



Manor Farm, Ashford Road Gravel Extraction Update

August 2026

As a person who walks my dog regularly along the public footpaths around the current gravel extraction sites, I have seen quite a few changes to the landscape over the last 12 months. I approached Bretts for a contact name so I could get regular updates as to what is going on there. Im pleased to say they contacted me almost immediately with their contact names and provided a comprehensive update, which I have summarised below. I did email my thanks to them.

There is a regular local liaison meeting held with local community representatives, to which I will now be invited to, so I can keep you updated going forward.

Crossing gates left open.

There was an issue in that the gates, where the heavy vehicles cross from one field to the other, had been left open, which poses a risk to dog walkers especially if their dogs stray into the operational area. I did mention this to one of the men there, and since then, they have been more diligent in keeping the gates closed when not in use.

Bretts tell me that *"the gates either side of the footpath should remain closed at all times, except for the brief and infrequent periods when a vehicle needs to cross under the supervision of a banksman. I'm glad to hear our contractors have taken this on board since you spoke with them, but I'll ensure I raise it with them myself as well to ensure this is being done. If any similar concerns crop up again in future, please feel free to contact me and I can get them sorted for you."*

Plans for the Phase 1 area (extraction in progress)

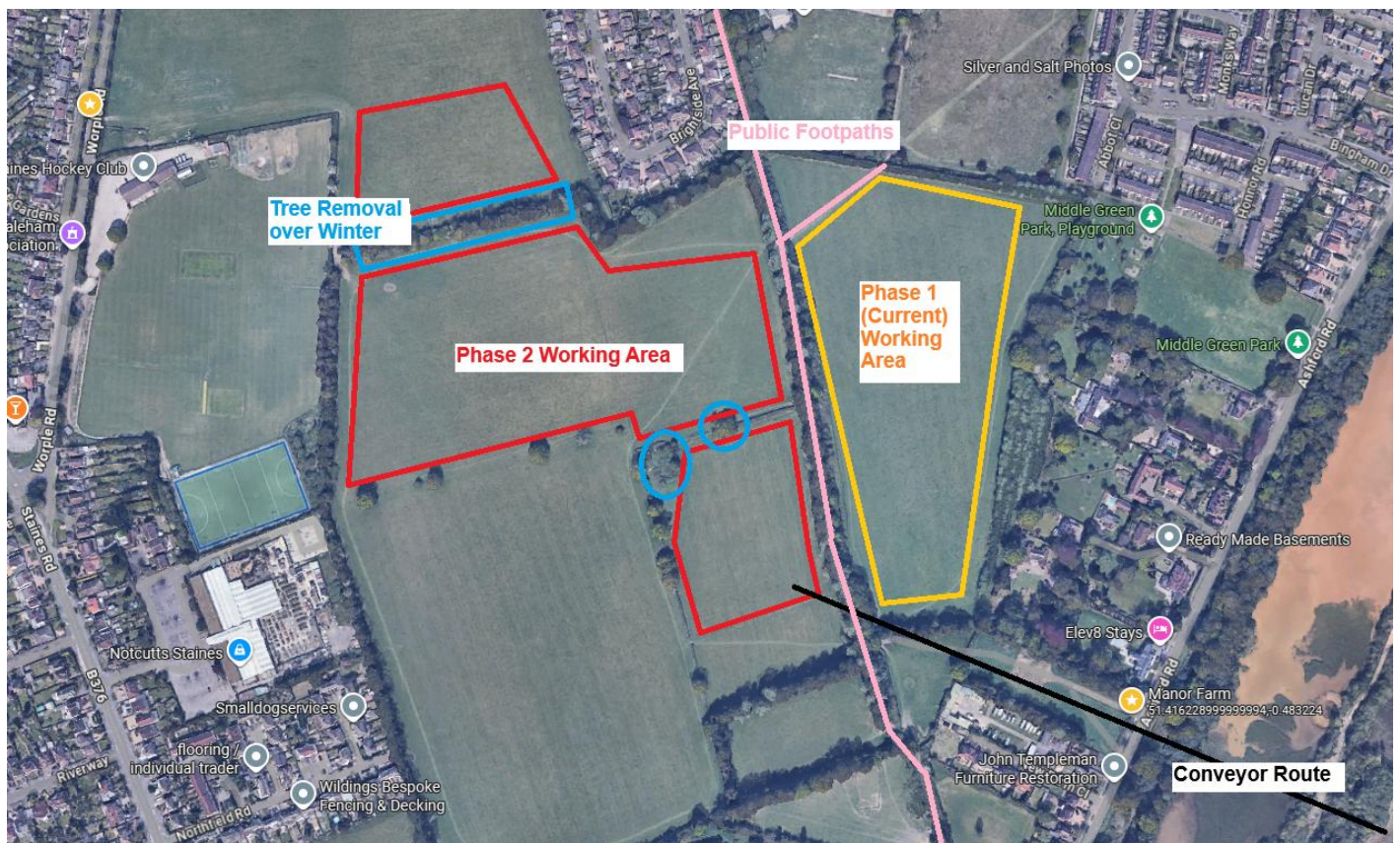
- The plan is to continue mineral extraction in the existing Phase 1 area (to the East of the footpath) for the remainder of 2026
- After that the mineral reserve will be exhausted and active work in that part of site will largely cease, other than occasional restoration work during the summer months to create future wildlife habitats.

Phase 2 area (where topsoil is currently being removed)

- Mineral extraction will move into the Phase 2 area on the other side of the footpath in early 2027.
- All minerals will be transported by conveyor, as at present, with the conveyor being extended through the concrete culvert which is already in place beneath the footpath to enable this.
- Once extraction transfers across to the new working area, the working machinery will park overnight in the new area, so there should be no need for vehicles to cross the footpath on a regular basis besides a few occasional exceptions.

- The works currently going on in the Phase 2 area involve the removal of the topsoil & subsoil layers, alongside archaeological work, to prepare the area for mineral extraction. This is being done now to enable all the necessary soil movements to be undertaken while the soils are dry and allow all the archaeology work to be completed in plenty of time, to allow a smooth transition into the new area in 2027. The soils are being utilised to create screening bunds around the perimeter of the area, which will minimise the visual impact of the extraction works on footpath users and nearby residents.
- The current soil movement works are expected to continue until mid- to late-Sept, after which there will be no further earthmoving required until extraction begins in early 2027.
- There is also a requirement for some trees within the Manor Farm area to be removed, but this cannot be completed until after the end of bird nesting season, so those works will likely take place over the Winter of 2026/27.

Bretts provided a summary plan below.



I hope this information is useful, and I plan to provide further updates in the future. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Steve Bartlett – LRA Chairman

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