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**From:**  
**Sent:** 20 February 2020 13:37  
**To:** Development Control team  
**Subject:** 19/000053/CM  
**Attachments:** sand & gravel extraction at Lea Castle..docx; sand & gravel extraction at Lea Castle..pdf

FAO of Steven Aldridge

Dear Steve,

**Application no 19/000053/CM Lea Castle Farm**

I have tried to submit HWGT's comments on the above application online but I don't think it has worked. Apologies if you receive multiple submissions!

I am therefore sending it attached to this email.

Please could you confirm that you have received it.

Thanks

Jane Patton



**Worcestershire County Council, Directorate of Economy & Infrastructure  
Application 19/000053/CM.**

**Proposed sand and gravel extraction at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley  
On behalf of NRS Aggregates Ltd**

**February 2020**

**Response from Hereford & Worcester Gardens Trust (HWGT)**

This comment has been prepared by Jane Patton on behalf of HWGT. Jane Patton is a retired chartered landscape architect and previous member of the Landscape Institute and has practised for many years in Worcestershire both in the private and public sectors. Latterly, for Worcestershire County Council assessing the landscape impact of planning applications. She is also editor of the *Survey of Historic Parks & Gardens in Worcestershire*.

**General**

The Application Site extends over roughly half the area of the 19<sup>th</sup> century park at Lea Castle, Wolverley. Lea Castle appears in Lockett's *Survey of Historic Parks & Gardens in Worcestershire*, published by HWGT. It is not a Registered park or garden, a designation that relates to national or international interest. It is, however, of considerable local interest and contributes to the landscape character and cultural and historical understanding of the parish of Wolverley.

**Overall Concerns**

HWGT have general concerns regarding the impact on local residents and wildlife of increased noise, dust and lorry traffic on local roads. However, we do not have the expertise to address these concerns in detail.

**Impact on Visual Amenity**

The Application Site is elevated land, readily viewed from surrounding roads and footpaths. We believe that the visual impact of extraction will be far greater than that stated in the Application documents. We acknowledge that this will be for a limited period and that the site will be

returned to a rural character, however we would suggest that further consideration be given to screening of the works, including advanced planting.

### **Impact on the Historic Designed Landscape**

Lea Castle park is the 19<sup>th</sup> century parkland to Lea Castle, a striking building that was demolished in 1945. The site of the Castle and the surrounding gardens are outside the Application Site boundary. The parkland extends west of the Application Site as far as the Staffordshire-Worcestershire Canal but this western part has been laid down to playing fields. The central and eastern sections of the park are within the Application Site boundary and still retain a parkland character, albeit a degraded one. There are few parkland trees remaining, only the vestiges of the original avenue to the Castle and the grassland has generally been converted to agriculture. However, the striking castellated South Lodges and North Lodges (actually to the east) are intact and merit protection, as is the parkland boundary wall.

We note that the line of the avenue and the Lodges are outside the working area and therefore should be protected. We are however, concerned that the proposed access is close to the South Lodge and recommend that some additional protection is offered to prevent any damage.

We are also unsure about the final levels adjacent to the line of the avenue as overall, site levels will be lower. We would not wish to see the avenue as an elevated strip of land across a lower level park.

We welcome the intention to return the parkland character and to manage the area as public amenity. We stress the need for a 25 year management plan that will ensure the continuing maintenance and development of the area.

### **Summary**

We do not object to the proposals but have the following reservations and concerns.

- We have general concerns regarding the impact on local residents and wildlife of noise, dust and increased lorry traffic.
- We recommend additional screening to ensure that the visual impact is minimised.
- We recommend additional protection for South Lodge and the accompanying park boundary walls.
- We are concerned to ensure that the line of the avenue is not on elevated land across the reinstated parkland.
- We would recommend a few more parkland trees but reinstatement planting details will no doubt be firmed up closer to the end of the contract period.
- We recommend that the Applicant is required to produce a 25 year management plan to ensure the ongoing maintenance and development of the site.