

# Rivington Against Greenbelt Exploitation RAGE

Public Meeting

June 29<sup>th</sup> 2011

# Agenda

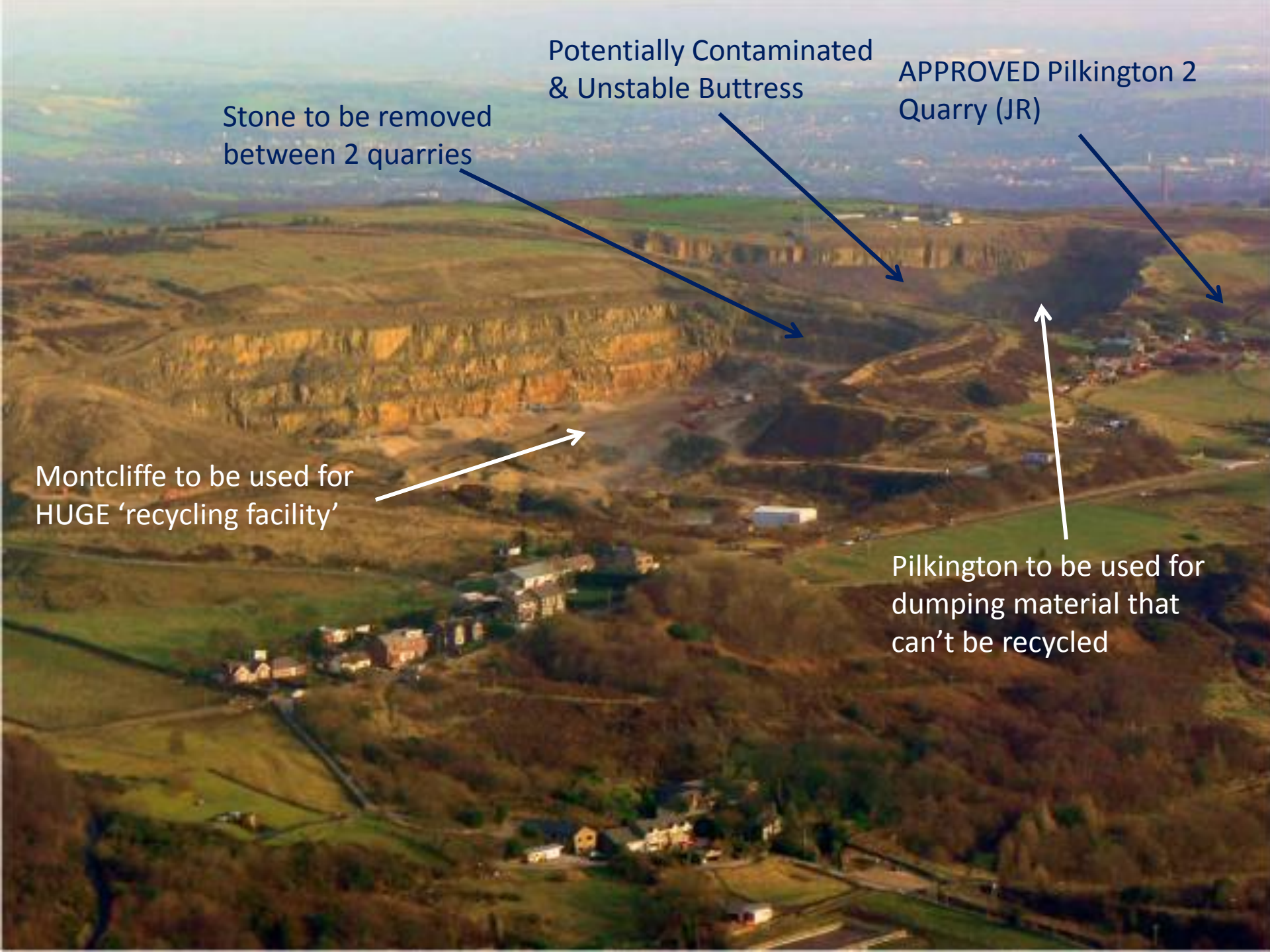
1. Introductions
2. Background
3. Montcliffe Extension Application
4. What do we want?
5. What can we do?
  - Judicial Review update
6. We need your help!

