

CLlr Liz Leffman Submission to OCC Planning Committee February 28th Item 6.

As the councillor for the Charlbury and Wychwood division, in which Castle Barn Quarry is located, I am writing to object to the recommendation that the application should be refused.

I would like to thank the committee for having postponed their decision in order to obtain further information, which the applicant has now provided.

The reasons that I gave at the previous meeting for objecting to the recommendation still stand and are as follows:

1. The term “major development” generally refers to housing developments within a National Park or AONB, in other words a proposed permanent presence which has a significant and long-term adverse impact on the surrounding area. In this case, the plan is to improve the area, by restoring the landscape and significantly enhancing the natural environment and bio-diversity. The short-term impact of infilling the quarry and the associated lorry movements should not therefore be defined as “major development”.
2. The operation of the quarry has always relied on daily lorry movements and the number will not significantly increase and there will therefore be no increase in carbon emissions. There is no impact on the local community, as the lorries do not travel through any settlements, and use only a very short stretch of minor road, the quarry being located within a few hundred metres of the A361. The revised plan for lorry movements avoids any possibility of inconvenience to local residents. The applicant has given a detailed explanation of how the transfer of materials will be achieved and I am satisfied that it will not adversely impact the local community. There has been no objection from the parish council on these or any other grounds.

I therefore ask the committee to approve this planning application.