

Dear Helen,

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.

Impact on Air Quality and Health

A primary concern with this development is the impact it will have on air quality in the surrounding area. The proximity of the proposed quarry to Wolverley and Cookley, particularly its location near a primary school, playing fields, and children's playground, is extremely troubling. Dust emissions from quarrying operations, including the movement of heavy vehicles and the extraction process, are well-documented sources of airborne particulate matter. Such particles pose a direct threat to the respiratory health of vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions. The constant exposure to dust could exacerbate conditions such as asthma and other respiratory issues, significantly affecting the well-being of local residents.

In addition to health concerns, the environmental impact of dust pollution on the local flora and fauna cannot be ignored. The potential for long-term degradation of local air quality is an unacceptable risk for a residential area.

Safety Risks to Children Due to Increased HGV Traffic

Another key issue is the safety of children and other pedestrians in the area, particularly given the planned increase in Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic as a result of quarry operations. Cookley, as a small village, does not have the infrastructure to handle such a significant increase in traffic. The added volume of HGVs on local roads—many of which are narrow and frequented by children walking to school, playing fields, and the nearby playground—raises serious safety concerns.

The risks of accidents involving children and other pedestrians are greatly amplified by the increased traffic flow. The roads around the area are not designed for such heavy traffic, and there is a significant danger that children crossing roads, particularly at points close to the school and recreational areas, will be at a heightened risk of injury or worse.

Conclusion

Given the proximity of the proposed quarry to a residential area, a primary school, and recreational spaces used by children, I strongly object to the construction of this quarry. The adverse effects on air quality, public health, and road safety are too great to ignore. I urge you to carefully consider these serious concerns before proceeding with the planning application.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria Grainger