# Introductions

- First RAGE Meeting?
- Press
- Council Officials
- Me – Marcus Simmons
- BHEAG - Blackrod & Horwich Environmental Action Group
- RAGE - Rivington Against Greenbelt Exploitation

[www.RivingtonRage.org](http://www.RivingtonRage.org)

- Thanks to all who have chosen to get involved



Stone to be removed  
between 2 quarries

Potentially Contaminated  
& Unstable Buttress

APPROVED Pilkington 2  
Quarry (JR)

Montcliffe to be used for  
HUGE 'recycling facility'

Pilkington to be used for  
dumping material that  
can't be recycled

Rivington Pike

Montcliffe & Pilkington Quarries

Georges Lane

APPROVED  
'Pilkington 2'

Victoria Road

Chorley Old Road

M 61

Chorley New Road



# Background - Armstrongs

- Montcliffe and Pilkington Quarries are both operated by Armstrongs
  - We are not fighting Armstrongs – we are fighting over-development in greenbelt
  - Obvious concerns (fires, smells, fines) not relevant to planning
  - Recent Environmental conviction may be relevant to planning (appeal 11<sup>th</sup> July)
- Create a huge, ongoing ‘recycling’ and waste tip facility
- Cannot be achieved in one planning permission
  - Over-development in green belt
  - Smaller step by step planning applications used instead

# Background – Bolton Council

- Do Bolton Council have an interest in Moncliffe Quarry outcome?
  - If so, OK, but should declare interest & should not impact scrutiny of applications
- Montcliffe – in October 2007 Bolton Council stated:
  - “The Council receives a share of the mineral extraction royalty rights from the operator of this working quarry.”
  - “the council would attempt to maintain an income stream after quarrying ceased”
  - This is just 1 year after agreeing the last Montcliffe extension & making promises that it would close in 2011 & be restored by 2012!
- In November 2009 Bolton Council stated it would:
  - “discuss with Armstrong’s a strategic relocation of recycling operations from Horwich Loco to Montcliffe Quarry.”

**We want Bolton Council to come clean on their interest & plans for Montcliffe**

# Background – Continued

- In 2009 Bolton Council agreed a 'restoration plan' for Pilkington Quarry for around 4.6 Million tonnes of waste!
  - Adds about 470,000 HGV movements to the local road network, 2.4 times the traffic currently proposed by the Montcliffe proposal.
  - Agreement made without public consultation.
    - Only found out due to evidence submitted to Armstrongs appeal of their planning refusal in 2009
    - Pilkington restoration is on hold due to Environment Agency concerns over potentially contaminated material already in the quarry & impact on water
  - Could the same type of 'restoration plan' be made for Montcliffe some years after the current application is agreed?

# Montcliffe Quarry

- Armstrongs have applied to continue extracting until 2020
- They want 2 years to restore after quarrying instead of 1
  - We want the end date & restoration plans promised by Bolton Planners to the people of Horwich in 2006 to be honoured
  - This planning application has major flaws, errors & inaccuracies
  - We believe that passing this planning permission without significant amendments will be unlawful
  - We want Bolton Planning Officers to apply the proper scrutiny to this application that they are legally bound to do

# Montcliffe Extension Application

- At first glance - an planning application with some merit?
  - The Need
    - Montcliffe contains 1,400,000 tonnes of crushed rock
    - There is not just a need, but a shortage of crushed rock
  - The Environment
    - “The Environmental Statement has considered all of the relevant factors that could affect this proposal” [including HGVs]
  - Comprehensive
    - “this Planning Application, Environmental Statement and accompanying details comprehensively provides all the relevant criteria to facilitate the proper determination of the application”
  - No cumulative impact
    - “If Pilkington extension goes ahead [as well as Montcliffe extension] there will potentially be some cumulative landscape and visual impacts. None of these are judged to be significant”

BUUT

# Montcliffe Environment

- The purpose of the environmental statement is to assess the environmental effects of proposed development, including any cumulative ones, in order to inform the consideration of the application by statutory and other consultees, planning officers and Committee.
- Includes environmental impact of restoration

