

**Good afternoon**

**please find attached a letter of objection to the quarry after listening to arguments provided by the appellant NRS**

**there experts did not provide adequate answers**

**Regards**

**John & Julieanne priest**

**lea castle village resident**

**Appeal site address:** Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

**Planning Inspectorate appeal reference:** APP/E1855/W/22/3310099

**Worcestershire County Council application reference:** 19/000053/CM

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed quarry development by NRS Aggregates Ltd at Lea Castle Farm. As a resident of Lea Castle village, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts this project will have on our community and the surrounding environment.

The proposed quarry site is situated on greenbelt land, a valuable asset that should be preserved for future generations. It's very close proximity to residential areas, schools a care homes, an equestrian centre, a caravan and camping site, and a new housing development makes it an unsuitable location for such a development. The quarry would mean Losing quality agricultural farmland. It will reduce the amount of land available for food production and be a biodiversity loss.

The area is a popular destination for walking and recreation. The public paths through the fields and woods are frequently used by residents, including elderly people, families with children and horse riding, organized walking groups and visitors. These paths provide a peaceful and quiet environment, essential for mental health, well-being and enjoyment. The proposed quarry would disrupt these paths, significantly impacting the quality of life for many.

After listening the appellant argument, I believe the noise, vibration, and dust generated by quarry operations would have a detrimental effect on residents, schools, and wildlife. The dust is a main source of air pollution from particulate matter. These dust episodes constitute a growing environmental and public health concern, mainly for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The wildlife in the area, including badgers, bats, and birds, would be particularly vulnerable to habitat disruption and noise pollution. The claim that wildlife will simply "move away" is a gross oversimplification and fails to acknowledge the long-term consequences of such a development.

I believe that the proposal represents a material risk to the health of the local population through possible contamination and water run-off into the water table, but I am especially concerned about air quality and the scientific facts around airborne particles known as silica that are created by quarrying. Scientific evidence has proved that quarrying creates dust that pollutes the air around the areas of operation. Air quality has long been talked about as an issue. Since 1956, Governments have openly been aware of, and legislated on, air pollution and addressed the shocking risks to human health at the time. Governments and politicians are actively talking about air pollution and the effects on human health. As the hon. Member for Warwick and Leamington has pointed out, on air toxicity, the Environmental Working Group, a US-based body specialising in research and advocacy, has already stated that

“None of the air quality standards for silica are adequate to protect people living or working near sand mining sites. The danger of airborne silica is especially acute for children, Silica air pollution has become a danger for residents near open sand mining and processing. Children, older adults, and others with existing disease are especially at risk.”

As a result, the group has concerns for any resident living within 1,500 metres of an excavation site, where air pollution can be 10 times higher than the recommended limit. This proposed site is 18 metres from nursery and the main school building is just 30 meters, therefore much closer than those outlined by the group as being at risk.

The increased traffic associated with the quarry would pose a significant safety risk to residents, particularly children going to school using a designated safe passage

route but having to cross the proposed site quarry entrance and the elderly, who may struggle to cross the road safely. The additional lorries per day would exacerbate existing traffic congestion, making it difficult to navigate the area safely.

NRS quarry sites, like the one in Woodcote Hill A41 Shropshire, the site entrance has become covered in sand brought by the lorries exiting the quarry entrance, further increasing the risk of accidents." (image below) the Highways Act 1980; and the Road Traffic Act 1988. Section 149 of the Highways Act states

*"If anything is deposited on the highway so as to constitute a nuisance/danger the Highway Authority can require the person who put it there to remove it forthwith".  
Mud causes skidding and is therefore dangerous and a nuisance.*

The danger of mud on the road was raised at the public appeal, however it would appear from the image that the danger is not being currently being addressed by NRS at another site.

Finally, after listening to the public appeal the removal of 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel it would appear there is no adequate replacement of inert fill this would have a devastating impact on the landscape for at least the next 20 years. The area's natural beauty and character would be irrevocably altered.

I urge you to carefully consider the negative consequences of this proposed quarry development and to reject the planning application. The protection of our greenbelt, the well-being of our community, and the preservation of our natural environment are paramount.

I urge you to carefully consider these significant concerns and reject the planning application. The protection of our community, particularly our children, and the preservation of our environment are paramount.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

John & Julieanne Priest

Resident of Lea Castle Village

