



21 July 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Quarrying proposals around the village of Naunton, Cheltenham**

I am writing this letter from a professional perspective in relation to proposed expansion of quarry sites around the village of Naunton, Cheltenham. I intend to discuss two aspects of this industry and its impact on animal health and my perspective is that of a veterinary surgeon who deals with racehorses being kept in proximity to the relevant sites. I have been working in this area since 2004 and have been practising since 1993, I am a partner in an equine veterinary practice based at Summerhill Farm, Naunton.

The first issue which concerns me is the alteration of the water table and dormant springs which are present throughout the Cotswolds. In 2007 during the severe flooding we experienced, these springs became active and caused significant contamination of grazing land. Subsequently a number of horses suffered selenium poisoning because of the high content of this element held within the substratum being brought to the surface and contaminating grass which horses were eating. Several developed toxic laminitis and required euthanasia for welfare reasons. We learned that such an event would mean pasture becomes dangerous for horses (and all livestock) and management changes would need to be made when flooding occurs. In relation to quarry excavations the water table is significantly affected and would increase the risk of further flooding on adjacent farms, thus jeopardising animal health and welfare.

Secondly during dry months there is significant dust escape from quarry sites which will be inhaled by animals (and humans) in proximity. Specifically racehorses have highly sensitive airways and any challenge to their respiratory systems will lead to an inflammatory reaction as the body tries to expel the foreign particles. As a result of this inflammation there is a release of mucus in the lower airways which will reduce oxygen transfer and therefore performance. Respiratory disease is the biggest challenge for racehorses to overcome in their careers and the principle focus is to provide them with clean air to breathe at all times.

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I cannot overemphasise my concerns about the effect of expanded quarrying on health of the animals living in the Naunton area. It is a high density and successful racehorse training area which brings many benefits (employment, tourism etc) that we cannot afford to jeopardise. Please consider this letter to be my objection to any changes to the status quo.

Yours sincerely,

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