# Cumulative Impact

	Montcliffe	Pilkington 2 (JR)
Aggregate	1,400,000 tonnes	2,000,000 tonnes
Block stone	'Some'	880,000 tonnes
Shale		280,000 tonnes
Total Extraction	1,400,000 tonnes	3,160,000 tonnes
Years of quarrying	2020 – 9 years	2026 – 16 Years
Extraction per year	155,000 tonnes / year	200,000 tonnes / year
<b>Relative Size</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Daily HGV movements	80	240
Relative movements	1	3

# Landbank Needed ?

- **Montcliffe extension application states:** “There is currently a shortfall in the landbank for primary aggregates within the Greater Manchester area. The existing landbank for crushed rock currently stands at around **8 years**, although this also includes reserves from inactive sites so, in reality, the actual available landbank could be significantly lower.”
- Approved 2,000,000 Pilkington 2 NOT included
- Reduced demand due to
  - Major economic downturn
  - Increased use of secondary aggregates (recycled bricks etc)
- Latest GM figures show landbank of **13.15 years**
- [At current levels] current permitted reserves would last for 25 years to 2033.
- Most recent North West landbank for crushed rock is 32 years!
- **WE DEMAND PROPER SCRUTINY OF THE LANDBANK FIGURES**

# HGV Impact

- Traffic Impact Assessment mandatory if planned development creates:
  - 30% increase in HGVs generally
  - 10% increase in HGVs in sensitive areas
    - Town centre, school, leisure centre, conservation area
- Application for Montcliffe extension creates 80 HGV movements
  - How many non-quarry HGVs on Chorley Old Road do YOU see?
- Planning application says the increase in HGVs towards Horwich Town Centre is just **8%**
- We estimate these 80 HGVs create more than **70%** increase in HGVs on Chorley Old Road

# HGV Baseline Figures

"Goods Vehicles"



4 Buses  
per day !!  
(Actual 160  
in 24 hours)



11 Quarry  
hours:  
7am – 6pm

Montcliffe Application  
HGV baseline = 296  
'Goods Vehicles'

Greater Manchester Transportation Unit

GMCOUNTS Traffic Survey Database

## GMU Temporary Automatic Traffic Counter Survey Data Summary Site Number 01950609 B6226 Chorley Old Road Bolton, W

Speed Limit 30 mph  
Comment: safety camera survey bos264

Survey Start Date: 06/08/2010 Survey End Date: 15/08/2010

OSGR: 364821, 411501

### Average Vehicle Flows

Hour starting	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon-Fri Average	7-Day Average
00:00	22	25	26	21	43	54	68	27	37
01:00	13	12	15	7	10	26	40	11	18
02:00	5	1	6	8	12	14	26	6	10
03:00	10	4	10	5	4	14	19	7	9
04:00	4	5	9	8	10	11	13	7	9
05:00	25	31	28	24	22	16	18	26	23
06:00	84	86	87	85	85	34	30	85	70
07:00	225	241	251	239	221	87	54	235	188
08:00	314	347	365	352	351	162	83	346	282
09:00	284	280	300	301	289	251	152	291	265
10:00	282	284	308	325	310	301	244	302	293
11:00	300	328	318	306	331	362	291	317	319
12:00	318	339	333	312	334	405	332	327	339
13:00	328	352	363	324	367	396	381	347	359
14:00	324	359	355	366	374	429	382	356	370
15:00	346	391	380	371	420	338	346	382	370
16:00	458	456	457	503	454	341	332	466	429
17:00	530	544	578	556	475	316	282	537	469
18:00	308	421	398	374	348	280	236	370	338
19:00	237	285	269	315	282	248	199	278	262
20:00	227	231	201	192	200	166	153	210	196
21:00	138	159	137	148	140	117	130	144	138
22:00	85	107	111	103	102	114	76	102	100
23:00	60	61	65	69	86	96	46	68	69
<b>TOTALS</b>									
07:00-10:00	823	868	916	892	861			872	
10:00-16:00	1898	2053	2057	2004	2136	2231	1976	2031	2050
16:00-19:00	1296	1421	1433	1433	1277			1373	
07:00-19:00	4017	4342	4406	4329	4274	3668	3115	4276	4021
00:00-24:00	4927	5349	5370	5314	5270	4578	3933	5247	4962
<b>Busiest am hour</b>	08:00	08:00	08:00	08:00	08:00	11:00	11:00		
<b>Flow</b>	314	347	365	352	351	362	291		
<b>Busiest pm hour</b>	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00	14:00	14:00		
<b>Flow</b>	530	544	578	556	475	429	382		

