

Dear sir

My name is Mark Jones and I have been an arborist for 20 years and have also been a horse owner for 10 years. I come from a farming background and my family have owned 3 farms in and around the area.

I have been watching this with great interest on you tube around my full time job.

I am writing to object to the planning application for the proposed quarry development, specifically concerning the impact I believe it will clearly have on the historic trees located within the site. In my view as a tree professional these trees are of significant historical, ecological, and amenity value, which warrants their preservation and protection from the harmful activities associated with this development.

In my opinion the proposed quarrying excavation near root protection area (RPA) of these trees presents a serious risk to their health and viability. Any disturbance to the soil is likely to cause irreparable harm to the root systems of these trees. Excavation, soil compaction, and the modification of soil levels in this area are incompatible with the preservation of mature trees. Academic research has clearly established that the trees' complex root systems extend far beyond what may be expected above ground and the water movement through the soil will be significantly affected by the modification of the quarry development.

The need to preserve the soil's structure is imperative as it is essential for soil-to-air gas exchanges that are critical to the health of these trees. Any change to the soil composition, especially one that limits oxygen, water, and nutrient flow, will have both immediate and long-term consequences on tree vitality. Any elevation or compaction within the RPA will have a lasting impact, damaging root systems that are fundamental to these trees' survival. All construction activities must be moderated to occur further away from the trunk.

The extraction route appears to move across the root protection areas of significant trees along the lane. The increase in construction and quarry traffic will significantly impact and the roots through repeated compaction beyond the extent that the trees have already experienced (and previously tolerated).

These trees are not only valuable to the local landscape and ecology but are irreplaceable local environmental assets with historical significance. This proposed development, as currently outlined, fails to respect these values and appears to undermine the protections that these trees merit. The applicant should be required to adopt a design approach that ensures zero encroachment within the RPA of trees along the lane and, thereby safeguarding the trees' root systems and their broader ecological functions.

Given these considerations, I strongly urge the planning authority to require that no excavation, no soil modification, or construction traffic is to take place within the root protection area of these trees. This application should be rigorously scrutinised to

ensure that all necessary protections are enforced to prevent the avoidable and irreversible loss of these historic and ecologically valuable trees.

Above and beyond these points the planning authority could consider using a new Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to provide additional legal protections for the Category A and possibly Category B trees (as determined within the applicants own BS 5837 survey), on and immediately adjacent to the quarry development site.

I have also noted that the site survey for these trees states it is only valid for 12 months and was carried out in 2019. Can you also please confirm whether an ecologist report has been completed and the dates and validity period of this report?

Sincerely,
Mark Jones