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From: Dave Blandford [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2026 16:15
To: HMWP Consultation
Subject: Midgham Farm Gravel Extraction

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[REDACTED]

10 February 2026.

Dear Sirs,

Re: Midgham Farm Gravel Extraction.

This letter is to reiterate my protest yet again, in the strongest possible terms, about the proposed gravel and landfill site right next to Alderholt village. This is a community which, despite its address, is actually in Dorset. Two years on and with nearly 1000 objections from residents nothing has changed. It would appear that Hampshire County Council don't give a damn about the health and well-being of a major nearby village, or the ecology of the surrounding area.

There are numerous reasons why this proposed operation is a horrendous idea which should have been smothered at birth:

1. Road Damage

We (the community) already have to endure the road damage that is caused by trucks serving the existing gravel extraction operation at Drove End. The road south from the quarry has been patched to a barely acceptable degree but is now showing definite signs of needing attention. It will be a deathtrap by the end of the winter. What it will be like when it is being pounded by a 100-plus HGVs a day can only be imagined. It is too narrow even now and, I suspect, does not have the strength to carry the heavy traffic engendered by the proposed new workings.

Alderholt is poorly served by its road network. The Cranborne road is of little use unless you want Cranborne or Verwood. The single-track road to the A338 via Ibsley bridge is narrow, twisty, badly maintained and totally unsuitable for anything larger than a car. In addition, it is also prone to severe flooding, often impassably so. That only leaves the route through Fordingbridge, which is narrow, would cause unnecessary congestion in the town, and is a ridiculous idea anyway as one is heading north in order to go south.

2. General Danger to Other Road Users

The massive increase in HGV activity that we will experience represents a huge danger to walkers, joggers, cyclists, horse-riders, wildlife and private car drivers, particularly as the general road infrastructure is so lacking and badly maintained. Not only will there be far more HGVs, but they will be much larger – articulated lorries rather than the 8-wheelers we mostly see at present. Many people choose to live in the country because they enjoy country pursuits such as walking and cycling. These will be severely curtailed if this plan goes ahead.

3. Traffic Affecting Other Areas

Many people who would otherwise use the Somerley road to get to the A31 will shy away from it for obvious reasons. They will elect to go through Fordingbridge or across Ibsley bridge. Has anyone considered the effect on the town

(which is in Hants, not Dorset)? There will likely be a substantial increase in through-traffic, choking the high-street and adding to noise and air pollution. The Ibsley bridge route will suffer too, and the increased traffic will back up at the bridge junction onto the A338.

4. Dangers to and Loss of Wildlife

There will be a total loss of habitat within the area of extraction, most of which is woodland or agricultural land. The road south past Somerley Estate goes through woodland that is home to deer, badgers, game-birds and much other wildlife. There are large flocks of swans, geese and ducks in the area. What wildlife that isn't killed on the roads will be driven away as Cemex pursue their scorched-earth policy.

5. Loss of Peace and Quiet, Effect on Property Values

The boundary of the proposed operation is within a few metres of many homes, [REDACTED] with the entrance on Hillbury Road, just past Hillbury Park. To all intents and purposes that is in the village.

As well as the HGV issues of noise, traffic, pollution and road damage there will be the constant roar of the actual extraction operation. There will be dust, pollution and a huge eyesore the size of the village, where before there was agricultural land with peaceful footpaths.

The effect on house prices will be devastating. The effect on our well-being will be much the same.

6. Pollution and Drainage

The large-scale extraction of sand and gravel is going to generate constant noise and dust, both of which are pollutants which will smother our homes and gardens. The negative impact of both on people's health is well documented.

Removing huge amounts of gravel is also likely to affect the drainage of the area, possibly allowing a much faster run-off of rainwater onto the Avon floodplain. The Ibsley bridge road already floods to the point of being impassable in winter, so our alternative route south will be even more unusable.

As for the landfill aspect of the operation, it is frightening to think that a pristine location like this will have toxic waste such as asbestos, plastics and chemicals buried in a shallow grave where it will no doubt leach into the run-off and pollute the Avon.

To sum up:

This development cannot and must not be allowed to proceed. It is an unwarranted intrusion into the hitherto quiet lives of a whole community (which is not even in Hampshire). It represents enormous threats to the village, the wildlife and the wider environment. It will be catastrophic for property prices and will ruin the village and the entire area. The increase in heavy traffic alone represents a huge threat to safety.

The existing infrastructure is totally inadequate to handle it and I do not believe for a moment that the operators, Cemex, will invest in improving it beyond the absolute bare minimum.

Finally, I would add that it is totally unreasonable and absolutely immoral that a Dorset village should be so devastated by the actions of a Hampshire authority, who were not elected by and who do not have to answer to said village. If Hampshire wants this facility let them find a place entirely within Hampshire that will not have a devastating effect on a community in an adjoining county.

I would urge HCC to seriously consider the consequences of pursuing this plan. I can see substantial claims for damages of various types being made against both HCC and Cemex if it goes ahead - loss of property values and health issues due to noise/dust pollution to name but two.

Disgruntled,

D. R. Blandford.