### Average Weekday Vehicle Speeds (mph)

85th %ile	Mean	% of veh > limit
46.4	39.0	85.8
43.7	39.2	86.5
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
47.6	40.3	89.4
44.0	37.5	82.9
40.5	34.5	69.8
37.3	32.3	58.5
36.5	31.8	54.5
35.7	31.4	51.6
35.0	31.1	48.9
36.1	31.8	55.7
35.4	31.3	51.4
35.9	31.5	52.8
36.9	32.1	57.1
37.6	32.6	62.2
36.7	32.2	60.8
38.0	32.9	64.1
38.8	33.5	67.6
38.5	33.2	64.0
39.5	33.9	67.0
42.3	35.2	71.2
42.4	35.8	77.3
37.0	32.1	57.4
37.8	32.6	59.9

### Average Weekday Vehicle Classes (%)

Cars-Light Goods	%	Medium Goods	%	Heavy Goods	%	Buses	%	Other / Not Clas.	%
27	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	92	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	4
83	98	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
224	95	5	2	4	2	0	0	2	1
330	95	7	2	6	2	0	0	3	1
277	95	7	2	4	1	1	0	2	1
286	95	7	2	7	2	0	0	2	1
300	95	8	3	6	2	0	0	3	1
312	95	6	2	6	2	0	0	3	1
329	95	8	2	6	2	0	0	4	1
343	96	6	2	4	1	0	0	3	1
367	96	6	2	6	2	0	0	3	1
448	96	6	1	6	1	0	0	6	1
523	97	6	1	6	1	0	0	2	0
361	98	5	1	2	1	0	0	2	1
271	97	2	1	2	1	0	0	3	1
204	97	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	1
140	97	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
99	97	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
67	99	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
831	95	19	2	14	2	1	0	7	1
1937	95	41	2	35	2	0	0	18	1
1332	97	17	1	14	1	0	0	10	1
4100	96	87	2	66	1	1	0	35	1
5046	96	87	2	66	1	2	0	46	1

Note: 1. "-" indicates data not available / could not be calculated.

2. For more detailed information on this survey, contact GMU quoting the survey Site Number.

GMU, 3rd Floor Heron House, 47 Lloyd Street, Manchester M2 5LE Tel: 0161 455 2063 Fax: 0161 455 2071 e-mail: gmu@manchester.gov.uk

07:00-08:00	1189	1385	1318	1265	1128			1385	
08:00-09:00	1785	1878	1961	1876	2021	1867	1877	1900	1907
09:00-10:00	1148	1276	1192	1245	1192			1191	
10:00-11:00	4126	4019	4073	4020	4239	3476	3088	4276	3992
11:00-12:00	4954	5263	5354	5379	5229	4393	3913	5340	4911
<b>Busiest am hour</b>	08:00	08:00	08:00	08:00	08:00	11:00	11:00		
<b>Flow</b>	484	477	523	491	458	524	276		
<b>Busiest pm hour</b>	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00	15:00		
<b>Flow</b>	427	488	418	473	408	408	348		

Note: 1. "-" indicates data not available / could not be calculated.

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# HGV Baseline (Target <10% increase in sensitive areas)



- True Baseline TFGM 2010 survey **71%**
- Leave buses in, **112 HGVs (TFGM)**

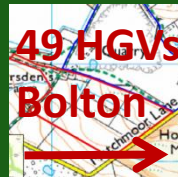


- Include all 'Goods Vehicles' **32%**



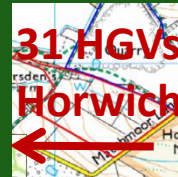
- All 'Goods Vehicles', 24 hour data **27%**

296 average daily 'Goods Vehicle' baseline used in application for combined East & West baseline



- 240 'Pilkington 2' HGVs added to baseline BOTH WAYS with favourable split (Feb 2009 3 hrs):

