

BENGEO QUARRY DOUBLE WHAMMY

WE NEED YOUR HELP

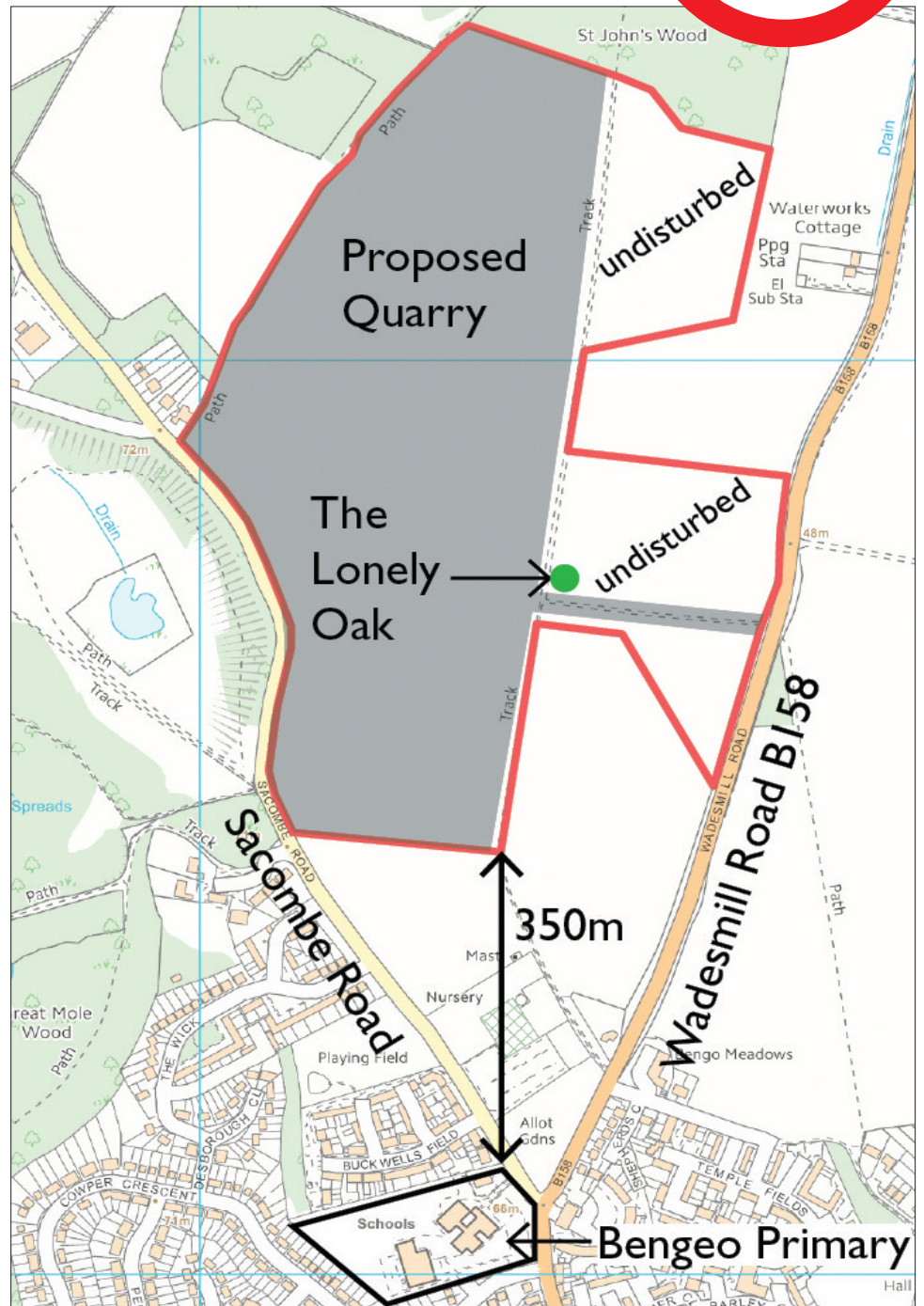
**STOP
BENGEO
QUARRY**

WHY ARE THERE TWO SEPARATE BENGEO QUARRY PROPOSALS?

The developers of the proposed quarry on Bengeo Field have dealt our community a double whammy by submitting a **new application for quarrying** and at the same time **appealing against the Herts County Council's rejection of the earlier application**. This means that we now have to object to both proposals (old and new) to different bodies (the Planning Inspectorate and Herts County Council). It is confusing and hopefully this leaflet will help.

The new application contemptuously ignores nearly all of the objections raised against the quarry by residents. The only real difference is now the quarry lies completely within the "preferred area" of the current Minerals Local Plan. The previous plan anticipated the extraction of 1.75 million tonnes, whereas the new one anticipates extraction of 1.25 million tonnes. We are still faced with the prospect of a **large quarry on our doorsteps with all the associated noise, traffic, dust and damage to the environment**.

We are up against very determined developers who will stop at nothing to get their plans through. Local opposition has been key to stopping RJD Ltd and Gowling WLG Trust Corporation from this unacceptable quarry on Hertford's green belt. Now we need your support more than ever. If you agree with us, it is vital that you join our fight - NOW. >>>



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please respond separately to both the new application and the appeal. Everyone can send their views - it does not matter if you have objected before, or if you live outside of Hertford (it may be useful to identify any connections to the area such as family, friends, future residents of Hertford, etc). Your letters do not need to be long but need to express your overall objection.

