

## Community Update on Parbold & West and East Quarries

### West Quarry

We understand that Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd has sold part of West Quarry Landfill site. We know that residents are concerned about this.

Holders of an environmental permit must make sure they are always able to comply with all permit conditions. This is a legal requirement set out in all environmental permits. In this case Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd must have arrangements in place so they can continue to comply with their permit conditions for the West and Parbold Quarries site. This includes any part of the land sold to third parties that is covered by the permit. We have spoken to the permit holder to make sure they are aware of this.

Other landowners have no responsibility to meet the conditions in the environmental permit for the quarry. They will not need an environmental permit for the part of the quarry they now own.

West Lancashire Borough Council and/or Lancashire County Council are responsible for deciding whether to approve any planning applications for East Quarry and West Quarry. The type and location of any planning application will determine which council processes it.

Any planning applications for either site and associated documents, along with contact details for reporting concerns and raising queries, can be found at the links below:

- West Lancashire Borough Council Planning Department:  
<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications-enforcement/search-for-planning-applications-and-decisions.aspx>
- Lancashire County Council Planning Department:  
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/planning/>

Peter O'Dowd, the owner of Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd, has a further court listing hearing as part of the Environment Agency enforcement planned for 18 April 2023. At this time a trial date for prosecution should be confirmed. This court hearing has previously been deferred and we are waiting for a new date. Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd have already pleaded guilty to offences laid against them and are awaiting sentencing.

The operator did not comply with timeframes set out in an enforcement notice served by the Environment Agency to remove unlawfully stored waste. Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd remain responsible and accountable for legal and safe removal of that waste. If Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd were to sell further land, it would still be responsible for removing any unlawfully stored waste in line with our enforcement action.

We are not able to give any further information about our enforcement action over the illegal waste bales as it remains a live enforcement case.

## East Quarry

To address safety issues at East Quarry, the landowner proposes to infill the quarry to around 1 metre below the current water level with imported inert materials.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 provides that work required for the safety and maintenance of a disused quarry is permitted development. Such work does not require landowners to apply for planning permission.

The landowner of East Quarry considers that infilling the quarry to the depths proposed would be permitted development under the above legislation. The landowner has applied to Lancashire County Council for a Certificate of Lawful Development to confirm that this is the case.

The landowner has recently appealed to the Planning Inspectorate because the County Council has not determined this application. The County Council has submitted its case to the inspectorate on whether these permitted development rights can be used as proposed by the landowner.

We attended a water safety meeting on 8 March 2023 with partners. The aim of the meeting was to discuss managing water safety risks in the area, including East Quarry. We explained that the owner of East Quarry has not provided any further details on removing water from the quarry.

West Lancashire Borough Council has set up further meetings to continue a partnership approach to discuss any actions partners may be able to take to help manage water safety risks.

## Contact Details

If you have any further questions, please email us at:  
[inforequests.cmbinc@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:inforequests.cmbinc@environment-agency.gov.uk)