

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

The proposed development would have a major impact on the natural environment, animal, insect and plant habitats will be destroyed. Upper Dearne Woodlands, a conservation area will be effected.

Kirklees 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.

Restorations plans are inadequate, areas need to be restored once worked and not having to wait until the end of all excavations. Restoration plans need to enhance the environment, provide a significant increase in ecological outputs and amenity areas. 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.

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.

The assessments are based on substandard un-representative baseline data taken over a 1 hour period on a Thursday in April 2022 at an un-disclosed time. The comparison of likely noise pollution against such a narrow baseline dataset is very likely to underestimate the true noise impact over the proposed working days, hours and period. The use of 1 hour of baseline data is completely inadequate for the size and nature of the proposed development.

The assessment focusses on the three closest properties, but fails to draw attention to the other affected properties as shown in the drawings at the back of the report. This needs to be highlighted to the residents of Upper Cumberworth in a fair way, not buried in a report appendix.

NPPF technical guidance criteria of no more than 10dB change above background noise where possible, is exceeded in every modelled scenario (even with the poor baseline dataset), not just at the three closest properties but also across large residential areas of Upper Cumberworth. The application fails to draw attention to this, and in every case leans on the criteria for a maximum of 55dB being passable in cases where the 10dB change cannot be complied with.

The increase in noise over the working periods and timeframe is significant and detrimental to the mental well-being of the residents of Cumberworth. People live here for its rural, peaceful character, and wellbeing. Anyone in the impacted zones shown on the maps will hear the quarry activity constantly.

The noise impact assessment also fails to identify the large impact on all those who use the nearby footpaths. The nature and peaceful environment is central to the appeal of the villages and the constant noise from site activity will cause significant detrimental impact to neighbouring amenity. Fails to meet NPPF that planning decisions need to 'enable and support healthy lifestyles.'