

To: Kirklees Planning Officers

For the attention of Farzana Tabasum- Case Officer for the Planning Application

Ref: Kirklees Planning Application No. 2022/62/93230W

Windy Ridge Quarry, Cartworth Moor Road, Holmfirth, HD9 2RL

Planning Portal Ref: PP-11519330

Reasons for objecting to this planning application are as follows:

i)When the owner imports waste material onto the site it will no longer be a quarry, but an industrial waste materials handling ('recycling') plant, with its consequential detrimental impact on the Green Belt location. The owner is legally required to possess an Environmental Waste Permit, without which he cannot operate and lorries entering the site must also have an Environmental Waste Carrier Licence. If these licence requirements are disregarded, then all operations should cease immediately.

ii)The Supporting Statement, sections 3.15 and 3.16, anticipates that the total backfill volume required will be in excess of 400,000m<sup>3</sup>. In order to achieve this, 'selected' material will be imported, treated on site to produce, an unlikely, 80% of building aggregate which will then be exported. The remaining 20% will then be used as back fill, however, to achieve the required volume, 2 million m<sup>3</sup> (4 million tonnes!) of waste must be imported. There is no security procedure in the proposal to ensure that the imported waste is not contaminated, the term 'selected' waste in the document is meaningless without the involvement of an independent inspector (e.g. Environment Agency). If there were the appropriate licences in place then all materials entering and leaving the site would be classified as inert and records would be kept for inspection by the Environmental Agency Staff. The owner's history does not suggest from previous convictions that he will honour regulatory requirements and use only inert materials for infill purposes. According to the Supporting Statement (3.17) the backfill will not be completed until 2044 and the site will continue to be an industrial treatment plant long after all the stone has been extracted in 2034.(3.11)

iii)The number of journeys in and out of the site currently has been observed to exceed the permitted number of 8 visits per day; there is neither a record of the true number of daily lorry visits to the site given in the application, nor the classified type of material imported. The applicant seeks retrospectively to increase the daily number of Heavy Goods vehicle visits to 15, and it is impossible to judge how close it is to 15 already.

The area is widely used for recreational purposes by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, but inconsiderate lorry drivers travelling too quickly generate choking dust clouds and pollute the atmosphere with diesel exhaust fumes.

This makes the experience of being overtaken by a lorry both hazardous and at least unpleasant on the narrow-unmade road. Vehicles daily park and block access to Bridleway HOL/94/10 and at times restrict access to Weatherhill Lane and Copthurst Road.

The proposed increase in Quarry traffic to the site will only exacerbate these problems and make it almost impossible to traverse the length of Cartworth Moor Road without encountering one of the vehicles.

The unsurfaced section of Cartworth Moor Road suffers badly from erosion in wet conditions, and both Whitegate and Linshaws Road are in poor condition with crumbling edges and surface breakup due to heavy load damage, which is likely to get worse with the proposed increase in traffic flow.

iv) Permission is being sought to retrospectively remove a further 10m of material from the quarry at its northern end down to 313m AOD. The owner has already removed sandstone down to the shale level and has not therefore adhered to the current permitted extraction depth. The porous sandstone lying above the impervious shale level forms the aquifer, which provides potable water to several dwellings at Hillhouse and additionally fills about 20 cattle troughs built into stone walls. These are used by cattle and sheep grazing pastures on the NW face of Cartworth Moor. If any toxic material is used as infill, then the fields would be rendered useless for farming due to the poisoned spring water supply. The spring water flow rate has decreased, and no recent chemical and biological tests have been carried out. The water quality information provided in the Supporting Statement is out of date by a decade.

v) Hillhouse Edge quarry is permitted to remove stone down to 21m below ground level. Abiding by this requirement the owner has acted responsibly and maintained the aquifer.

Windy Ridge being a neighbouring quarry must be treated equally by planners with the 21m restriction. The owner would then be permitted to extract stone down only to 314m (335 - 21m) at the Northern end of quarry and 323m (344 - 21m) to Southern end. (Assuming retrospective permission is granted to re-work this area!)

The Windy Ridge owner has already breached the permitted depth at the Northern edge of the quarry, and has reopened a previously restored part of the quarry on the Southern side without planning permission, in the unlikely hope that he will find broken stone to be used as aggregate. If there is a significant amount of valuable building stone present in this part of the quarry, then evidence should have been presented together with the relevant information in the Supporting Statement.

vi) During heavy rain fine sand is being washed down Cartworth Moor Road, Whitegate Road and Woodhouse Lane blocking drains and leading to flood water surging down Hollinbrigg Lane and Hillhouse Lane, depositing further material on its way and blocking more drains before finally reaching the River Holme. These events have become more frequent recently with the major source of the water flow coming from the vicinity of Windy Ridge Quarry.

The Temporary 'Fines' illegal stockpile situated visibly on the NW facing edge of the Quarry can only make matters worse with fine particles leached from this material.

vii) The plans show that the current number of parking spaces is only for 5 cars and remains the same in this application.

The parking restrictions are presently not being adhered to and 3 Heavy Goods Vehicles are permanently parked on the site, together with 2 Concrete Mixer vehicles parked at weekends and during the night.

viii) Mr Hunter current owner of Windy Ridge Quarry shows scant regard for the environment, the rule of law and any restrictions placed on him. He was found guilty of physical and threatening abuse of Environment Agency Staff and is continuing to treat local people in a similar thuggish manner, with both physical and verbal abuse, together with threats to the property and wellbeing of residents.

Mr Hunter, the quarry owner, has left behind him a trail of disasters and left others to expensively clear up the mess he leaves behind. He takes in the pursuit of easy money. When stone extraction is completed there will be a large hole in the ground which will be ideal for his purposes of dumping any type of waste he wishes. He has disregarded so many of the requirements of the current Kirklees Licence that it should be withdrawn to prevent further problems taking place from the present until 2028.

The owner has shown that he lacks the to run the quarry now, let alone until 2044 by which time the amount of damage he can do, and the consequences are unimaginable.

The site is a quarry and should not be turned into what is basically an industrial waste disposal plant in a pleasant moorland green belt area.

Kirklees Planning Officers will have a difficult task in trying to enforce any regulations applicable to Mr Hunter, but they must attempt to limit any further damage he can cause by refusing to support application number 2022/62/93230W and withdrawing the current permission.

People are naturally concerned that the act of objecting to the application might prompt retaliatory action from this man and I do not wish that any of my contact details should fall into his hands.

PLEASE REDACT MY NAME, ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE INTIMIDATION OR VIOLENT REACTION BY THE QUARRY OWNER.