

About the application

Application number: 2023/91280	
What is the application for?:	Quarrying operations for the extraction of clay, shale and incidental coal and s
Address of the site or building:	Bromley Farm Quarry, Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8PD
Postcode:	S36 4HG

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
[Objection submittted in full to dc.admin@kirklees.gov.uk 15AUG23] As a resident of Upper Cumberworth, I am writing to express my serious concerns about the application submitted to restart mineral extraction at Bromley Farm Quarry after nearly a decade. This application contains significant inconsistencies and misleading statements that may have deceived some of those who were consulted as part of the statutory requirement. These concerns revolve around traffic issues, the impact on the environment and noise, and the overall environmental implications. Even though the area is designated for possible mineral extraction in Kirklees, the application fails to adequately justify why this location should be chosen or what safeguards will be implemented for the community. 1) The traffic estimates provided in the application are perplexing due to their varied and confusing nature. For instance, there is mention of 60-120 HGV movements per day, which seems to be based on a 48-week working year. However, it is evident that campaigns will focus on certain times of the year, potentially intensifying this estimate. The basis for this calculation is unclear and other points in the application say it might vary based on market demand. This lack of clarity raises doubts about the accuracy of the figures and whether the applicant is certain about the numbers. It would be hoped in any accepted application the planning authority would set out a constant for a specific number per day as a maximum cap, as for the infill works previously (although the present application is flawed on many other grounds and should be approved). Assuming the provided estimate is accurate, my main concern revolves around the increased HGV movements on the already busy Upper Cumberworth A635 road, particularly during school pick-up and drop-off times. This poses a risk to pedestrians, cyclists, and children commuting to school. Additionally, the application portrays the proposed traffic as an extension of existing activity, which does not accurately represent the situation since mineral extraction ceased in 2014. Statements such as "minor additional use of the quarry" fail to acknowledge the substantial effect of restarting activities from a current baseline of zero. These misleading statements may have influenced the responses of non-local statutory bodies, such as Active England	

have influenced the responses of non-local statutory bodies, such as Active England who failed to provide any substantive input, in their consultation.

Clarity on the number of vehicle movements is crucial, and planners must thoroughly comprehend and assess the resulting impact. Additionally, a misleading statement was made regarding the absence of incidents on Crashmap over the past 5 years—referring to the site entrance, although its usage has been reduced. However, considering the route these vehicles must follow along the A635 to the Sovereign Junction or through Carr Hill Road (which may be restricted in one direction, subject to enforcement), and then proceeding towards or above Birdsedge, even when restricted to accidents in the past 5 years involving goods vehicles, the following incidents have occurred within a short walk from our home:

- Upper Cumberworth: 1 serious, 1 slight
- Around the Sovereign and Carr Lane (adjacent to PMW quarries): 2 serious
- Towards Birdsedge from Upper Cumberworth A629: 1 serious, 1 slight

Furthermore, Upper Cumberworth stands as one of the few settlements without speed safety cameras or lower speed restrictions on the A635/636 stretch—from the Sovereign/A629 junction to the A637 near Midgley. Traffic from the A635 and 636 converges at the Denby Dale junction, passing through Upper Cumberworth. The absence of such measures, which are found in other settlements along the same road, suggests that addressing traffic concerns on the A635 is already imperative. Any proposed development should have collaborated with Kirklees and relevant stakeholders to devise substantial solutions to this issue prior to submitting the application, especially if the proposal could exacerbate this situation.

2) While acknowledging that planning applications can be received throughout the year, it is astonishing that, especially considering the significant scale of this application in terms of its footprint, the Local Planning Authority fulfilled their obligations (according to the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990) by placing a site notice at a single location well into the public consultation period in holiday season (specifically, on the 26th of July, or 70% of the way through the consultation period). It's worth noting that this sign is positioned far from the A635, despite the significant impact this project could have on it. Despite the limited time available for expressing concerns, a considerable number of issues have been raised by local residents, highlighting the widespread nature of the problems. Many residents have faced similar issues in the past pre 2014 when there was activity before, such as noise and dust, and they justifiably seek greater reassurances that align with current standards rather than historical ones.

These concerns mirror the original objections presented in the parish response, which explicitly highlighted concerns regarding “proximity to the school, increased traffic onto a narrow highway, and considerable disturbance and environmental impact.”. It is disheartening to note that these concerns don't appear to have been adequately addressed in the current version of the application.

3) In addition to the misleading impression that this application represents a continuation of current operations...

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