

Professor M Snowling  
Principal  
St John's College  
St Giles  
Oxford OX1 3JP

Dear Professor Snowling,

Re: Warwickshire County Council Local Minerals Plan (Land Allocation)

I write to express our very grave concern about St John's College proposal to allocate 85 hectares of land for the extraction of sand and gravel on land directly adjacent to the village of Barford and in close proximity to Wasperton.

Large swathes of this land are high quality agricultural land, best and most versatile and for the previous 14 years (and many more prior to that) since we have lived here it has been intensively farmed, more often than not with market garden crops. As you are aware such crops need land of high quality and is a resource that will be in ever increasing need as we move towards the self-sufficiency required to be apart from Europe.

Your comments that the land will be fully restored are inaccurate as it is the evidence of sand and gravel below the soil which is significant in determining the grade of the land – without the sand and gravel the land cannot be restored to its former quality.

It is also beyond belief that as the Principal of such a prestigious college, you could write to local children advising them that the South of England requires more houses and therefore it is important that sand and gravel should be dug from land close by when in fact Barford and Wasperton are within 4 miles of the county town of Warwick and forms part of Shakespeare's county – in the middle of the country.

Comments such as these do not fill us with any confidence that you are giving this matter any due attention and are happy to allow several thousand villagers be impacted in such a detrimental manner.

As we understand it, this particular piece of land was bequeathed by Dr Richard Rawlinson in 1755 to St John's College for the purposes of agriculture, not for the excavation of sand and gravel which will be to the detriment of the quality of the land forever. It is interesting to note that Dr Rawlinson's motto was "*I collect and I preserve*" and Wasperton Farm is noted in papers in The Bodleian Library as his most prized and favourite land holding.

The fact that you are prepared to desecrate this land leaves little hope that future donations will be treated with respect and comply with the donors wishes.

Could we please ask that St John's College proceed in accordance with its own environmental policies and Dr Rawlinson's bequest and withdraw Wasperton Farm from this plan.

Yours sincerely