

## Lowleys Farm

1. Hello. My name is Simon Treacy, Planning Director to Brett Aggregates Ltd. Our IP Reference number is [REDACTED].
2. The objections we have made concern a mineral extraction prospect site at Lowleys Farm near Great Leighs to the north of Chelmsford. The objections we have submitted, describe a mineral resource of sand and gravel that extends to circa 10m tonnes. The mineral deposit is recognised for its high quality, low overburden layer and has a commercial value of over £140m.
3. Brett has made investments in designing and assessing this deposit since 2019 when it undertook geological investigations at that time. The quarry designs since prepared have been promoted to Essex CC in its review of current and future need. The county council has an established position that additional quarry sites are needed to meet future demand for construction aggregates.
4. During the pre-app engagement into the DCO, National Grid was made aware of the mineral scheme, its importance and value. During these engagements, alternative routes were offered by the landowner, the Tritton Farming Partnership, in good faith across other areas of land in their ownership.
5. Despite this, the route chosen passes right through the middle of the mineral scheme, right over its deepest point. The NSIP scheme, without amendment, will have a significant impact on this important resource.
6. The NPPF states that ***'it is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs'***. It also says ***'since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them'***.
7. The position of Essex County Council as Minerals Planning Authority is not to object to the DCO as it has been ***'informed by NG that no significant operational impacts are envisaged'*** at Lowleys. However to achieve this position, NG will need to alter the route to avoid the mineral deposit at Lowleys Farm.
8. A change to the submitted route must be made and consulted upon. Changes to a submitted DCO can be made while it is being examined. It is likely that a material change to the scheme is required to deliver this as additional land interests of the Tritton Farming Partnership will be required.
9. I therefore wish to request that an Issue Specific Hearing is organised to discuss alternative routing to avoid this important mineral resource. Thank you