

Hertford (0992) 555228  
Mr P Unthank  
P/PU/JW/E/280-48(173)

Mr P Hickman  
Broxbourne Woods Area  
Conservation Society  
C/O The Lodge  
Cock Lane  
Hoddesdon  
Herts

8 April 1988

Dear Mr Hickman

CHURCH LANE WORMLEY - FORMER GRAVEL PIT

Thank you for your letter of the 15th March 1988.

In previous discussions and correspondence you will recall I emphasised that the planning conditions relating to this site were compiled before 1950 when Town and Country Planning was in its infancy. Consequently the conditions are spartan, basic and inappropriate by today's standards especially if an arable afteruse was envisaged.

Whilst sharing your Society's view that the site does not measure up to contemporary standards of restoration the Public Footpath has been reinstated, the landform is acceptable and the site is covered by a depth of soil evidently capable of supporting plant growth albeit a poor vegetation. Legally, therefore, the conditions have to all intents been satisfied and as the site owner has sought legal advice he is well aware that in view of the foregoing any further legal action by this Council would almost certainly be in vain.

With aftercare conditions which apply to recently permitted mineral workings it would be possible to control weeds and after uses for at least 5 years. This site, however, does not have the benefit of aftercare and so I am unable to take action over either the lack of cultivation or the subsequent placement of concrete hardcore which the site owner might argue is needed for future surfacing of the access road. The soil mounds in time could be used to correct differential settlement which would otherwise require heavy goods vehicles importing material via Church Lane and would certainly not be welcomed by local residents.

I note your concern and it is with regret that I am unable to bring about a wholly satisfactory conclusion, although my officers have made attempts to persuade the land owner to undertake remedial measures beyond that legally required.

Yours sincerely

*Sent out in PU's absence.*

*ACS*

COUNTY PLANNING AND ESTATES OFFICER

CC Mrs R Pike, County Secretary's Department