

Environment

What dust levels can we expect? Sherburn Stone may be required to monitor dust levels. However, monitoring dust levels does not prevent dust! The existing quarry already provides noticeable levels of dust and the new quarry will only add to this. The prevailing winds are westerly and Barton will be on the receiving end of these winds. We should all be concerned about our children and the schools proximity to this quarry. How can we be sure that Sherburn Stone will manage the dust levels? We can't.

Traffic

What will the additional traffic mean? The new visitor attraction is expected to attract 250,000 visitors per year. Traffic will be directed onto the A1 although there will be no physical barrier to stop drivers taking a short cut through Barton or Middleton Tyas. Satellite navigation systems use the shortest route and not signposted routes. HGV's from the quarry will not have Sherburn Stone's authority to travel through Barton or Middleton Tyas although this will require managing. 2,000,000 tonnes of limestone is planned to be extracted which will leave the quarry by road in one form or another. Once this has been processed at Barton Quarry, if it goes out in 20 tonne loads, this will generate 100,000 lorry movements. This could average 56 lorry movements a day for 15 years if work is restricted to winter months only. When the A1 undergoes widening or is blocked, then travel for these vehicles will be difficult. There cannot be a formal HVG restriction through Barton or Middleton Tyas as this is a diversion route for the A1.

Ecology

What will happen to the wildlife while the quarry is operational? The site includes habitats for protected species such as bats, badgers and two species of breeding birds as well as numerous other unprotected species such as wild deer and foxes. These will all be disturbed. Mature deciduous trees will have to be removed and established habitats will be destroyed.

Operations

What will the operational hours of the site be? Working hours will be Monday to Friday 07:00 through 18:00. Quarrying will progress between 08.00 and 17.00. Quarrying, including blasting, will take place throughout the year during the first 5 years of operation; blasting will only take place during the winter months after year 5, although processing, including crushing and grading, may continue in the existing Barton quarry all year round. How long will the quarry be operational? The mineral extraction is planned 15 years although this may become market dependable. Barton quarry already has planning permission until 2042 and we may be in a situation where minerals are extracted from the new quarry and stockpiled at Barton until processed right up until 2042.

General

Our objections are to the quarry element of this application, not to the refurbishment of the house or the grounds.

However the family which owns Middleton Lodge, the Allisons, have derived their livelihood from quarrying. They own Sherburn Stone, which operate Barton Quarry, as well as other well established quarry sites in the North East. As they have owned Middleton Lodge since circa 1980, one has to ask why they have not used any of the proceeds from their existing quarry operations to refurbish the stable block and gardens or, at the very least, maintain them during the last 30 years?!

Why, therefore, will the money from another quarry make any difference? In particular, a quarry that quite clearly is going to produce considerably more money than is required to fulfil the aspirations of their planning application.

Surely a quarry is a very strange way to go about restoring the grounds of a beautiful listed property? A quarry which will also permanently blight our environment as well as our lives for the foreseeable future.

It is necessary to consider the Human Rights legislation and those rights of local residents to enjoy the amenities of their homes, and to protect the other general interests of broader members of the community.

One further serious development is that Barton Quarry have now applied for A Concrete Batching Plant. The resulting noise, dust and lorry movements will be a major issue. Both MTRA and BRA oppose an application of this nature which will so obviously have a major impact on our residents and our environment.