

# Save Longstone Edge Campaign

## Save Longstone Edge Group Newsletter – April 2010

Though there has been good news on Longstone Edge over the last few months, there continue to be threats both in the long and the short term.

Last summer, the House of Lords refused to give leave to Bleaklow Industries to appeal against the unanimous Court of Appeal decision. This decision restricts the removal of limestone from Backdale and the rest of the area covered by the 1952 Planning Permission. This led to an end to quarrying at Backdale. For the last 6 months or so there has been no activity there. However Bleaklow is seeking leave to take its case to the European Court of Human Rights. So there are continuing risks to the area south of Bramley Lane, including the areas known as Backdale, Wagers Flat and Beacon Rod.

The mineral rights for the area north of Bramley Lane are owned by Glebe Mines, the operators of Cavendish Mill above Stoney Middleton. In September, the National Park Authority confirmed a new Planning Permission for Glebe to extract fluorspar at Tearsall, west of Darley Dale. In return, Glebe has undertaken not to take fluorspar from its part of the 1952 Permission area on Longstone Edge for at least the next 5 years. However, the agreement confirming this has not yet been signed.

In early February, IneosFluor, the owners of both Glebe Mines and the only plant in Britain that processes fluorspar (in Runcorn), was sold to the Mexican company Mexichem. It is significant that Glebe Mines was not included in the sale, so Cavendish Mill and the mineral rights north of Bramley Lane are still owned by Ineos. We do not know what Ineos's intentions are for Cavendish Mill or for Longstone Edge, though they have a contract to sell fluorspar to the Runcorn plant until the end of 2010. SLEG is trying to establish what will happen after the end of this year.

In the meantime, two sets of discussions are taking place between the National Park Authority, Glebe Mines and Bleaklow. The first is about the future of the 1952 Permission area. At the time of writing, these talks are continuing.

**AT PRESENT, THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP GLEBE QUARRYING PEAK PASTURE.**

The second set of discussions is about a review of the terms of the 1952 Permission. Recent legislation means that Bleaklow can no longer use a technicality to avoid such a review, which is likely to take about a year to complete, and on which SLEG will be consulted. The most likely outcome is that if there is further quarrying in the 1952 Permission area, modern conditions on matters such as noise, dust, hours of work and spoil heaps will be imposed.

Finally, quarrying on the western part of Longstone Edge, overlooking Great Longstone, covered by a separate planning permission, has come to an end for the time being. However, restoration work is well behind the original schedule and is far from complete.

SLEG will continue to keep a close watch on Longstone Edge and to discuss the future with the National Park Authority and with Glebe Mines.

To hear more and to be updated on the latest developments, please come to our public meeting in Calver Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 13 April. We still need your help and support to protect Longstone Edge.

***John Lambert - Chairman, SLEG***