East (split) 146 + **296** = 442 **11%**



West (split) 94 + **296** = 380 [**390**] **8%**

# HGV Figures

- Impact of Montcliffe PLUS Pilkington 2 = over **286%** compared to non-quarrying HGV baseline
- 320 HGVs equates to the 1,000,000 tonnes / year for recycling facility in Grand Plan
- Quarrying only, does not include HGVs for restoration to be agreed after quarry permission approved!
- No restrictions to prevent ALL HGVs going through Horwich Town Centre!
- Lack of scrutiny of figures is at best incompetent & puts OUR lives & our CHILDRENS lives at risk
- Planning committee informed of incorrect HGVs at Pilkington 2 application – but ignored
  - We received HGV source data from planning inspector, NOT in planning application where it should be
  - Available only due to Armstrongs appealing rejected Pilkington application
  - Stats only available at the last minute, but we were then criticised for delays!
- To continue without a full traffic impact assessment is unlawful
- If such fundamental mistakes as HGV & Landbank figures can be made.....
  - Could the remaining 1,400,000 tonnes stone reserves be incorrect?
  - Could other aspects of the planning application have similar flaws?

**We demand proper scrutiny of the Montcliffe Extension Environmental Statement by Bolton Planning Officers – no more unlawful decisions please**

# Montcliffe Quarry Promises (2006)

## Promise

## Bolton Planning Officers Comments last extension application

- No land filling
  - “The Applicant has confirmed that there is to be no landfilling of the quarry after completion of the works”
- Sympathetic restoration
  - “The proposed restoration plan will ensure that ... the .... scheme will respect the Green Belt location of the site.”
  - **Greater Manchester Geological Unit:-** “concerned about the quality of life enjoyed by the nearby residents if quarrying is prolonged”
- No more impact on residents
  - “The development ... shall cease not later than 21st September 2011, be progressively restored within one year to ensure a satisfactory form of development and control life of the site.”
- Planning control
  - “The Applicant ... is confident that the additional time period requested will be satisfactory.” [to complete extraction]
- No more extensions
  - “the proposal should be permitted for the specified timescale .. on the basis that there would be no further delay in the completion of operations and restoration.”
- Definitely no more extensions
  - “The Applicant has given assurances that the Council will not be approached with further delays and it is recommended that the proposed extension of time be approved on this basis.”
- Absolutely, definitely no more extensions



