Notification of Planning Application received by Hertfordshire County Council

The following information comprises a summary of a planning application received by Hertfordshire County Council. This summary is wholly based on information submitted by the applicant. In no way does it express a view of the County Council. The purpose of the summary is to provide you with some of the information that has been submitted, to help you decide whether you wish to inspect the application in full at your District Council Office or at County Hall, Hertford, in order to make representations on it.

APPLICATION FOR THE PHASED EXTRACTION OF 2.6 MILLION TONNES OF SAND AND GRAVEL, A MOBILE DRY SCREENING PLANT, STOCKPILE AREA, WEIGHBRIDGE, WHEEL CLEANING FACILITIES, ANCILLARY SITE OFFICES, TOGETHER WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACCESS ONTO WADESMILL ROAD AND PHASED RESTORATION TO LANDSCAPED FARMLAND AT A LOWER LEVEL ON LAND AT WARE PARK, WADESMILL ROAD, HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORD, GRID REF: 532500, 215000

This planning application seeks permission for the phased extraction of sand and gravel from an area of land sited between Sacombe Road and Wadesmill Road to the north of Bengeo. Planning permission is also sought for the siting of a mobile dry screening plant, stockpile area, weighbridge, wheel cleaning facilities, ancillary site offices, and construction of a new access onto Wadesmill Road. After extraction it is proposed that the land would be restored on a phased basis back to landscaped farmland at a lower level.

The application site covers an area of approximately 36.1ha and lies just to the north of Hertford and Bengeo. The site is adjacent to Rickneys Quarry sited to the north, which is inactive. The site is currently in arable use and there are two rights of way contained within the area.

The proposal would involve the extraction, dry screening and transportation of some 2,600,000 tonnes of sand and gravel over a period of 14/15 years. This assumes an annual output of 200,000-250,000 tonnes per annum, depending upon market demand. The development is proposed to be carried out as four consecutive phases starting in the south and completing in the north. Excavated materials would either be loaded directly to vehicles or taken to the stockpiling area to the east of the site. The site is intended to be restored in phases to a lower level without the importation of any further material. Other ancillary development proposed includes a weighbridge, wheel cleaning facilities, site offices and a new access onto Wadesmill Road.

The proposed hours of operation would be 0700 – 1800 hours Monday to Friday, 0700 – 1300 hours on Saturdays with no operations proposed on Sundays or Public / Bank Holidays. Likely lorry movements are estimated at 100 per day on average (50 in, 50 out) with the intention that all vehicles would travel north on Wadesmill Road and on to the A602, then A10. It is proposed that no vehicles would travel south through Bengeo.

This application proposes development in the Metropolitan Green Belt. The site is identified in the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 as Preferred Area 2 for mineral working.

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment. All application documents including the Environmental Statement are available to view on-line at hertsdirect.org. The agent will charge for full copies of the Environmental Statement Vol. 1 at a rate of £150 and Environmental Statement Vol. 2 at a rate of £250 for a paper copy, or a full electronic copy on CD can be obtained free of charge. The Non-Technical Summary may also be obtained free of charge on request from the agent at the address below.

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A copy of the application can be inspected during normal office hours (9 am to 5 pm) at: East Herts District Council, Planning Department, ☎ 01279 655261 (It is advisable to contact them in advance, as opening hours may vary) or: Environment Department, County Hall, Hertford ☎ 01992 556252, or via email to spatial.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk. The case officer dealing with this application is: Felicity Hart ☎ 01992 556256