

Statement by Campaign to Protect Rural England, Worcestershire Branch

The black text is what was submitted in advance of the inquiry hearing. The red text is additions added before the statement was read on 28 February 2023.

I am Dr Peter King, chairman of CPRE Worcestershire and also of Hagley Parish Council. My doctorate is in economic history, specifically that of the

other participants today, it is clear that many of them also value it particularly, the proposal will permanently affect the setting of the site through and past the site

Highways

I am also chairman of Hagley Parish Council. Its concern is with traffic on A456 east of Kidderminster. This passes through Hagley and divides my village so that it has a river of traffic flowing through it. This road is already highly congested at peak times. Traffic from the proposed quarry will only make that worse. It will no doubt be argued that the addition is at a development but there has to be a level at which the system is already broken and nothing should be allowed to aggravate the problem. Hagley has an Air Quality Monitoring Area, no longer a Management Area, because the pollution level from traffic is just below the limit. We should not make it worse

Very Special Circumstances

It seems to be suggested that a shortage of adopted mineral resources is a very special circumstance. I do not know of the precedents on this issue. However, I would point out that for the equivalent housing supply issue, there is at least a ministerial statement that a lack of housing land supply is not generally regarded as a very special circumstance. I believe there has been one appeal that went the other way, somewhere in Surrey, but I know of no case where there has been a major housing development in the Green Belt in this part of England.

Appendix 1 Historic Landscape Analysis

About 45 years ago I undertook what I would ap

the 19th century with the move to tinplate.¹⁸ This may be indicated by the subdivision of a field called Portway Piece on the corner of Castle Road and Austcliffe Lane in 1816, followed by the sale of one portion of that in 17 lots in 1844.¹⁹

Cookley differs from the typical village in that agriculture is not its *raison d'être* as long been primarily industrial, which would normally go with urban settlements. On the other hand, its size (with a 2021 population of 1,634) is not hardly enough to make it a town, being considerably smaller than either Tenbury Wells (3,938) or Upton upon Severn (2,903), not of which can be said as small market towns.²⁰

¹⁸ Ince, Knight family, 59-62.

¹⁹ WAAS, Wolverley manor court books.

²⁰ Data derived from 2021 census