



**Hertfordshire &
North Middlesex**

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12 March 2026

Dear Sir,

The Ramblers position on the proposed Ellenbrook Fields quarry is unchanged. We deplore the potential loss of open countryside and public access. But we recognise that this site is included in the county minerals plan and have therefore worked to ensure that if quarrying is permitted there will be the maximum public access to the unquarried and restored areas. We have been particularly concerned to ensure that there is good east-west access between the housing developments in St Albans and the unquarried areas near Hatfield.

We thank you for your efforts to ensure that public access meets the requirements of the Hatfield Aerodrome Supplementary Planning Guidance and your emphasis on the key east-west routes.

We acknowledge that the revised Access Strategy contains improvements but as other objectors have shown there are significant remaining deficiencies which you will no doubt weigh in the balance.

However if you should conclude that the revised proposals can form the basis of an acceptable way forward we ask you to ensure that:

- 1) The revised phasing (Option2) is mandated as this keeps larger areas available for access at any time.
- 2) There is a requirement that the piecemeal quarrying and restoration within each phase is mandatory.
- 3) There is a requirement that no area is closed off before it is needed to be worked on and all restored areas will be reopened for public access as soon as it is safe to do so.
- 4) The three main east west routes will always be constructed with widths at least as good as HCC requirements for multi-user routes and they will always be surfaced in a way which makes them suitable for all year all weather use by pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.
- 5) HCC as planning authority are required to oversee these routes to the same standards as they would if they were recorded as public rights of way.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Escritt

Ramblers Footpaths Secretary for the St Albans District