

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Telephone 08459 335577
Email Hilary Benn@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website www.defra.gov.uk



The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
85 Nethergreen Road
Sheffield
S11 7EH

Your ref:
Our ref: MC 81177

31 May 2008

From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

De Nick

Thank you for your letter of 16 April on behalf of your constituents about quarrying at Longstone Edge.

You may by now be aware that the Communities and Local Government Department (CLG), along with the National Park Authority, have sought leave to appeal against the High Court judgement in the Court of Appeal.

I can assure you that myself and Jonathan Shaw are taking a close interest in this case. We met the constituency MP, Patrick McLoughlin, and some of his constituents on 24 April, and we are in regular contact with the National Park Authority to try and find a long term solution to the problems at Backdale.

I understand that CLG hope to lay shortly the regulations to allow for modern environmental conditions to be imposed on old minerals permissions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Benn". The signature is stylized and fluid.

HILARY BENN