

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: A general comment	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

The planning application appears silent on proposals for the route to be taken by quarry vehicles between the site access from the A635 and the Wavin site at Crow Edge, inasmuch as it lies within the Kirklees administration.

Comments have been made by residents along the assumed route, expressing concerns, particularly about public safety. May I suggest that an impact assessment be undertaken on these areas of concern, ahead of a decision on the application, in order to identify areas where public safety may be placed at risk by increased heavy traffic volumes.

From personal experience, I am only able to comment on traffic issues along Carr Hill Road and it's junction with the A629, in respect of which issues relating to traffic and public safety have been raised historically with Kirklees Council by local residents. This is a residential road in a rural setting, with a surface shared by HGVs, general road traffic, cyclists, pedestrians, children, dog walkers, pushchairs, wheelchairs, the elderly and those moderately disabled. Horse riders also regularly use the road individually or in small groups.

Footpath provision along Carr Hill Road is scant and limited mainly to a short stretch at the eastern and north-eastern end of the road as it approaches the A635 at the Star Inn. Many residents have tended the grass verges outside their homes in a manner which provides a limited form of refuge for pedestrians, though these are not continuous and are difficult when muddy, and at most times for those with mobility issues or wheelchair and pushchair users. Additionally, there are frequent obstructions, often in the form of cars parked wholly or partially on verges, or on the roadside in locations where the verge is inaccessible and the only way pedestrians may pass them is via the middle of the road. At the upper (western) end of the road, a combination of rough grass, occasional boulders and overhanging vegetation renders the verges unusable as a refuge, forcing pedestrians to use the road. The absence of any credible form of pedestrian refuge at the junction with the A629 renders this a threatening and potentially dangerous place to navigate on foot.

Whilst surfaces shared by vehicular and pedestrian traffic may be appropriate in the cases of lightly-trafficked rural roads or small housing developments where vehicle speeds are low and different surface textures act as a warning to drivers, Carr Hill Road, which is a heavily-trafficked through road, does not fall into these categories. It is my view that, notwithstanding the already difficult and potentially dangerous situation posed by current traffic volumes, the increase in volume which would result should quarry vehicles be permitted to use the road would be unacceptable.

May I respectfully suggest that the provisions of Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, in which highway improvements may be agreed with the development applicant as a condition of approval, may be an appropriate way to mitigate matters and enhance pedestrian safety.