THE NEW APPLICATION

How to object:

Send your comments and objections to Herts County Council by **2nd November** quoting ref: **PL\0870\17**.

Email: spatialplanning@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Post: Ms Felicity Hart, HCC Planning Officer, Spatial Planning & Economy Unit CHN216, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DN

The applicant submitted the new application to Herts County Council, who are now seeking public views on the proposal. Application documents are available on HCC website and Stop Bengoe Quarry websites <https://cloud1.atrriumsoft.com/HCCePlanningOPS/tabPage3.jsp?apllid=26410>.

KEY AMENDMENTS TO DEVELOPER'S NEW APPLICATION:

- Reduced amount of aggregate from 1.75 million tonnes to 1.25 million tonnes
- Reduced area of the gravel excavation (3 phases), but the entrance remains from the B158
- Reduced proposed time period from 7-10 years to 5-8 years (later extension can be requested)
- In operation from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 7am to 1pm on Saturdays, receiving minimum of 80 lorries per day, which equates to minimum 480 lorries per week with 1 to/from the site every 7.6 minutes on average
- No stock-pile area but mobile dry-screening at the point of extraction instead.
- The plant operation adjacent to the footpath rather than next to the road, as previously suggested.

Rather confusingly the applicants have used a lot of documents from the previous application and slightly updated them. However, this application is treated as **brand new**, and we need to object **in full**, even though **many of our objections are the same as previously:**

- Impact on landscape and amenity
- Dust, noise, and health concerns
- Highway and traffic concerns
- Impact on ecology and wildlife
- Threat to our water supply
- Proximity to houses and Bengoe Primary School
- No need for further gravel in Hertfordshire

ADDITIONAL POINTS YOU MAY WANT TO RAISE:

- The new draft Minerals Local Plan - already approved by the HCC Environment Panel - recommends that Bengoe Field should NOT be a "preferred area" for quarrying. It is expected to be approved in 2018.
- Although proposed phases 1-3 appear within the current/old preferred area, it was intended to be an extension of Rickney's quarry, and therefore NOT accessed directly from the B158.
- Has the noise impact of the newly proposed mobile dry-screening at the point of extraction been assessed?
- The byway has been registered by East Herts District Council as an Asset of Community Value.
- The use of Bengoe Field as a local amenity for families, ramblers and visitors has steadily increased.
- The emerging Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan proposes that the Bengoe Field should be considered as the green space amenity for the local community.

THE APPEAL

How to object:

Send your comments and objections to the Planning Inspectorate by **7th November** quoting ref: **AP/M1900/W/17/3178839**.

Email: holly.dutton@pins.gsi.gov.uk

On-line: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Post (3 copies if possible, but 1 copy is acceptable): Ms Holly Dutton, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 30, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN

In March 2017 the Herts County Council's Development Control Committee decided to unanimously refuse the earlier application to quarry in Bengoe Field. The applicants have now appealed against HCC and their decision to the Secretary of State. This appeal will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate and a Public Inquiry will be held in County Hall – possibly in February 2018.

The Planning Inspectorate is now seeking public views. Any previous objections sent against the previous application will be shared by HCC with Planning Inspectorate. However, we need to reinforce our opposition to the Bengoe quarry, endorse the HCC's reasons for refusal, and offer additional comments.

HCC REFUSED THE PREVIOUS APPLICATION UNANIMOUSLY ON THESE GROUNDS:

- Harm to the Green Belt
- Detrimental impact on landscape
- Detrimental impact on air quality
- Detrimental effect on rights of way and their users
- Working outside the Minerals Preferred Area (phase 4 and stockpiling and site area adjoining Sacombe Rd, the Wick, and The Orchard)
- Lack of noise assessment
- The informative note added: HCC's Development Control Committee has raised serious concerns regarding the potential for Hertford's water supply to be contaminated as a result of this development due to the proximity of boreholes to the site.

ADDITIONAL POINTS YOU MAY WANT TO RAISE (SEE DETAILS ON THE LEFT):

- Emerging Minerals Local Plan
- The byway registered as an Asset of Community Value
- The emerging Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan

We would also like to encourage you to consider advising the Planning Inspectorate that you would like to present your views during the Public Enquiry. The community speakers will NOT be cross examined and Stop Bengoe Quarry speakers may represent residents if this is agreed with the Planning Inspectorate.



The developer is counting on residents being "battle weary" and any signs of weakness on our part will be used against us. This is why now, more than ever, it is important that we stick together and fight these dreadful proposals. For updates and more information, please visit our Facebook page or our website <http://stopbengeoquarry.org.uk/news> and scroll down for all updates.

You can donate and support the Stop Bengoe Quarry campaign (to pay for professional and legal advice for the campaign).

- NatWest bank account: Stop Bengoe Quarry Group, sort code 60-10-39, account number 14189135
- www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stopbengeoquarry (5% charge applies)

info@stopbengeoquarry.org.uk • www.stopbengeoquarry.org.uk