



**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
DECISION NOTICE**

Application No: PL\0232/21 (CM0961)

Description & location of development:

Proposed application for the establishment of a new quarry on land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome, including new access onto the A1057, aggregate processing plant and other ancillary facilities, together with the importation of inert fill material to restore the mineral workings.

AT: Land at Hatfield Aerodrome, Off Hatfield Road

**To: Simon Treacy
Brett Aggregates Limited
Robert Brett House
Ashford Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT4 7PP**

In pursuance of its powers under the above Act and the Orders and Regulations for the time being in force thereunder, the Council hereby REFUSES planning permission for the development proposed in your planning application dated 3rd September 2021 for the EIGHT reasons detailed in the attached schedule.

Dated: 12th January 2024

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Treacy", written over a horizontal line.

TEAM LEADER, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Appeals to the Secretary of State

If you are aggrieved by the decision of the County Planning Authority to refuse permission for the proposed development or to grant it subject to conditions, then you can appeal to the Secretary of State under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

If you want to appeal, then you must do so within six months of the date of this Notice.

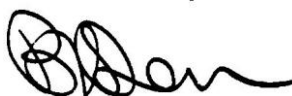
Appeals must be made using a form which you get from the Secretary of State at Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN (Tel: 0303 444 5000) or online at <https://www.gov.uk/planning-inspectorate>

The Secretary of State may allow a longer period for submitting an appeal, although will not normally be prepared to use this power unless there are special circumstances.

The Secretary of State need not consider an appeal if it seems to him that the local planning authority could not have granted planning permission for the proposed development or could not have granted it without the conditions they imposed, having regard to the statutory requirements, to the provisions of any development order and to any directions given under a development order.

If you intend to submit an appeal that you would like examined by inquiry then you must notify the Local Planning Authority and Planning Inspectorate (inquiryappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) at least 10 days before submitting the appeal. [Further details are on GOV.UK.](#)

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Green Belt

1. The proposal represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt and would not protect the countryside from encroachment. The scale and extent of the processing plant and stockpile areas, and the long term siting of the screen and perimeter bunds would not preserve the openness of the Green Belt. There are no very special circumstances to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness and any other harm. The proposal is thereby contrary to the NPPF (paragraphs 139, 140, 147, 148)

Heritage

2. The proposals do not adequately consider the setting of the heritage asset, Popefield farmhouse and barns (Grade II listed), by reason of the proximity of mineral workings and the long term siting of perimeter bunds during mineral extraction and restoration. The proposal is thereby contrary to Minerals Policy 18 (ii) (Operational Criteria for the Control of Mineral Development) of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 Adopted March 2007 and the NPPF (paragraphs 194, 195, 199).

Residential Amenity

3. The proposal does not provide an adequate buffer distance and landscape planting to protect the residential amenities of the occupiers of Popefield Farm. The proposal is thereby contrary to the requirements of Minerals Policy Minerals 18 (vii) (Operational Criteria for the Control of Mineral Development) and the site specific considerations for Preferred Area 1 of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 Adopted March 2007.

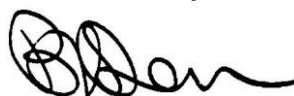
Landscape Character and visual amenity

4. The proposals by reason of their size and scale, the extent and long term siting of screening and perimeter bunds, and the extensive removal of roadside vegetation to create visibility splays for the new access (A1057) would be harmful to landscape character and the visual amenities of the area. The proposal would thereby be contrary to the provisions of Minerals Policy 18 (vii) (Operational Criteria for the Control of Mineral Development) of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 Adopted March 2007 and the NPPF (paragraphs 175, 211 (f)).

5. Biodiversity

The proposal would not sufficiently minimise the impacts of the development or provide for adequate net gain within an appropriate timescale contrary to National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 174d. Further the development would result in significant harm and is

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not adequately mitigated contrary to paragraph 180 a). The proposal would be likely to result in loss of or damage to habitats or species contrary to policy 9 of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 Adopted March 2007.

Public Access

6. The proposals for public access to Ellenbrook Fields, contained within the Public Access Strategy (July 2023) do not demonstrate that users of the Park would be adequately protected over the duration of mineral workings, including vehicle movements associated with the transport of minerals for processing. The proposal would result in the loss of public access over a substantial period of time to Ellenbrook Fields due to areas being excluded for mineral working and associated activities and the amenity of users of areas with public access would be adversely affected. The proposal is thereby contrary to Minerals Policy 18 (x) (Operational Criteria for the Control of Mineral Development) of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan 2007 and the NPPF (paragraph 145).

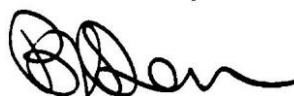
Cumulative and vehicle access

7. The additional HGV movements associated with the proposed development would have an adverse impact on the character and amenity of the local area. The proposed access does not adequately mitigate the impact of the development on the highway network given the number of proposed HGVs movements into the site, the siting of the access and amount of traffic along the A1057. The proposal does not adequately provide for safety of vulnerable road users, including cyclists and pedestrians. The proposed development would be contrary to the provisions of Policy 5 (d)(f)(g) of Hertfordshire LTP4 and Policy 16 (Transport) of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan 2007 and Policy SADM2 of the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Local Plan 2016-2036.

Groundwater

8. The proposals do not demonstrate that the existing hydrogeological flow regime would not be adversely affected during mineral workings, and that the risks to groundwater from disturbance of the bromate plume can be adequately managed and mitigated. The proposal is thereby contrary to Minerals Policy 17 (iv) (Criteria For The Control of Mineral Development to Protect Critical Capital and Other Environmental Assets) and the site specific considerations for Preferred Area 1 of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan 2007 and the NPPF (paragraph 174 (e)).

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