

Mr Dave Parrish (via email)

Planning

YDNPA

27 May 2021

UPDATED Objection to Planning Application: C/04/609B

Dry Rigg Quarry, Helwith Bridge, Horton-in-Ribblesdale

Full planning permission for the proposed continuation of the winning and working of mineral until 31 December 2034, with a lateral and deepening extension of the extraction area down to 127 metres above Ordnance Datum within the existing site and revised restoration proposals to be completed by 31 December 2035

Dear Mr Parrish

Friends of the Dales **strongly objects** to the application to extend Dry Rigg quarry's operations for a further thirteen years. **We wish to re-iterate our objection** of 11 May 2020 which is reproduced after some additional comments, below.

- It is **unacceptable** to extend quarrying within a National Park. This application does not meet policy SP5 which states that permission for such a major development will only be granted 'in exceptional circumstances'. There are no such exceptional circumstances in this instance. There is no demonstrated national need for further development here. There is also a national presumption that non-energy minerals will not be sourced from within National Parks (NPPF 205).
- It is **unacceptable** to propose further quarrying at Dry Rigg. In November 2012 a public meeting was told that no further rock extraction would be undertaken at Dry Rigg beyond the expected completion date of the end of 2021. The last application was therefore accepted by many people on the grounds that work would cease once the agreed material was extracted. It is unacceptable for the public and the planning authority to be misled in this way.
- It is **unacceptable** repeatedly to seek relatively short extensions to the working period, rather than acknowledging the real intention of long term extraction.
- It is **unacceptable** to introduce such a highly visible development that would have an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Park, in particular visual intrusion and impact on landscape character. The proposed area of extraction comprises a very prominent area on the side of the hill and would remain in clear sight from much of Ribblesdale for the many years of its working and restoration.



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- It is **unacceptable** to propose further extraction without including proposals for a substantial reduction of the proportion taken out by road. Policy L6 seeks a reduction of at least 50% in road haulage. This is a National Park visited by several million people every year; increasing heavy road traffic reduces both their experience and also the quality of life for the many local residents affected.

Our original objection dated 11 May 2020

We object to the apparently never-ending postponement to the end of operations at this quarry and the restoration of the site. If granted, we believe that this would be the fifth time that an extension has been sought and approved.

In a meeting we attended in November 2012, Mr Stuart Wykes - then Managing Director of Lafarge Aggregates, now Director of Land and Natural Resources at Tarmac - stated that the planning permission (for extension) granted in February 2012 included all workable reserves at the quarry and Lafarge therefore would not seek to work any additional rock at the site, yet this is exactly what Tarmac is now proposing to do. YDNPA's Mineral Officer, Mr David Parrish, was at this meeting and should be able to corroborate the statement made by Mr Wykes.

Our objection is based on the policy fundamental that, despite Tarmac's assertion that it isn't, this is a proposed major development in a National Park and as such should only be approved in exceptional circumstances. Given that the material to be won in the operation is available elsewhere, the exceptional circumstance criterion is not met and therefore the application should be refused.

We have two main concerns about the proposal.

The first is the cumulative impact of continued significant HGV movement on the roads in Ribblesdale. The current permitted maximum road movement of Dry Rigg and Arcow quarries combined is 250,000 tonnes per annum. This proposal offers no 'planning gain' reduction on this ceiling; it simply extends the blight by eight years before a reduction to 150,000 tpa (after Arcow closure) for a further five years. This is not acceptable and we would insist that should approval be given then it should be linked to a condition to reduce significantly, and at least by 50%, the volume of stone moved by road, even if this means Tarmac investing more elsewhere in additional rail receiving facilities.

Our second concern is the proposed lateral extension of the approved extraction limit. It is one thing to deepen a quarry, which would essentially be unobservable outside of the quarry boundary, but to extend the surface area of disturbance by what looks like to be around 30% will impact the landscape of the area as seen from various locations outside of the quarry location. See photograph below which indicates the visual impact of the proposed removal of the northern tip. We would argue that any permission granted should be only for the deepening of the quarry.



We acknowledge that the proposal brings employment and economic benefits but to extend operations by thirteen years, whilst increasing the extraction rate by almost 15% to 400,000 tpa, without any amelioration to the blight of HGVs trundling through the Dales, combined with the implications for the landscape is, in our view, unsupportable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.M. Petyt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chair of Policy Committee

Friends of the Dales is a working name of the Yorkshire Dales Society which was founded in 1981 and is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Friends of the Dales is free of political and financial affiliations. We work to ensure that the Government, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and other relevant agencies deliver their obligations to care for the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales, an internationally important area. We do this by considering major planning applications and policy development affecting the Yorkshire Dales and adjacent areas. We offer a year round programme of walks and talks so that everyone can enjoy and learn more about this beautiful area and why it needs protection. We have a membership of around 1,300 individuals, families, businesses and organisations.