed last time, it is also not an opportunity to discuss access matters that do not relate to east-west cross park movement or the integration of the restored areas with the unaffected parts of the park to the east of the appeal site. If the SoS wanted additional information on any of these matters before he makes his decision, then he would have asked for it, but he has not. My role now is only to report what is said in evidence to this Inquiry that is relevant to the specific questions posed by the SoS. The only exceptions will relate to matters such as policy or other circumstances where there has been an obvious and fundamental change since I wrote my report.

4. Please, in presenting further evidence to the reopened Inquiry, do not stray from the above parameters. If you do, I will not report what you say and in order to avoid wasting time (this Inquiry's duration has only a short timescale programmed) I will ask you to refrain from addressing whatever inappropriate matter you are referring to and if necessary, end your presentation. In the context of the time constraints, it will not

be helpful to dwell on matters about which the SoS has not requested additional information.

## Main Issues

6. As set out in the Case Management Conference Note, I consider the Main Issues before us at this Inquiry to be

- Whether the identified concerns relating to cross-park public access and integration with the unaffected eastern part of EP, are satisfactorily improved through the revised public access strategy and phasing drawings.
- The extent (if any) to which this would need to involve changes to the existing conditions and the introduction of new conditions.
- The extent (if any) to which this would need to involve changes to the Environmental Statement or the Deed of Variation.

7. An agenda, which will act as a guide for the Inquiry proceedings is attached. I would request that when giving evidence, all Inquiry participants concentrate on addressing the above issues and refrain from introducing matters that are outside of the limited scope set out in the SoS's letter.

Melvyn Middleton  
INSPECTOR  
17 April 2026