

STOP NOTICE NOW IN FORCE BUT MORE FUNDS NEEDED

RAPE STOPPED

FOR NOW!

Save Longstone Edge

WE MUST ACT NOW TOGETHER WE CAN WIN.
PEOPLE POWER CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS AND SAVE THEM!

Inquiry

Why we need more funds

As many of you know, the inquiry that was postponed last year is due to resume on 4th April.

The landowner and the quarry company have employed top-flight QCs to fight their case. On the other side the Peak Park has a QC and we with the CPRE can continue with our advocate *if we can raise more funds.*

Having seen the opposition's QCs in action at the pre-inquiry meeting held last week we are in no doubt that the power of their advocacy may well win Bleaklow and MMC the appeal against the Peak Park's enforcement notice. This could in effect open up a great swathe of Longstone Edge for massive quarrying.

The money you donated so generously in the past has been spent on technical planning advice preparing for the inquiry, but little is left over for representation at the now greatly extended inquiry itself. However, without an advocate neither SLEG nor CPRE will be able to examine or cross question the appellants. We feel that the Peak Park's QC on her own cannot save the day.

We have fought the battle of Longstone Edge for so long now it would be tragic to lose the day for want of representation.

We need £9,000 urgently

What can you do? Please send a donation to the fighting fund – no matter how much – we need every penny if we, the public, are to have an equal chance against the quarry men and their sharp legal representatives.

See form to complete overleaf

Rape stopped

The Park Authority finally served a Stop Notice at Backdale, effective 29th January, the result of great lobbying by all of us and hard work by the committee – a brilliant result.

The effect is to stop the breaking of new stone – blasting should stop – but processing of loose stone and selling from stockpiles can continue.

But the main thing is that the destruction has been halted.

We shall keep a close eye on the quarry to check there's no backsliding.

What does the Stop Notice mean?

Please do not think this is the end of the matter. The Stop Notice just stops the destruction until the inquiry reports in the Autumn – or later if there's a high court challenge.

Therefore winning the inquiry remains the all-important task. Were we (and the Park Authority) to lose this, the operators would have a free hand to start quarrying up on the top of the Edge, AND claim compensation for loss of profit from the stop notice.

Stop Notice posted on sign post near Backdale.





(from r) Landscape minister Jim Knight MP,
National Park chairman Tony Hams
National Park chief executive Jim Dixon
Backdale in background.

Recent Events

- **Nov 28th AGM**, Village Hall, Calver. A packed house lets the people from the Park Authority take away a grasp of everyone's deep hurt and sense of injustice at what is happening at Backdale. Many of those attending write to landscape minister Jim Knight, and we send our high impact DVD to him and to Park Authority members.
- **Dec.** We commission a report on options available, and engage with the Park to discuss the way forward.
- **Dec/Jan.** The Park, now with a stop order in mind, meets government seeking support in the form of financial indemnity against potential compensation claims from the landowner and operator if the inquiry went in their favour. They get indications of assurance.
- **Dec/Jan.** During this period we had alerted the media and many articles appeared in local and national press, and on TV news programmes, including Channel Four, Calendar and BBC. The pressure was building.
- **Jan.** In a final push, we lobby Margaret Beckett who would have the last word. Government gives its assurance.
- **20th Jan.** The Park Authority resolves to serve a stop notice, effective 29th January.
- **30th Jan.** Jim Knight visits Backdale for first hand impressions. We waylay him on the footpath opposite the quarry and a media scrum results with three TV crews radio and print journalists vying for his attention.
- **30th Jan.** Packed Cliff College meeting hears Park's account of events and we reinforce our views.

**Please give enclosed leaflets to
your friends**

Inquiry

This will reconvene in 2006:
4-7th April; 11-13th April; 6-7th June.
Venue: Village Hall, Calver.

The inquiry runs each day
0930-1700, except
4th April 1000-1700, and
7th and 13th April 0930-1400.

Main Players in the inquiry:

Appellants:

Bleaklow Industries:
site owners

MMC Mineral Processing:
quarry operators

Defending:

Peak District National Park
Authority

Save Longstone Edge jointly
with Campaign to Protect
Rural England

We are hoping to see a really good turn-out to impress on the inspector by weight of numbers the depth of concern. Please notify your willingness to attend on the form below, or (preferably) by email to info@longstone-edge.org.uk

We shall contact you nearer the time to try to ensure coverage of all sessions.

At a Public Inquiry anyone may make a verbal representation. To do this you will need to register your interest on day one and be prepared to speak on one of the latter days or when the inspector decides. It's usually best to read from a script and hand in five copies of this. Particular directed points could be valuable and, if you need any advice on making a point, then please let us know. You might be questioned.

Letters to the inspector will also be valuable, but should be handed in to the inquiry itself. We have a list of 'key points' that are valid planning matters, so do ask if you want some help with this. Quote Backdale APP/M9496/C/05/2000744.

If you can't attend in person to hand-deliver your letter to the inspector, then please send it via SLEG (address below).

CONTACT SLEG: (Secretary Julian Tippet) email: info@longstone-edge.org.uk
tel:01433 631624 Also website: www.longstone-edge.org.uk

WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL AND MORAL

INQUIRY: I definitely expect to attend, but cannot say when yet:

I would hope to attend this number (approx.) of am or pm sessions:

I am willing to receive suggestions for sessions to attend:

Put me down for these sessions:

We need £10,000 urgently

Please respond to our appeal, as explained overleaf. Send contributions to SLEG (cheques pay: "Save Longstone Edge") to:

1, Old Hall Gardens, Stoney Middleton, Hope Valley S32 4TZ AMOUNT £

Name:

tel:

email:

Address:

postcode: