

NEWBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
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2 November 2022

Mr Carter
Environment Agency

Dear Mr Carter

Newburgh Parish Council has reviewed the Environment Agency response to the consultation on Planning Application LCC/2022/0014 on the restoration of Round O Quarry.

The Agency's response states " We are aware that concerns have been raised regarding the impact of the site on surface and ground water off-site" and **"We are not aware of any evidence or reports of contamination of groundwater"**.

This latter statement is surprising in view of the comments about groundwater the Council has made in its responses to the application and in view of FOI requests the Council has made to the Environment Agency.

In our Comment to LCC of 29 August 2022, we state: "There have been visual observations and evidence collected of brown coloured effluent seeping around the western edges of the quarry. Discolouration has been observed downstream".

In our Comment of 29 October 2022, we refer to "discolouration in the ditch on the western boundary" and to "two new discoloured springs that have appeared in the neighbouring fields within the last four years."

As evidence, the first two attached pictures show the effluent collected and the site on the western boundary (taken 25 October 2022).

More importantly Newburgh Parish Council has drawn direct attention to the groundwater problems in its FOI requests to the Environment Agency.

On 30 September 2022, the Council submitted a request to the EA expressing concern at the water issues observed off site from Round O Quarry. This request was accompanied by the attached pictures taken by a Newburgh resident downstream of the site at Mughouse Farm.

The first photo records a test on the spring water (in April 2022) which indicated significant levels of bacteria

The second shows where the spring is bubbling up on his land, at approximately [///tripods.shipped.depending](#) (What3Words). The orange substance (photograph taken in April 2022) suggests there is additional discharge and potential contamination.


The third shows where the spring water runs down the field. After significant periods of rain it causes flooding in the corner of the field and the track adjacent to Cobbs Brow Lane. Approximate location [///storybook.trouble.spared](#) (What3Words). When it floods, the track can be underwater up to about 6 inches in depth. Prior to the quarry being filled there was neither a spring nor periodic flooding.

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In both your response to LCC and those from the part of the EA dealing with FOI requests (CMBLNC Info Requests [<Inforequests.cmblnc@environment-agency.gov.uk>](mailto:Inforequests.cmblnc@environment-agency.gov.uk)) there are statements that there is no off-site testing required.

Newburgh Parish Council requests that the Environment Agency reviews the submissions made to the Agency and to LCC and investigates the evidence provided of groundwater problems related to Round O Quarry before any further consideration of the planning application proceeds.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Jones
Clerk to Newburgh Parish Council