

Minutes of Airfield Liaison Committee Meeting, Thursday 11 June 2026

Attendees:

Gloucestershire County Council Planning

Jason Betty (JB)

Down Ampney Parish Council

Antony Matthews (AM)

Adam Crawford (AC)

Marston Meysey Parish Council

Derek Richards (DR)

Latton Parish Council

Becky Collier (BC)

RAF Fairford

Squadron Leader Jayne Robertson (JR)

Marson Madrishin - Director of Safety (MM)

James Nobile – Flight Safety (JN)

Hills Quarry Products

Olly Thompson (OT)

Jon Lisk (JL)

Steve Huntly (SH)

Steve Davies (SD)

The Hills Group

Ed Dodd – CEO (ED)

Chris Waddell – Communications Manager (CW)

Invitees:

Antony Murison (Marston Meysey PC)

Apologies:

Helen Claridge (Latton PC)

1.0 Introductions

2.0 Project Overview & Site Activity:

OT

OT gave a general overview of operations to date using aerial photos to illustrate:

- Overburden has been removed from the plant site and the silt management area. Preliminary extraction of mineral has begun from the silt management area which is currently being used to backfill the plant site, to create a level construction surface.
- Phase 1 overburden is being removed and archaeological investigations ongoing
- Bunds are being created at the Marston Meysey end of site (phase 1) to help with noise control and visual screening

3.0 Upcoming Works & Timeline

OT

- Phase 1 will likely be operational in 2027
- Preparation for offices and infrastructure are being made e.g. water, electrics and other services
- Processing plant has been ordered and will be installed throughout 2027

4.0 Archaeology Update

OT

- Archaeology is taking place alongside the overburden works - reports are being issued weekly:
 - Finds are sent for lab analysis
 - 13 Roman-era bodies were found in the silt management area
 - Evidence of a bronze age settlement has been found in phase 1

5.0 Environmental Controls

OT

- Noise control includes white noise reversing alarms instead of beeping to reduce the distance of travel.
- Site will only operate within permitted hours and will not impact on evenings or early mornings
 - Site hours are 06:00 – 18:00 Monday to Saturday
 - No lorries to enter or exit the site before 07:00 or after 18:00
 - Fixed plant operational hours are 07:00 – 18:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 – 13:00 Saturday.
- Woodland and hedgerows are being retained in key locations around the site to be incorporated into the restoration scheme. These will also help with noise control, visual screening.
- Dust control
 - Bunds and vegetation will act as a screen
 - Dewatered dig but material is wet when extracted therefore, minimising the risk of dust being released
 - A tractor and bowser will be used for dust suppression around the entirety of the site as it develops.
- Planting will be as per the planning permission

6.0 Access Arrangements

OT

- Access road is now at the northeast of the site via Oak Road
- Some internal resurfacing of haul road will take place to make it safe and accessible for HGV's

OT emphasised his availability as a point of contact and distributed his contact details.

7.0 Questions & Open Discussion

OT invited questions.

BC asked what plans are in place for once work on the site is completed.

OT explained that site would be filled in, in accordance with the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and explained this process.

JB added that nothing was set in stone and that every phase would offer learning opportunities and the potential for unique adaptations, as per the LEMP.

DR asked about drainage and hydrology with a particular concern regarding flooding e.g. as occurs on main road and with concern that Cullimore had diverted Down Ampney Brook.

OT explained that Hills had extensive plans for flood management and that mineral extraction would help.

DR said locals were keen to see drainage improvements.

OT said that the C124 was due to be widened by Wiltshire Council Highways, removing the eastern set of traffic lights and improving the bridge over the ditch. This should improve run off via ditches and allow for a larger volume of water to flow away from Down Ampney village.

JB Added:

- Airfield permission doesn't allow for large bodies of water
- Part of the restoration scheme includes the creation of wetlands & wet woodlands
- Concrete from old airfield being removed will create more permeable surfaces
- Each phase would see improvements

BC added that main road improvements would see two sets of traffic lights reduced to just one.

ED added that this road was a local authority choice and nothing to do with Airfield Quarry.

AC asked if any percolation from the water table would occur

OT said although this was a technical question that Hills site should have no effect on the village. Within the extensive hydrological work that has been completed for the site, there are measures in place to minimise the risk of impacting anything external to the site boundaries. For example, prior to extraction in phase one the area closest to the properties needs to be backfilled with clay to prevent groundwater drawdown, eliminating the risk of subsistence.

JB reminded the committee that the approved flood management scheme could be found on the GCC planning portal.

ED recommended that OT be tasked with the action of enquiring about any fluctuations to the water table.

AC asked if there would be monitoring of the situation

OT confirmed there would be regular monitoring and that there are several boreholes located around the site which undergo monthly monitoring of both groundwater levels and quality. Continual monitoring of the groundwater also forms part of the environmental permits that have been approved by the EA.

JN asked what was meant by 'wetlands' or 'wet woodlands'

OT explained that it would be similar to the existing wooded landscapes located to the south of the site. Floods in the winter and dry in summer under the canopy.

SD confirmed sticky in winter as the water table levels flex.

OT assured JN that Hills would remain in contact with Alan at Phoenix Bird Control regarding bird strike risks.

JB acknowledged that lots of this was covered in planning.

JB explained that the management scheme for the site remained in perpetuity on the land beyond the completion of quarry works.

OT reminded that he was always available.

AC asked about timescale towards phase 8 of the site.

OT said that phase 8 would be in about ten years and that phase 5 was when the majority of work would take place with about 5m depth of material extraction planned versus the average of 2m elsewhere.

BC asked about bagging operations and any increase in traffic associated with those.

OT said that it would mostly be loose product on Hills trucks.

SH reiterated the availability of Hills for any questions at any time between meetings.

AM confirmed a recent update had been received and asked about the nature of and sequence of infilling after extraction

OT said that the whole site would be infilled within the Environment Agency permit which allowed for inert materials of the kind that are incurred on housing developments.

AM was concerned about the availability of infilling materials to ensure no hollows were left on site.

SD confirmed this was Hills' core business and that Hills had ready access to the market and that its needs flexed with the market i.e. the materials market is circular less building work means less demand for quarried materials. Proximity to main road (A419) means Airfield Quarry is a good option for the market and Latton is being backfilled with no issues.

DR asked about phase 1 infilling.

OT explained plan is to infill in accordance with planning and that infilling happened concurrent with extraction at each stage. OT also explained that as the permit allowed for stockpiling of infill materials that Hills would be looking at that as a pre-emptive solution to the possibility of shortages of material.

SH emphasised that inert materials used for infilling were business critical and therefore in Hills interest to maintain the supply.

ED explained that Hills also had accountability to the landowner in this matter.

JB said although there was some leeway in phasing timings, GCC maintained control at each stage.

SH closed meeting by reminding attendees that Hills was keen to maintain its reputation as a business of over 125 years and would not wish in any way to damage that.