

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
I wish to object to the proposed quarrying activities at Bromley Farm Quarry for the following reasons: I am Chair of Governors at Cumberworth Primary School and I am extremely concerned about the effect the proposed activities will have on our children and families. The roads around school are already busy and are not suitable for the amount of traffic currently using them. The increased number of HGV vehicles and associated movements accessing the proposed mining site will add considerably to local traffic, creating excessive traffic, noise and pollution associated with heavy goods vehicles. The plans suggest that there would be a HGV entering or leaving the site every six minutes. I also note the hours of work. 7.00am to 6pm on Monday to Fridays and 7.30am to 1pm on Saturdays. These hours are going to directly impact the children and residents. I am extremely concerned for the safety of the children attending school. This will be especially concerning at the start of the school day and end of the school day, when there will be a 120 young residents using the paths and roadways. This will be alongside pupils from Scissett Middle and Shelley College using the routes to get to school. It seems like an accident waiting to happen with an increased number of waggons and children on our already congested small rural roads! There will be a significant effect on local traffic, the added congestion at the Sovereign crossroads and Carr Hill Road which is already a serious problem. There have been many near misses with the traffic currently using it, this will only get worse with more lorries. In any but bone dry conditions dirt and slurry would be carried into Barnsley Road creating a skid hazard. In dry weather Clay dust would probably blow into Cumberworth Lane affecting the farm and the approaches to both Upper and Lower Cumberworth Villages. The dust will affect the children using the playground at school and is likely to blow into the building. The application states that a public footpath runs alongside the site. In fact, it crosses the road at the point where the new road joins the existing road to the recycling centre creating a cross road right on a sharp right angled bend on a relatively blind summit. A mix of waggons in two directions, private cars entering and exiting the recycling centre both having to cross each other's path plus walkers, many of them children, all at a blind point on the junction would appear to be a recipe for disaster. Apart from traveling through a large part of the village incoming waggons reaching the junction by the Star Pub would have to make a right turn across	

waggons reaching the junction by the Star Pub would have to make a right turn across the traffic in Barnsley Road. This junction and crossing is used by the children and parents for the first school who have permission to park in the Star car park when delivering and collecting their children.

The proposed development would have a major impact on the natural environment. The most immediate impact is on the agricultural land use which would destroy animal, insect and plant habitats. Less than half a mile away are the Upper Dearne Woodlands, a conservation area home for a variety of wildlife including bats, badgers, deer, woodpeckers, owls and a variety of other animal and birds. This natural environment will be greatly affected by such a development right on its doorstep. Particularly when nationally and locally we have a much sharper focus on environmental matters. The application document notes that the trees and hedges present at the proposed site are not important as part of the local landscape character, this is simply not correct. Cumberworth/Denby Dale is a semi-rural area – the land is a mixture of agricultural and residential use, and the trees and hedges are a large part of the local character, as well as providing habitats for wildlife.

This type of development in a residential area is unwanted and undesirable for all but the developer. Kirklees has the following stated strategic aim 'Our vision is for a Net Zero and Climate Ready Kirklees by 2038.' (Kirklees.gov.uk - Our Targets). Approving a development for open cast mining for shale, clay and associated coal that adds considerably to diesel emissions on the roads and promotes open cast coal and shale mining cannot be compatible with that stated aim. There are also suggestions of other hazards : Landfill Gas potential as suggested in the report of Enviro AG which may lead to explosions Mine Gas potential as suggested by the Coal Authority report which may lead to explosions and toxic gas release. How will this effect the 120 pupils at the Primary School? The Government's National Planning Policy Framework states that planning decisions need to 'enable and support healthy lifestyles.' Having increased traffic, combined with a 'dirty' industry being reintroduced to the area does not support this aim. The pollution from the large number of HGVs coupled with the dust generated by the extraction works is potentially harmful to the pupils (and other residents) at a time when the focus should be on improving air quality. Noise Pollution both in the quarry and on local roads.

With all the affects I have stated above I believe the Council should decline the application. There is no benefit for the community to live alongside the dirt, noise, pollution and disturbance as well as the environmental devastation the site is due to cause for the next 25 years For the reasons stated above I believe that the Council should refuse this application as there is little benefit and many, potential risks to our residents, young children and wildlife for what will be 25 years of disruption, noise, dust and pollution.