

My name is Harry Hutcheon and I live at Ourome in Gaulters Lane which is adjacent Phase A, this is the processing plant that will be utilised for seven years. I would like to bring to your attention the absurdities of the “experts” reports

I would like to start by quoting Mark Twain, There are three types of lies, lies, damned lies and statistics, I would like to add another, there is also reports by “so called experts”. These reports are costly and will always echo the narrative of the client. I might add that they are also comical to all of us, the residential receptors as we have been callously described in the application. I have read these reports with bemusement and incredulity at some of the claims made by the so called experts, dumper trucks that their report states produce 104db and the Crusher 108db, for comparison a Led Zeppelin or an Oasis rock concert would produce between 100db to 110db, I like Led Zeppelin and Oasis but, not in my back garden, not for 8 hours a day, not for 48 weeks of the year for 7 years.

I was also amused to read on Table 3 of the Noise Report that during the times and dates that the background noise was being recorded, the monitors that were supposedly situated at the rear of my back garden were also at another property a 5 minute drive away at exactly the same time and date, ok we all make mistakes, but they then came back three years later and made the exact same mistake, sounds more like a desk top copy and paste exercise gone wrong. These mistakes call into question the whole veracity of the reports. These people claim to be experts.

Wouldn't it be far better if reports were factual and not predicted, the reports should be based on actual recordings from a working sand and stone quarry and recorded at similar locations to the various residential receptors properties in Preesall that are listed in their document. If the reports were carried out on factual basis and not a predicted one we would not be here today as no sensible person would allow residents to live under the conditions that the appellant and his experts wants to subject us to. The only actual dust study was carried out at Bourbles Farm as was heard on Monday and that produced huge spikes in PM10 levels when Quad bikes were in use nearby. I was also interested to hear that the appellant purchased two copies of local bird data from the Fylde Bird club and ignored the data as it did not suit their narrative and produced their own flawed assessment.

Ourome on Gaulters Lane is 20 metres from the enormous proposed soil storage area on Phase A which is the processing area, this according to their report will have hundreds of dumper truck journeys per day producing noise levels in excess of 100db 12 times an hour most working days for approximately 7 years. At the processing plant which is around 150mts from our property the db levels will be in excess of 70db not the 46db they claim. The noise and dust reports are all desktop exercises based on selective favourable assertions. They have measured my property "Ourome" as both 15 metres from Phase A and 120 metres to the centre of Phase A, whichever suits their narrative. They have recorded on Table 6 of Vibrocks Updated Noise Assessment December 2024".that they "calculate" my property will have a "predicted "maximum free field db level of 67db and then in the next paragraph state that there could be 8 weeks of every year when the db levels will exceed 70db, this can be referenced on page 27 paragraph 6.1.3 of the aforementioned report. This reading is far higher than 50db to 55db that was being discussed yesterday with the acoustic experts.

Bearing in mind my property should have a predicted worst case scenario of 67db as we have no bund protection, only the stockpile. This estimate is manifestly untrue as on the 3rd of September 2023 I measured the db levels of a combine harvester which has the similar noise levels to all the quarrying equipment stated in the document, the readings at 100 metres were in the region of 82db and at 200 metres were 73 db. Even when measured indoors with the machine being over 100 metres away the recorded level was 72db. I do not mind this once or twice per harvesting season but this would occur 15 times per hour which will total 128 times per day according to the document as dumper trucks move aggregates between the different phases and the storage areas outside my property.

The enormous stockpile I mentioned previously is 3.6 metre high and consists of soil excavated from Phase A, this is higher than the windows of my ground floor bedroom. I have measured it with a calibrated wheel at 103 metres by 96 metres, to put that in perspective this stockpile is 2700 square metres larger than Manchester United's football pitch. Directly behind, there is another stockpile 7 metres high, this is the inert waste which is to be buried after the sand/stone is excavated. These stockpiles will be created by dumper tucks driving up the 7 metre height of the stockpile to dump more and more inert waste, again with no bund protection.

I would also like to comment on the conclusion that the predicted worst case scenario at my property would be 67db when according to Vibrock the dumper trucks have a db level of 107db when unloading on to the main stockpile which will be 3.6 metres high and will be approximately 20 metres from my property. If these trucks are driving to the top of these stockpiles there will be no attenuation of 10db that a bund might produce as they will be on the top of the stockpile. The document also states that if the work lasts more than 8 weeks the maximum level should be no more than 55db Free Air. This is Phase A which will be in use for 5 years not 8 weeks and I would suggest that this breaches the NPFE concept SOAEL (Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level) ie it will significantly affect the health of my family.

The appellant tells us that bunds will protect us from the noise produced by a quarry, this is not true. There is a property Red Lea dog kennels 200 metres to the rear of our house that already has a 3 metre bund, dog barking is recorded at between 80db and 90 db, far less than quarry machinery. We can hear the barking clearly despite the bund, so the protection of a bund is very limited.

Our house is approximately 6 metres high with a first floor lounge which means we have an uninterrupted view of both stockpiles with the closest stockpile being level with the floor of our lounge. We also have a direct view to the office compound which is 10 metres high and will have security lighting on permanently during the hours of darkness. We will be unable to open our windows due to the excessive dust and noise as the larger stockpile is the same height as our house so there will no protection from any nuisance noise and dust.

I have noticed that the appellant's photographs showing the proposed quarry site which conveniently omits all dwellings adjacent the site, how very convenient. I look forward to the site visit on Friday when all participants will see for themselves the absurdity of considering a quarry so close to the houses and gardens of the local community. I am quite sure the Planning Inspector for the Secretary of State will agree that the original decision was correct and that the people's amenities and rights to the peaceful enjoyment of their own property should come before profit and greed.