

Good Afternoon,  
Please find a an up to date copy of my speech that I presented on Tuesday 5/11/24 at  
Public Enquiry for  
Lea Castle Farm Quarry

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APPELLANTS APPEAL REF: APP/E1855W/22/3310099 NS Aggregates Ltd

**STOP LEA CASTLE FARM QUARRY - 2nd Public enquiry 5/11/24**

Well here we are again , We know that Quarrying is a lucrative industry, our Greenbelt who's only crime over the centuries, was to give human's food, clean drinking water, freedom ,hope ,shelter, homes to array of wildlife, much needed agricultural land also giving life to trees, plants and grass.

Therefore when I tell you everyone that are hear today, that the people of COOKLEY and WOLVERLEY, that there is no amount of monies that can buy this GREAT asset to our lives for the future of us all, and for many generations that will come after us,  
Hence that is why we are here again today, fighting for our survival by Stopping the Quarry.

As we ALL know if this ,PRECIOUS GREENBELT is forced to be handed over and then turned into a quarry then Landfill,Then think on:-

Once it's gone it's gone . And there goes the Grace of God.

With the now New Labour Government in power and who are investing an astounding amount of monies for a target of NET ZERO by 2050. Which you will agree is a very tough ask for everyone, however we all must contribute and make sacrifices to be able to achieve this massive ask. With great determination, and by taking action NOW, it could be achievable.

Already many people living in the Wye Forrest area are seeing the significance importance of Net Zero and are already making roads towards these targets and have already changed to electric cars where possible.

You ask what's all this got to do with why we are all here today, taking this opportunity to

show a better understanding to all who are involved, to why the Quarry must be Stopped.

It will surprised you that in one year of 2022 Carbon Dioxide Emissions attributable to mining and quarrying industry in the UK amounted to almost 16 million metric tons.

(1 metric ton = 2,204.62 pounds or 1,000 kilograms) x 16 million which is a fair old amount.

( which makes the Governments policy of “Stop smoking ban in Beer Gardens “looks silly”

Thus by humans change the atmosphere by emitting carbon dioxide, those changes will endure on the timescale of many human lives.

As you all know the proposed Lea Castle Farm Site is of good quality working FARMLAND ,which could be destroyed forever and with it Comes “The Urban Sprawl” which is the start of the End of our heritage and quality of life.

So the Lea Castle Farm Quarry site that the NRS are proposing which is just Next door to people’s homes and 5 schools, and with previous deliberations on multiple appeals and inquiries that the NRS Aggregates have appealed,when the outcome was always the same NO to the Quarry and Landfill.

“Quarries are TEMPORARY as you keep telling us, but their Environmental Impact is FOREVER”

Every stage of a quarry’s life cycle comes at an enormous environmental and human costs.

The loss of natural carbon sinks on the proposed site should be very worrying for everyone.

FACT - One acre of intact unplowed healthy grassland which is what we are talking about here, Is believed to store thousands of gallons of water that would otherwise be lost. England is set to run out of water in the next 25years that was the warning from Head of the Environment Agency, Sir James Bevan at the Waterwise conference in LONDON.

FACT- Grass takes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but also traps dust to keep it out of both air and your lungs.

FACT - 1,000 square-metre area of grass will take up around one tonne of carbon per year.

FACT - 1 acre of grass can produce enough oxygen for 64 people per day.

FACT - Grass is one of the biggest oxygen producers of the planet. It is said that it even produces 3 times more than trees.

You are asking that we accept “A Man with a big digger to take away our natural carbon sink and literally suffocates us all.

The Government has pledged nearly £22 billion on carbon capture and storage over the next 25 years .

Over a period of time the Greenhouse gases that remain is removed by slower processes that take up to Several hundreds of thousands of years ,Greenhouse gases are all found in working aggregate Quarry’s and Landfills.

NOW in the 21st century you would certainly agree, that taking the earths natural resources out of the ground that have been there for thousands if not millions of years, which you would think they are there for a reason, this is not only a practice that is causing the earth to heat up and help towards and hurry along , climate change, in a way you can’t imagine ,which will affecting everything around us and I am afraid when the time comes it will take NO prisoners.

To save our fragile Land THE AGGREGATES INDUSTRY IN THE UK MUST STOP this outdated practice and look towards Europe especially Switzerland and Germany for Sustainable Development Goals to take us all into the future.

Landfills are pretty ugly, with the toxins, leachate and greenhouses gasses.

Plastic waste can take anywhere from 20 to 1,000 years to decompose and even then it never fully disappears.

