

To whom it may concern,

Due to unavoidable work commitments, I am unable to attend the inquiry in person. I respectfully request that my objection to the proposed quarry at Lea Castle Farm be read out on my behalf. I believe that this development poses serious environmental, health, safety, and social risks to the community, and I would like these concerns to be taken into consideration as part of the inquiry proceedings.

1. Environmental Impact and Biodiversity Loss

a. Ecological Disturbance

- i. The proposed quarry is close to Hurcott Pools and Wood, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which contains vital wetland habitats and diverse wildlife, and quarry operations could severely impact this sensitive ecosystem through noise, dust, and potential water contamination. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that the protection of SSSIs, stating that any development likely to harm an SSSI should generally not proceed.

b. Water Pollution and Soil Degradation

- i.

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T B I 2 è X ô Í \ ô î Ù “ X Í - è Ù Í 2 î Ù ‡ : í î Ù < í ô e ... Ù : 2 è ô X 2 \

a. F ô Í } ... Ù « ô è + ô Ù “ X Í - è

i. “ ô Ù U X : U : \ í + Ù • + + Ù \ 2 ± è í 2 e + ... Ù 2 è X ô Í \ ô Ù ô í } ... + : è í + Ù X : í î \ à Ù U í X e è j + í X + ... Ù í X : j 2 î Ù ” ‘ P O Ù R ~ † à Ù • to handle such heavy loads. This will increase road degradation, leading to higher maintenance costs, and presents serious safety risks for local road users, including children. Paragraph 111 of the b „ „ > Ù \ U ô è ± ô \ Ù e í e Ù î ð } ô + : U 1 ô 2 e Ù \ : j + í Ù 2 : e Ù U X :

b. ‡ : í î Ù < í ô e ...

i. The safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and other residents is at risk • e Ù e \ Ù 2 è X ô Í \ ô î Ù e X Í - è à Ù ô \ U ô è - í + + ... Ù } ô 2 Ù e visibility roads around Lea Lane. Additional road wear will further strain local infrastructure, potentially diverting public funds away from other necessary services, which would place an unfair burden on the community to accommodate a private commercial project.

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7. Negative Impacts on Local Quality of Life, Property Values, and Tourism

a. « \ j í + Ù I 1 U í è e Ù Í 2 î Ù [: \ \ Ù : Ù ‡ j X í + Ù í X í è e ô X

i. The quarry’s operations would permanently alter the rural character of this Green Belt area, which is cherished by residents í 2 î Ù } í + j ô î Ù æ ... Ù } \ e : X \ B Ù „ : + è ... Ù < [B ~ „ P Ù : Ù e ô Ù Local Plan aims to protect Green Belt land, ensuring its openness í 2 î Ù X j X í + Ù W j í + e ... B Ù “ ô Ù \ è í + ô Ù : Ù e \ Ù W j í X X ... Ù with these protections, degrading local visual appeal and recreational value.

b. Property Values and Community Welbeing

i. Proximity to quarries is known to reduce property values. Additionally, residents’ quality of life will decline due to increased 2 : \ ô à Ù î j \ e à Ù Í 2 î Ù ô í } ... Ù e X Í - è à Ù í è e : X \ Ù e í e Ù í } \ j - è ô 2 e + ... Ù í î X ô \ \ ô î Ù 2 Ù e ô Ù U X : U : \ í + B Ù “ ô Ù b „ „ minimising adverse impacts on communities, while the Wyre Forest District Local Plan promotes developments that align with community well-being.

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9. Non-compliance with Local and National Planning Policies

a. : 2 2 è e Ù • e Ù [: è í + Ù " ô } ô + : U 1 ô 2 e Ù „ + í 2 \

i. The Wyre Forest District Local Plan emphasises sustainable development in alignment with environmental protection and the è : 2 \ ô X } í e : 2 Ù : Ù 2 í e j X í + Ù + í 2 î \ è í U ô \ B Ù “ ô Ù U X : U : \ • e Ù ' ô ... Ù U : + è ô \ à Ù \ j è Ù í \ Ù < [B ~ „ P Ù í 2 î Ù < [B V à rural character, water resources, and biodiversity.

b. « : + í e : 2 Ù : Ù b í e : 2 í + Ù „ + í 2 2 2 Ù „ : + è ... Ù > X í 1 ô • : X ' Ù ü b „

i. The NPPF supports sustainable development principles, including the conservation of valuable landscapes and the protection of

such as 111 and 174, the proposed quarry falls short of these requirements, failing to adequately mitigate its impact on ecosystems, health, and infrastructure.

In summary, I urge the inquiry to carefully consider the severe and long-term impacts of the Lea Castle Farm Quarry proposal. The environmental risks, public safety hazards, quality-of-life impacts, and strain on local infrastructure far outweigh any purported benefits. The quarry is not designed to protect communities and the environment, and I respectfully request that this application be denied or, at the very least, subjected to further scrutiny and more rigorous mitigation requirements.

Thank you for considering my objections.

Sincerely,

Richard Cookley

Richard Cookley
Cookley
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