

PROTECT THE PEAK DISTRICT
SAVE LONGSTONE EDGE

David Bent, Senior Minerals Planner
Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Rd
Bakewell, Derbyshire
DE45 1AE

Your refs: NP/DDD/0804/0946 & NP/DDD/0804/0947

23 November 2004

Dear Mr Bent,

Extension to Arthurton West Pit proposed by Glebe Mines Ltd.

The Save Longstone Edge group wishes to oppose this proposed development for the following reasons:

1. The previous application was for a much less damaging operation, yet was rejected by the Park Authority on 6 May 2003 on a number of grounds. Some of these grounds remain valid:

- It would be a major development in a national park without exceptional circumstance to justify it. Reasonable alternatives for the mineral exist and there is thus no national need for the mineral to be worked from this site.
- The development would have a detrimental impact on the environment of the area, and on local communities.
- The development is premature in that it pre-empts the review of national need for fluorspar under MPG1, a review that is still not complete.

2. We are concerned that major environmental damage will be caused to a beautiful stretch of rough grazing grassland, in the vicinity of and visible from the outstanding and rare heather-clad Longstone Moor. We believe that the damage from the alternative underground mining, though longer-lasting, will be much less severe. This concern is further heightened by our observations of the performance of Glebe Mines in the restoration work they have completed, or are completing, on the Beeches Rake and the eastern end of Deep Rake. In spite of their self-proclaimed expertise in reclamation, we believe these examples to be of poor quality.

3. A fundamental purpose of the national park is to “conserve and enhance natural beauty”. The proposal clearly runs counter to this aim, the upholding of which is a primary responsibility of the Park Authority.

4. The application document quotes a yield of 150,000 tonnes more ore from opencast than from underground mining, equalling half a year’s consumption at Cavendish Mill. We consider

that this limited extension to the life of Cavendish Mill does not justify the environmental damage caused.

The Save Longstone Edge group was founded in 1997 to campaign for the protection of Longstone Edge from damage by quarrying and mining. It numbers 700 households as members, by far the greatest part being from the local area.

Yours sincerely

Julian Tippett