

About the application

Application number: 2022/93230	
What is the application for?:	Deepen and extend Windy Ridge Quarry; increase the number of HGV movements permi
Address of the site or building:	Windy Ridge Quarry, Cartworth Moor Road, Cartworth Moor, Holmfirth, HD9 2RL
Postcode:	HD9 2RL

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
<p>Windy Ridge Quarry is a small quarry of limited strategic value which needs to be sensitively managed due to rural location, poor site access/local road network, proximity to SPA/SCA and national cycle route, effect on domestic and agricultural spring water supplies and residential noise nuisance. On current evidence this duty of care is not occurring and the current/potential harm to the local area and community is considerable and unacceptable. On that basis I object to this application.</p> <p>Below are a few supporting points.</p> <p>Highway safety</p> <p>Even with the current condition of 16 HGV movements a day, this is still a very significant increase from a couple of years ago. In the nearly 20 years I've lived on Cartworth Moor HGV movements have been very scarce, especially since the chicken farm at Quarrieside closed, and mainly limited to the occasional kerosene tanker or livestock truck. I'd only ever seen Transit pickups, small dumper vehicles and agricultural tractors/trailers access the two quarries on Cartworth Moor Road prior to last year, never a single HGV of the size of the ones now accessing Windy Ridge Quarry many times a day.</p> <p>The impact on the Cartworth Moor Road has been devastating with huge, choking, dust clouds in dry spells, muddy/slippery conditions at all other times, spilled debris, damage to the road surface, and destroyed grass verges. The latter three can also be seen in the surrounding road network of Linshaws Road and Bare Bones Road. In addition, the public bridleway adjacent to the site has been excavated, obstructed, and partially concreted over. As a result, has been closed to the public by the council as it's unsafe to use. As a horse owner/rider I no longer feel safe riding in the area.</p> <p>Kirklees Council and its 'cookie cutter' approach to planning is partially to blame for this situation. It should have been obvious that the access to Windy Ridge Quarry via the bridleway is not suitable for HGVs and no amount of wheel washing would prevent mud, dust, and debris being dragged onto the public highway.</p> <p>There is a proposal for a new dedicated access road to the site but according to the application, but this wouldn't be operational until 2025.</p>	

Spring water

Like the other closest properties to Windy Ridge, I also rely on a spring water supply, having no access to mains water. The last sentence in section 1.13 of the application's supporting statement that, the majority of dwellings in the area have a mains water supply, should be disregarded as the closest properties most certainly do not. A number of comments also mention that the quarry's activities are already affecting the flow of spring water and increasing the chance of contamination. This is totally unacceptable, and Kirklees should be enforcing measures to safeguard the local water supply.

Surface water

There has been noticeable increase in sandy surface water in the area and flooding down Cartworth Bank Road, in particular. Most likely due in part, to the diminished verges, and concrete surface on the bridleway.

Noise/residential amenity

I've heard an increase in the noise (even outside of stated operating hours) from the site even though my home is relatively well shielded from the quarry. I hate to think what it is like for closer properties such as Moorfield Farm whose residential amenity would be severely impacted by the proposal to extend excavation to within 90 metres. The included noise assessment in the application also appears dubious at best especially its statement of maximum noise levels.

Proximity to SPA

The proposal requests increasing the size of the quarry to the south and therefore even closer to the SPA/SCA of the South Pennine Moors. This land is not in the Kirklees preferred mineral extraction area and no adequate justification is given especially as this appears to be previously worked land.

Tourism

The Place Shaping statement in the local plan has identified the area as having opportunities for tourism, given its proximity to the Peak District, and there are two campsites and two B&Bs including Holmfirth Vineyard near Windy Ridge Quarry. However, the increase in HGV traffic in the area has made outdoor activities in the vicinity hazardous and unpleasant and therefore totally inconsistent with the objective of promoting tourism.

Validity of the application

Some other the comments provide anecdotal evidence that the quarry has already excavated to a depth greater than the 313m in this application. Surely this is like applying for retrospective planning for a 10 storey building when it's already 12 storeys high which would be a waste of time.