

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Joanna Vincent](#)
Subject: Hatfield Aerodrome Planning Appeal – 2026 Reconvened Inquiry
Date: 14 March 2026 16:23:49

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

From: Mrs Fiona Smith. [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Vincent

As a nearby Hatfield resident, I wish formally to register my objection to the proposal for Brett Aggregates to establish a gravel quarry on the former Hatfield Aerodrome site.

In their most recent plan Brett Aggregates proposed accommodating public access across the site by establishing additional footpaths around and between their proposed lagoons, in addition to the existing routes to the north and south of their proposed workings. This was in response to the results of the first enquiry, whereby the Inspector required that access across the park should be both "attractive and unfettered."

My objections are for the following reasons:

- Routes between and around any quarry workings, including deep lagoons and bunds which may be 3m-4m high would be bordered by high fences, and would be neither attractive, nor unfettered.
- The proposals include major disruption to one of the most popular routes across the park which is formed by the old aerodrome concrete taxi-way. This is a surface which is regularly used by bicycles, people in wheelchairs and those pushing prams or buggies. Disruption to this route would prevent these groups access across the park.
- The proposed alternative routes across the park are much more narrow, on mud, grass or gravel, and are likely to be unusable by all in winter months.
- Routes very close to quarry workings would not only be unsightly, but likely to be heavily polluted, especially in dry months due to dust and poor air quality.
- Routes close to quarry workings would be noisy.

In addition to the problems detailed above, connected to the proposed routes across the park, I object to the proposals to establish the quarry for the following general reasons:

- A brief glance at Google Maps provides evidence that this area already has been subjected to substantial environmental despoliation caused by current industrial working sites and unrestored quarries. Just a short distance away from the proposed site is a former quarry that has not been restored after 65 years, is permanently fenced off with barbed wire, is unsightly with bright ochre coloured water, and very dangerous with both deep water and quicksand.
- The land between the Notcutts Garden centre and Ellenbrook is an important area for wildlife, providing rare bio-diverse 'scrubland' for the region. I am by no means expert, but I have heard cuckoos, and seen goldfinches, jays, barn owls, treecreepers, kestrels, and red kites, as well as muntjacs, and a good selection of moths and butterflies. The proposed quarry would mean the loss of this habitat for all these species.
- It was particularly evident at the time of the Covid19 lockdown how much this whole area was used by a very big sector of the community for recreational purposes; this land helps maintain the health and well-being of many local residents. The proposals would mean that the natural space would be seriously reduced and what would be left would be unfit for purpose.
- The A1057 which runs along the southern boundary of the proposed site is a main arterial route between the A1 and the centre of St Albans. It accommodates a large number of bus routes, passes Herts University, Oaklands College, two day Nurseries, as well as two trading estates. This road is the proposed route for gravel to be transported away from the site. The proposal would put intolerable strain on an already very heavily trafficked road, with additional HGVs plying up and down the road and requiring access in and out of the site.

Yours sincerely,
Fiona Smith

