

# CAGE

(Communities Against Gravel Extraction)



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STOP  
GRAVEL PITS HERE!**



[www.cagegravel.org.uk](http://www.cagegravel.org.uk)

## **WE DO NOT WANT A HUGE UGLY GRAVEL PIT HERE**

*Please support CAGE's campaign to protect our community. This is a lovely rural area between a Saxon market town and an ancient village – with a famous Agatha Christie Trail and steam railway.*

We believe that Oxfordshire County Council's decision to propose only this area for gravel extraction is not sound. Originally many more were designated, and ours was not one of them. The process by which our area became the sole designated one has not been properly explained and all the objections from South Oxfordshire District Council, Wallingford Town Council, Cholsey Parish Council, two adjoining Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, mineral-planning experts, and over 600 residents have not been refuted but seem to have been simply ignored. Our expert found that the OCC's own criteria can be used to demonstrate how inappropriate our area is compared with all the other originally designated sites. CAGE is also supported by adjoining local councils: Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, North Moreton, and Moulsoford.



We still have a little time. OCC's plans were due to be published in mid-May after which there would be a seven-week period to make objections. A government inspector will hold pre-hearings in September, when our barrister and experts will put our case. The Examination-in Public will be held in October or November and the inspector should announce the decision next April.

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## MYTHS (appropriate site) v FACTS (inappropriate site)

***Gravel pits have to be somewhere.*** No, certainly not adjoining two populated centres – there are less sensitive areas elsewhere.

***It won't affect many residents.*** The dust, mud, lorries, dangerous roads and industrial landscape will change the area forever, blighting more than 10,000 current residents (projected 15,000 by 2025). It will damage the economic future of Wallingford, which relies on tourism.

***Local links won't be affected.*** Lots of heavy lorries will use our roads – some to take away gravel, and some to bring in 'augmenting' material to make concrete if our gravel is as poor as we believe it to be. This will go on for 25 years or longer. Footpaths like the *Agatha Christie Trail*, cycle-ways and the "Bunk" Railway will be dangerous and unattractive.

***There will be a pretty lake for boats and wildlife.*** Lakes will not be allowed because of bird danger to Benson airfield. More appropriate alternative sites would allow lakes to be formed.

***The landscape will be safely and sensitively restored.*** The area will have to be backfilled leaving small, very deep ponds (fenced off for safety). The pits here would be 6 metres deep. Other sites elsewhere would not require backfill. Backfilling may take another 25 years as only inert material can be used – possibly blighting the area for 50 years. The natural landscape will be gone forever.

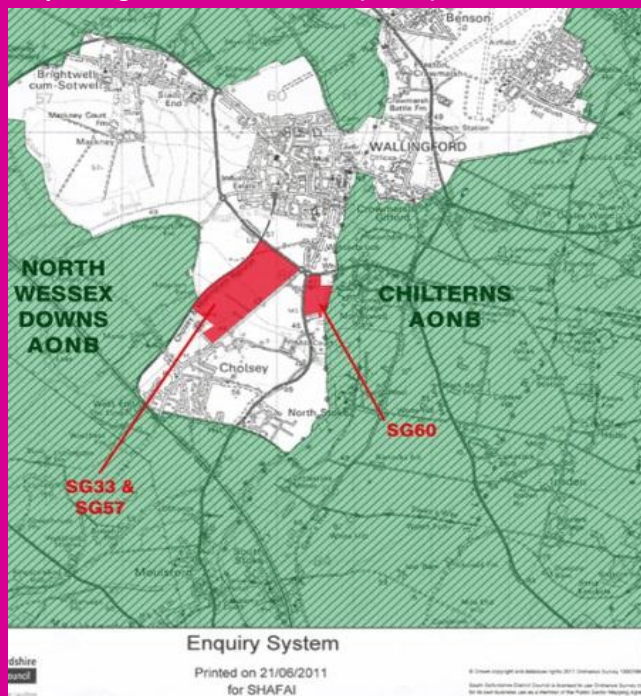
## WHAT CAN WE DO?

We need up to £30,000 to hire a barrister and other experts. If everyone gives what they can, we can still save our area. Ideally, if councils, businesses or generous residents pledge larger sums, as a few have kindly done already, we'll easily reach our target.

Go to [www.cagegravel.org.uk](http://www.cagegravel.org.uk) and do it by PayPal. Or write a cheque payable to "Hedges Cage a/c" and send it to Hedges, 16 Market Place, Wallingford, OX10 0AE.

Write now to your MP, Ed Vaizey, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA (email [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk)), and to Oxfordshire County Council, Minerals & Waste Policy Team, OCC, Speedwell House, FREEPOST, Oxford, OX1 1NE. Register on our website for updates.

Proposed gravel extraction site (in red):



### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Cholsey: Monday  
11 June 7.30pm in  
the Scouts "Hut" by  
the Red Lion

Wallingford:  
Tuesday  
12 June 7.30pm at  
the Old Regal  
Cinema

CAGE, Town Council  
Offices, 9 St Martin's  
Street, Wallingford,  
OX10 0AL

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