

r1066

65 Castle Road
Cookley
Worcestershire
DY10 3TE

7th November 2024

Dear sir or madam,

I am writing to submit my objection to the proposed sand and gravel quarry at Lea Castle Farm.

I understand the need for quarrying such materials but the proximity of this facility to local communities and the well-used Public Right of Way (PRoW) network concerns me immensely.

I object to the facility due to the proximity to local communities such as Cookley, Webbsley, Clog Hill and Ruarwaters which comprise a significant number of residents, children and young people as well as sections of the community who are likely to be more vulnerable to the operations such as young children and the elderly. In particular for the following reasons:

- Greenbelt - The quarrying for minerals interrupts and detracts from the purpose of the green belt as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- Air quality - The emission of potentially harmful particles resulting from quarrying

On the health and well-being - More generally than the potential health impact of particle emissions, the concern caused to local people and the ill effects on their health such as the effects on mental and physical well-being of the loss of vital green space and important leisure routes.

and use of quarrying equipment and machinery from the quarry will result in a high percentage of HGV movements.

- Duration - This is not just a short-lived interruption to life for locals, this is planned for 1 years plus restoration. Putting that into context personally, the routes regularly use with our now 7- and 10-year-old will be impacted until they're adults.

These objections are based on the information provided in the planning application and these objections.

- Loss of quality agricultural land - For the period of time operations and restoration take and even after quarrying operations finish, will this ever be restored back to its current quality.

- Wildlife and loss of habitat - there is a continuous network of trees and hedgerows supporting wildlife. The cumulative loss and interruption with nearby residential development sites (and further areas recently removed from the green belt in the adopted Local Plan) is concerning and suitable mitigation not offered. Particular are impacts on feathered species such as skylarks.

- PROW network and use - Multiple routes used by a significant number of participants on foot, on horseback and equestrian riders. The disruption to PROWs in terms of routing and proximity of users to noisy activities which emit potentially harmful particles is worrying.

I ask that the genuine concerns of local people are considered when making a decision. Whilst I understand there has to be a balance from a policy perspective to refuse an application, I believe there are several matters which mean the development does not fully comply with relevant local and national policy.

Real life residual cumulative impacts are not insignificant. Whilst the period over which activities are proposed to take place is not insignificant.

Yours faithfully

Kay Nicholls