

Objections to Quarry Development

As a resident of Ellenbrook, I frequently walk in Ellenbrook Fields for my physical and mental well being.

My objections to the development of a quarry here are as follows:

- The main issue is that the proposed lagoons block the attractive, open and uninhibited access routes across the park from Ellenbrook to Smallford.
- Historic concrete runway belonging to ex-De Havilland aircraft factory: apart from the historical significance of this former taxiway, it is a perfect surface for bicycles as well as wheelchair / mobility scooters and those with disabilities who are unable to walk easily on uneven ground.
- I feel safe walking there alone because there is currently wide and clear visibility around me. This would change when the proposed narrower gravel / grass paths, or main roads, replace most of the runway leaving only a proposed 40% concrete remaining.
- The proposal is for a narrow grass pathway (approx. 3m) between two lagoons. Grass paths are generally unusable in the winter months or following heavy rainfall. This could result in long diversions around the lagoons. The proposed path between the two lagoons does not achieve cross park access.
- Routes across Ellenbrook Fields are required to be 'attractive and unfettered', which was described at the first inquiry by the Inspector. This would not be the case with paths weaving between quarry workings, fences and mounds of earth of approx. 3-5 metres high. This would erode any attractive visual amenity.
- Footpaths will be close to quarry workings, with crossings to navigate, noisy lorries and trucks going about their work back and forth to the plant site. Children and dogs can no longer roam free around the park.
- Wildlife will be destroyed as the site becomes a working quarry.