

**Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside**

Ms Felicity J Hart  
Spatial Planning and Economy Unit  
Hertfordshire County Council  
CHN216, County Hall,  
Hertford, Herts.  
SG13 8DN

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

17 November 2017 (by email)

Dear Ms Hart,

**Application PL\0870\17 for the phased extraction of 1.25 million tonnes of sand and gravel, mobile dry screening plant, weighbridge, wheel cleaning facilities, ancillary site offices, construction of a new access onto Wadesmill Road with phased restoration to landscaped farmland at a lower level: Land at Ware Park, Wadesmill Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire.**

CPRE Hertfordshire notes that the latest planning application for this site no longer proposes to use the eastern part of the site for mineral extraction or processing, but that the site would still create a new mineral working operation requiring a new access from Wadesmill Road, not an extension to the Rickneys site as set out in the adopted Minerals Local Plan. Consequently we still have a number of concerns about the proposals and our previous letters are still relevant, and we ask that you report them to your Committee in due course.

Uncertainty also remains about the relationship with the adjacent land to the south. Although the East Herts District Plan is currently at the Examination stage, there has been no final decision on the proposal to build housing to the south of the site, which is also strongly contested by many objectors.

Furthermore, although the site is part of the allocation in the Adopted Minerals Plan it would still not be implemented as required by that Plan, and the new consultation draft Minerals Plan does not include the site as a 'specific' site or 'preferred area'. In our view the future of this land for mineral working should therefore be determined through the Minerals Local Plan process rather than this planning application, which we consider should be refused on the grounds of prematurity in addition to concerns about the local impact of the proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Baker  
Planning Manager