

### 34b - Application - Maybrook investments – Appley Bridge East Quarry

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/maybrook-investments-limited-31173/>

An abstraction application has been made to the Environment Agency for the East Quarry, Appley Bridge to be drained, the waste water is to be syphoned off into a nearby stream, namely Calico Brook, which is owned by Wigan Borough Council.

The application has been made by the same owner who has applied for permission to build holiday lodges near to the Leeds and Liverpool canal situated at the bottom of Parbold Hill Quarry. This application involves capping the quarry with half a million tonnes of inert waste to a height of 9 metres, with the creation of a car park that can facilitate up to 18 cars at the location as well as an additional car park that will be able to facilitate 5 HGV's entering and turning onto the site. The intention is that the current layby opposite the Miller and Carter will be replaced with the 18 plus car park. This main road, namely the A5209, is D restricted in places and is highly dangerous to both pedestrians and motorists. Concern has also been raised about the increase of traffic at junction 27 of the M6. Should the Parbold Quarry application be granted, some 50,000 lorries would be using the junction and the A5209. This would obviously have a significant impact on the Shevington, Standish areas as well as Parbold, Wrightington, Newburgh, Dalton and Appley Bridge.

Parbold Hill has been named the 'Most Scenic View in Lancashire'. This will almost certainly change should this planning application be granted. Planning application LCC/2019/00208 refers.

At a recent parish council meeting held at Parbold the above applicant did not mention his intention to fill in the East Quarry at Appley Bridge (currently filled with a large body of water) with inert waste from HS2 restructuring; nor did he mention the housing project to build 370 dwellings at the East Quarry, Appley Bridge to councillors at Parbold Parish Council and members of the public who attended that meeting.

It has been proposed that the Appley Bridge East Quarry will be drained through Calico Brook. No licence has been applied for or granted, but the pumping equipment has been put into place. Concerns have been raised, as this area has had a 1.4 million refit of flooding defences in recent years, and the amounts of water suggested that would be using this waterway would be too much for the flood defences to cope with.

The East Quarry is deeper than the local water table, and, in times of heavy rainfall, the water from the quarry runs directly into the canal under the terraced houses on Mill Lane, Appley Bridge. Overflow from Wrightington Fishponds also flows into the quarry. There has been very little regulation of this water flow for many years.

Due to the water table being higher than the bottom of the East Quarry, it would be almost impossible to stop water leaking into the quarry, and any subsequent filling or building would be unstable due to water rising. Leachate would also leak out due to water moving. Concern has also been expressed over any potential settling of any landfill due the steep angle of the quarry, which would require reinforcements to prevent any land movement to nearby properties and businesses.

The quarry was evidently abandoned due to the discovery of Sulphur at the depth at which it had got to. Therefore, any draining of the site could result in Sulphur leaking into the area. Water testing samples may come back clear now, but, as draining begins, the water would mix with the sediments on the bottom which have lain undisturbed for many years. As you may not be aware, sulphur mixed with water is highly toxic. What would be the effects?

The bed rock around the quarry also contains Radon. If these rocks are exposed to the air the Radon gas will spread into the atmosphere in the surrounding area. The area falls into the 3-5% of the highest Radon area in the country. Radon is a radioactive gas and the Environment Agency are aware of the high levels of Radon in the area.

In B 11.1 of the application it states that P. O'Dowd owns Calico Brook – this is actually owned by Wigan MBC.

The left column also states that a planning application has been made - it has not been submitted.