

Your Ref:
Our Ref: ASH/KJS/CAG0531

Mr Jonathan G. King, Inspector
32 Pennyford Close
Brockhill
Redditch
Worcestershire
B97 6TW

13 May 2013

Dear Mr King

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan Core Strategy

We write on behalf of Communities Against Gravel Extraction (CAGE). We are of course aware of your published exchange of correspondence with Oxfordshire County Council, and the reasons why the proposed EIP has been suspended until 31st May 2013.

The delays and difficulties which have led to the present unsatisfactory suspension is a matter of concern to CAGE. We and our clients are keen to draw the matter to a conclusion, one way or the other, and to have an opportunity of addressing the detailed concerns at an EIP. CAGE has had to rely on substantial local fund raising in order to represent and record views which are widely supported by the local communities. It appears that there is a risk that OCC's apparent failure to comply with the NPPF requirements may mean further deferral of the EIP. This is not an outcome which is desired or welcomed by CAGE. Nor we suggest, is it fair to all those who have already contributed to CAGE fund raising.

We have taken advice from our Counsel as to the steps which could be taken to promote and encourage resolution at an early EIP. We now enclose a copy of such Opinion for your consideration.

Since submission of the CAGE Representations in July 2012, there have been important local developments which also have a significant bearing on the unsuitability of the Cholsey sites. These include;

- (A) the further promotion of nearby sites B (Slade End) and E (Winterbrook) for extensive housing developments which are likely to precede or overlap the proposed start date for gravel extraction.

- (B) the increasing likelihood of a Morrisons Superstore being located at Hithercroft Wallingford, with significant impact on traffic use of the Wallingford bypass, which adjoins the sites.
- (C) ongoing archaeological investigations into the area of the proposed sites, which suggest that there is greater historical importance than was previously understood.

We would wish to introduce further evidence about these issues at an EIP.

This letter and Opinion are being copied to Mr Kenneford at OCC, and to Helen Wilson, and we shall be grateful for any comments you may have.

Yours sincerely

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Please reply to the Wallingford office