Quote from the United Nations - “ plastic is forever”

As you will also know Landfill are a lot more deadly and nastier for us to deal with.

#### Health and Environmental Risks of Residents Living Close to a Landfill

How close is too close to a landfill.

Research has shown that the exposure of participants living 2 kilometres (1.24miles) from a Landfill causes health and environmental effects when compared to participants living far from the landfill site.

Data from National Institutes of Health (NIH) (gov) PMC6617357

Just in case you forgot that’s me I live near by , as does everyone here today and many more frightened people who are extremely worried about the their future and the future health of their generations that are lucky to be born and survive.

LANDFILLS Management CANNOT CAPTURE ALL THE GASES THEY PRODUCE from landfills, history shows it’s not guaranteed, and there will be some concerning leaks with disasters ,

I ask you at whose expense.

Englands Environmental Agency isn't doing enough to protect the public from Landfill gas, according to a recent High Court Ruling. Walleys Quarry Landfill site.

According to the Environmental Agency-seventeen landfills across England are known to be producing a highly toxic liquid substance to Drinking water.

“There have been more than over a 1,000 huge leaks of potential greenhouse gasses from landfill waste dumps since 2019 around the world”. So forgive me if I am very concerned for our future and future of generations to come.

Now you the NRS Aggregates will put your very strong case as to the many times previously to why the Quarry should go ahead, with your well presented maps on how lovely the site will look and that there are absolutely

No Dangers or concerns that could possibly affect the locals, and they have nothing to worry about,

And after you complete robbing the earth of its natural resources and after digging enormous big holes to fill with rubbish (great swap I say) your strong argument will be “we need to build houses as there is a national shortage of affordable homes.

So you the NRS Aggregates are proposing 11 years of working this GREENBELT into a Quarry then a Landfill site, but you have NOT given a guarantee that you would NOT apply for further years of quarrying) on this proposed site , and then we have the following of how many years of dumping rubbish, (Landfill ) and so the nightmare will continue for us all who unfortunately have to live through it, trying to live close to a LANDFILL won't be easy, which I can CONFIRM is way inside the safe guidelines of living near a Quarry or Landfill.

#### IMPORT OF SAND AND GRAVEL

Now you would think that as a small Island LIKE THE UK which you will agree is really tight for space , would be better for everyone if they import Sand and Gravel from country's that can afford the loss of space .

IN fact research has shown that 50% of aggregates in the UK is imported.

In 2022 the UK imported \$47.4 million of sand which made the UK the14th largest importer of sand.

I don't see a concern with this practice, after all we have now to import coal, steel and most other commodities from the other side of the world ,so carbon foot print is not a concern to Government but Net Zero is a target that must be met.

EXPORT OF SAND AND GRAVEL FROM THE UK as you can imagine my understanding of this practice was very hard to comprehend and just begs belief.

The fastest growing export markets between 2021 and 2022 were to Belgium Nicaragua and the Netherlands (excluding marine-dredged sand and Gravel ) the UK remains a net exporter of natural aggregate's .Exports of British silica sand are expected to reach roughly 73 million kilograms by 2026.

( 1 million kilograms = 984.20 imperial ton) x 73 now thats is very very frightening ,and a lot of big holes to be dug and filled.

So tell me why a small over populated country like the UK can justify the destruction of our Valuable limited amount of GREENBELT that we so desperately need to survive, to be replaced by the aggregates industry robbing its minerals and replacing them with rubbish, for another country to have all the benefits.

They are not making any more land which means our small island is getting smaller. You will say that aggregates Industry brings lots of jobs, and I will say to you our Greenbelt is a multipurpose commodity for all life to survive.

THE AGGREGATES INDUSTRIES ARE COMMITTED TO REDUCING ITS IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BECOMING NET ZERO BY 2050 AND NATURE-POSITIVE BY 2030.

Which I must point out that if this Quarry is granted to continue, You the NRS have already failed this important target before you even get started, as 2030 is only 6 years away and you have requested 11 years to quarry then what ever time that awful landfill takes.

However we are in the 21st century and the Aggregates Industry should have worked out by now a better more cleaner NET ZERO way of building houses maintaining roads instead of destroying what we can never replace GREENBELT.

Which is yours and everybody's survival which is on loan only.

You know as well as I do, there are other ways to build houses without sand and gravel but as an industry have chosen to ignore these options and not gone with progress in stopping the climate change .

Remember this , and believe me when I say TIME, Clean Fresh Water and GREENBELT are running out for us all , unless we act now.

Quote from The Flower of Scotland

“We fight for our wee bit of hill and glen  
And send you homeward to think again”

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