

SAVE LONGSTONE EDGE

PEAK DISTRICT PLANNERS DEMAND QUARRY CLOSURE

PRESS RELEASE

25th November 2004 - for immediate release

The Save Longstone Edge group is pleased that the Peak District National Park Authority has now served an enforcement notice on MMC Ltd, the operators currently quarrying for limestone at Backdale, and on the owners Bleaklow Industries. The notice requires them to confine their activities primarily to fluorspar mining. MMC started work in July 2003, have already created an enormous scar on the landscape, and would cause massive environmental damage over the next forty years if left unchecked.

We are convinced that MMC's operation breaches the terms of the minerals permission applying to the site issued in 1952. This permission allows mainly for fluorspar to be mined, plus some limestone, but this latter is limited to the quantity that has to be removed in order to get at the fluorspar. To turn this permission on its head, as they have done, to become an excuse for large-scale limestone quarrying is a wilful misinterpretation, and is in clear breach of its terms.

Crucially the National Park Authority in its role as minerals planning authority also takes this view, and has now formally declared that MMC's current limestone quarrying activity is in breach of the permission. We believe MMC and Bleaklow Industries should accept the responsibilities that come from working in a National Park to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. They should now cease limestone quarrying, carry out restoration and prevent further destruction of the beautiful scenery of Longstone Edge.

Notes to editors:

1. Backdale lies beside the B6001 at the eastern end of Longstone Edge, visible from Curbar and Baslow edges, in a most scenic and popular part of the Peak District National Park. Bakewell lies 2.5 miles to the south.

2. 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, most residing in the local area, but with many hailing from Sheffield, Chesterfield and from further afield.

3. Queries to Julian Tippett, Group Secretary, tel/fax 01433 631624, or 07747 175398 email: <ju@tippett.free-online.co.uk> Website: www.longstone-edge.org.uk

4. Good jpeg picture of quarry available.