

SWALLOWFIELD GRAVEL PIT: HOW TO OBJECT



The **ONLY** way to officially object against the gravel pit is to respond to the consultation.

You must do this by **March 23rd**. There are three ways in which you can respond:

1. Complete the online response form, 2. by email, 3. by post.

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Option 1: Complete the online response form at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult>

The form is relatively complicated. It is 7 pages long, and the most important pages are 4 and 5. The below screenshots give some guidance.

A. Half way down the page is the link to the online form

(The direct link is <https://etehamphshirecc.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=158097895516>)

How to respond

You can respond to this consultation by completing an online response form: [Online Response Form](#) or by downloading the [Paper Response Form PDF](#) and returning it to us via email or post.

B. On page 4, you should select “Section two(a)”

Section two(a) - Site proposal: on the land west of Basingstoke Road

Central and Eastern Berkshire
Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation:
Sand & Gravel Provision and Operator Performance

I wish to respond to all sections of the consultation

Section one - Sand & Gravel Area of Search

Section two(a) - Site proposal: Land west of Basingstoke Road

Section three - Pit Operator Performance Policy

Section four - Further comments

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C. On page 5, you should select the following options;

“Objection”, “Not meeting the Test of Soundness”, “The test of consistency with national policy”, and then add your reasons for objections in the text box

Central and Eastern Berkshire
Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation:
Sand & Gravel Provision and Operator Performance

Section two(a): Site Proposal: Land west of Basingstoke Road

This proposal is described on page 14 of the Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation: Sand & Gravel Provision and Operator Performance which can be seen here www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult

Into which of the following categories does your representation fall regarding the proposed allocation of Land west of Basingstoke Road?

Support

No view either way

Objection

An objection must relate either to the Local Plan not complying with legal requirements, or it not being sound in relation of at least one of the Tests of Soundness. If you are objecting, under which criteria is this objection? Please select all that apply. For definitions of planning terminology used below, please refer to the Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation: Sand & Gravel Provision and Operator Performance FAQs at www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult

Not complying with legal requirements / the duty to co-operate

The positively prepared test

The test of consistency with national policy

The effectiveness test

If you are objecting to this proposal on the grounds that it does not meet the Test of Soundness, please include below your comments on how the proposal does not meet the Test of Soundness.

5000 characters remaining

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Into which of the following categories does your representation fall regarding the proposed allocation of Land west of Basingstoke Road?

- Support
- No view either way
- Objection

An objection must relate either to the Local Plan not complying with legal requirements, or it not being sound in relation of at least one of the Tests of Soundness. If you are objecting, under which criteria is this objection? Please select all that apply. For definitions of planning terminology used below, please refer to the Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation: Sand & Gravel Provision and Operator Performance FAQs at www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult

- Not complying with legal requirements / the duty to co-operate
- Not meeting the Test of Soundness

If you are objecting to this proposal on the grounds that it does not meet the Test of Soundness, What Test(s) of Soundness do you consider that it fails? Please select all that apply

- The positively prepared test
- The justification test
- The test of consistency with national policy
- The effectiveness test

If you are objecting to this proposal on the grounds that it does not meet the Test of Soundness, please include below your comments on how the proposal does not meet the Test of Soundness:

Add your reasons for objection here

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Option 2: Email your objection to berks.consult@hants.gov.uk

State that you are objecting to the “Site proposal: on the land west of Basingstoke Road” (CEB29). Include your name and address along with your reasons for your objection.

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Option 3: Post your objection to:

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan
c/o Hampshire Services
Strategic Planning
Hampshire County Council
First Floor Elizabeth II Court West
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UD

State that you are objecting to the “Site proposal on the land west of Basingstoke Road” (CEB29). Include your name and address along with your reasons for your objection. You could print off and complete the “Paper Objection Form” on the consultation website.

DON'T DELAY, OBJECT TODAY!

Some suggested reasons for objection are listed overleaf



SWALLOWFIELD GRAVEL PIT: REASONS TO OBJECT



There are many reasons to object to the proposed plans. It is important you choose the reasons that matter to you and put them in your own words in your response. Some of the most important reasons to object are listed below for your information.

Air Quality: There is an increase in suspended particulate matter near sand and gravel extraction sites, and dust from a quarry can cause visible dust plumes and dust soiling. Particles up to 10 micrometres in diameter are fine enough to be breathed in and can cause detrimental health effects. Larger particles can cause soiling and staining damage when they deposit onto property and trees. Intermediate-sized particles may travel up to 400m. Lambs Lane Primary school is only 370m away, with Wise Owls Nursery 550m, Warren's Croft Play Area 600m and Swallowfield pre-school 750m.

Noise: Quarries cause an increase in noise pollution. Guidance says that total noise from operations should not exceed 55dB, with occasional temporary levels of 70dB. (29dB is the average background noise for UK countryside). The World Health Organisation defines 55dB as the level that can cause health issues for a community.

Traffic: This proposal would increase traffic congestion from HGVs on Basingstoke Road and at Junction 11 of the M4. Access to the site is proposed via the B3349 Basingstoke Road, which is a narrow, twisting country road on a hill with central double white lines and a single narrow pavement. It would be almost impossible for a large vehicle to join the B3349 heading towards the M4 without crossing these white lines into the busy oncoming traffic.

Villages: This belt of green farmland provides a distinction between the settlements. Further urbanisation would lead to the creation of a single large conurbation covering Three Mile Cross, Spencers Wood, Shinfield, Swallowfield and Riseley. This must be avoided, and the individual character of the villages retained. Bordering the site is a well-used public footpath.

Flooding: The proposed site is prone to flooding, with the southern edge of the site classified as flood zone 2 and 3a. By adding the inevitable hardscaping and roadways that will come with a quarry it would reduce the area able to absorb this additional water and increase the likelihood of flooding elsewhere along the River Loddon, including in built up areas. It would also result in unknown changes to the natural drainage system.

Ecology: The River Loddon Site of Special Scientific Interest runs along the southern edge of the proposed site. It is a very sensitive ecosystem, which acts as a movement corridor for a variety of wildlife, including Protected Species such as Barn Owls, Red Kites and Great Crested Newts. The River Loddon itself is home to Loddon Pondweed, which is very sensitive to inputs of chemical pollutants. Badgers and water voles are known to live in the area, otter spraint has been recorded, and there are recent records of sea trout being identified in the water.

Archaeology: The site is also an Area of High Archaeological Potential. There is a WW2 pillbox and anti-tank ditch within the site, part of a pattern of artefacts set along an historic defence line. Three listed buildings are near the site, as well as the Scheduled Monument of Sheepbridge Court which is one of very few moated sites in Berkshire.

Each member of your household can object to the proposal, and each objection counts separately
You MUST object to the proposal by 5pm on Monday 23rd March

Spread The Word and Stay Updated:

 Join **S-O-S - Save our Villages!** and **Spencers Wood Gravel Pit – Residents Against** for the latest updates. Invite local residents and share with your friends.

 Email **notogravelpit@gmail.com** if you can volunteer your time to help spread the word or if you need any help with your consultation response.

 Visit **www.sossaveourvillages.org** for more information

