

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

Planning Service
Buckinghamshire Council
King George V House
King George V Road
Amersham
HP6 5AW



October 2022

Dear Mr Suter

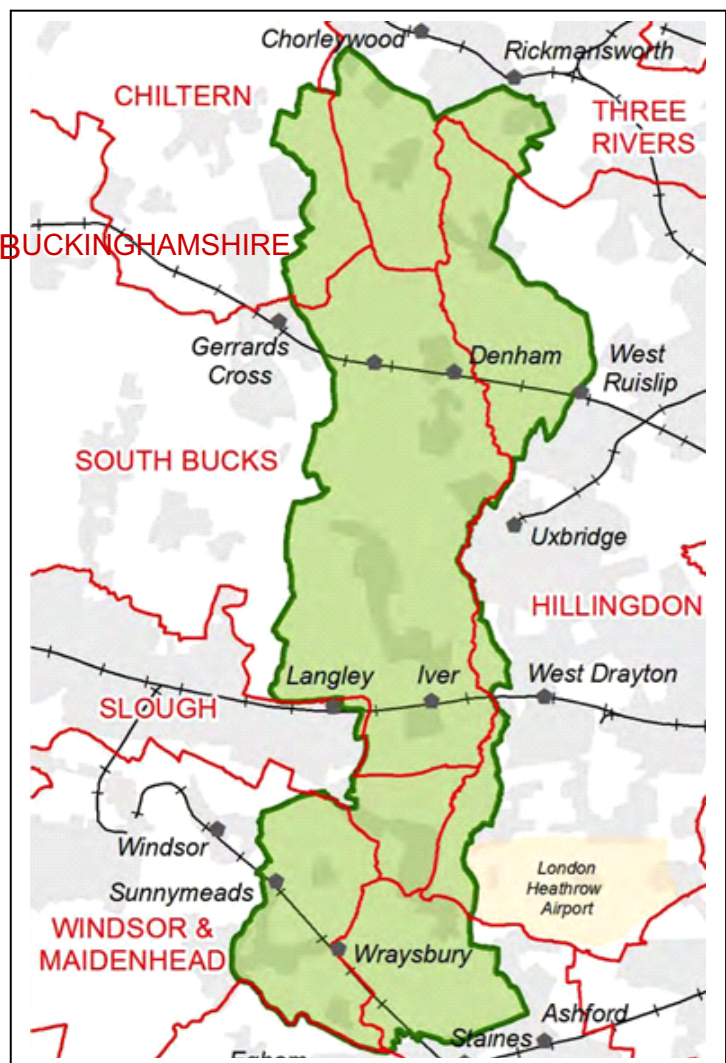
CM/0049/21

Response to proposed gravel extraction at Sutton Court Farm, Iver

**This response is from and behalf of
The Colne Valley Regional Park**

The Colne Valley Regional Park was founded in 1965 when local authorities – including Bucks – showed great foresight in agreeing to work together to preserve and enhance this precious area for recreation and nature conservation.

It is supported by more than 80 member organisations including local authorities, businesses, residents' associations, environmental charities and user groups. We point out that Ingrebourne Valley are one of the CVRP's long standing corporate supporters, however, that has not affected our response to this planning application in any way.



Colne Valley Park Trust

Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. Company No. 08131867

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

The Colne Valley Regional Park has six objectives:

<https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/whats-special/>

Landscape

The Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) covers six local planning authorities. As a result, the valley is rarely, if ever, considered at a landscape scale.

The creation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/green-infrastructure-strategy-downloads/> for the Colne Valley Regional Park aims to bring the green and blue on the map to the forefront of planning policy and decisions, and feature the landscape of the Valley as a whole, rather than from the perspective of its various council boundaries.

These boundaries are an administrative convenience – they don't exist as real barriers to people and wildlife. The Crane Valley has been added to this strategy to provide a truly landscape-scale picture of the area.

This cross-border approach is entirely consistent with Green Belt policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Summary of response

The whole site is within the Colne Valley Regional Park and is in the Green Belt.

The CVRP **objects to this application** because of the landscape impact during construction and the cumulative impact of so many current and proposed developments in the narrowest part of the Colne Valley Regional Park and the Green Belt between Langley and West Drayton. This is in line with Minerals & Waste Policy 16 including “wellbeing and amenity to communities” and “cumulative impacts”

The planning situation in this area is hugely complicated by many proposals, including:

- Sutton Court Farm
- Cemex site to the east
- Slough Local plan proposal for housing to the east
- Western Rail Link to Heathrow

This area needs an overall masterplan relating to Green Infrastructure that all of the above developments, if approved, must play their part in making a contribution to. The Colne & Crane Valley's Green Infrastructure Strategy can provide a framework for that masterplan.

We welcome the outline restoration plan for this proposal to agriculture and biodiversity enhancements particularly the biodiversity works that complement the Cemex site restoration plans on the other side of the Horton Brook. This is in line with the Colne Valley Regional Park objectives.

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However, the impact on the CVRP objectives is not addressed during operation which will be a lengthy process affecting the local landscape and how this is perceived by local residents and visitors. In addition, the cumulative impact (policy 16) is not addressed. Therefore there should be a contribution towards a Colne Valley Park Countryside Management project of circa 5-10k/year during the operational lifespan to improve landscape, biodiversity and paths in the Richings Park area around the site. Works will be informed by the Colne Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy including 'whole area opportunities' A, M, S, X and Z. This is consistent with:

- Policy 24 "proposals must incorporate measures on site and/or off-site to enhance Buckinghamshire's assets and Green Infrastructure networks...*the positive integration of the site with the wider landscape...Colne Valley Regional Park*"
- Policy 25 that's states " Sites located within ... the Colne Valley Regional Park or the Green Belt should seek to enhance the characteristics and qualities for which the area was designated giving consideration to the provision of green infrastructure and opportunities for access and recreation"
- Local Authorities duties to enhance the green belt in line with NPPF paragraph 145. This requirement is also within Policy 21

Regards,

Stewart Pomeroy
Managing Agent

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