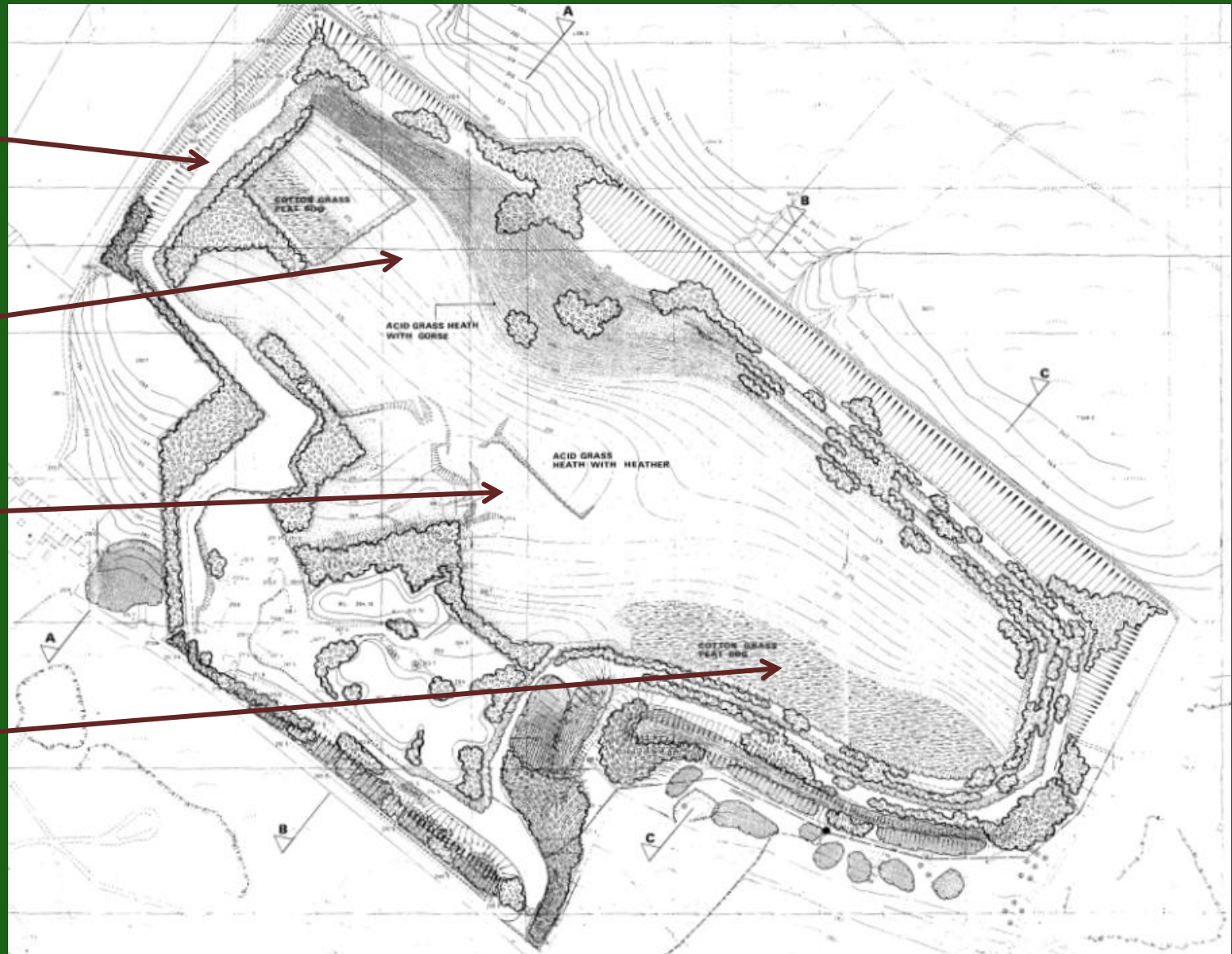
# Promised Montcliffe Restoration

Cotton grass  
peat bog

Acid grass  
heath with  
gorse

Acid grass  
heath with  
heather

Cotton grass  
peat bog



# Promised Montcliffe Restoration

Promise	Detail from <b>approved</b> restoration documents
Grass planting	Acid grass mixture of fescue & bent species is to be seeded following any necessary cultivation.
Acid Grass mix	25% Creeping Red Fescue: 10% Slender Creeping Red Fescue 30% Chewings Fescue: 20% Highland Browntop 15% Hard Fescue
Sensitive to local conditions	The use of a non-competitive seed mix will facilitate encroachment into the site of local plant communities
Pond life	Existing water bodies will be retained ....natural colonisation by aquatic vegetation will be assisted by introducing suitable species
Tree planting	Woodland planting on quarry floor & upper benches including Sessile Oak, Rowan, Alder, Hazel, hawthorn & Grey Willow mix
Care after planting	Until established all plants shall be kept free of competing weed growth in an area no less than 0.6 sq m at the base of each plant.
Maintenance	Tree shelters shall be regularly checked and adjusted to prevent chafing or other damage.
Planning control	An aftercare programme will be submitted to the local planning authority approval, the results of which will be reviewed annually over a 5 year period.

# Montcliffe Extension Other

- Mine shafts – blasting vibration & water contamination from in-fill

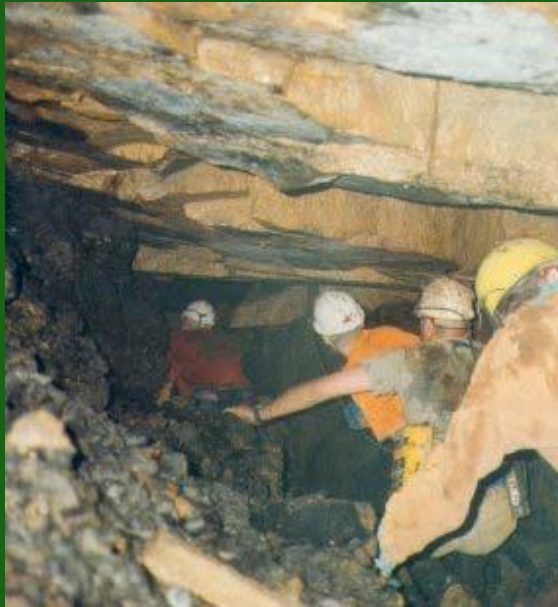
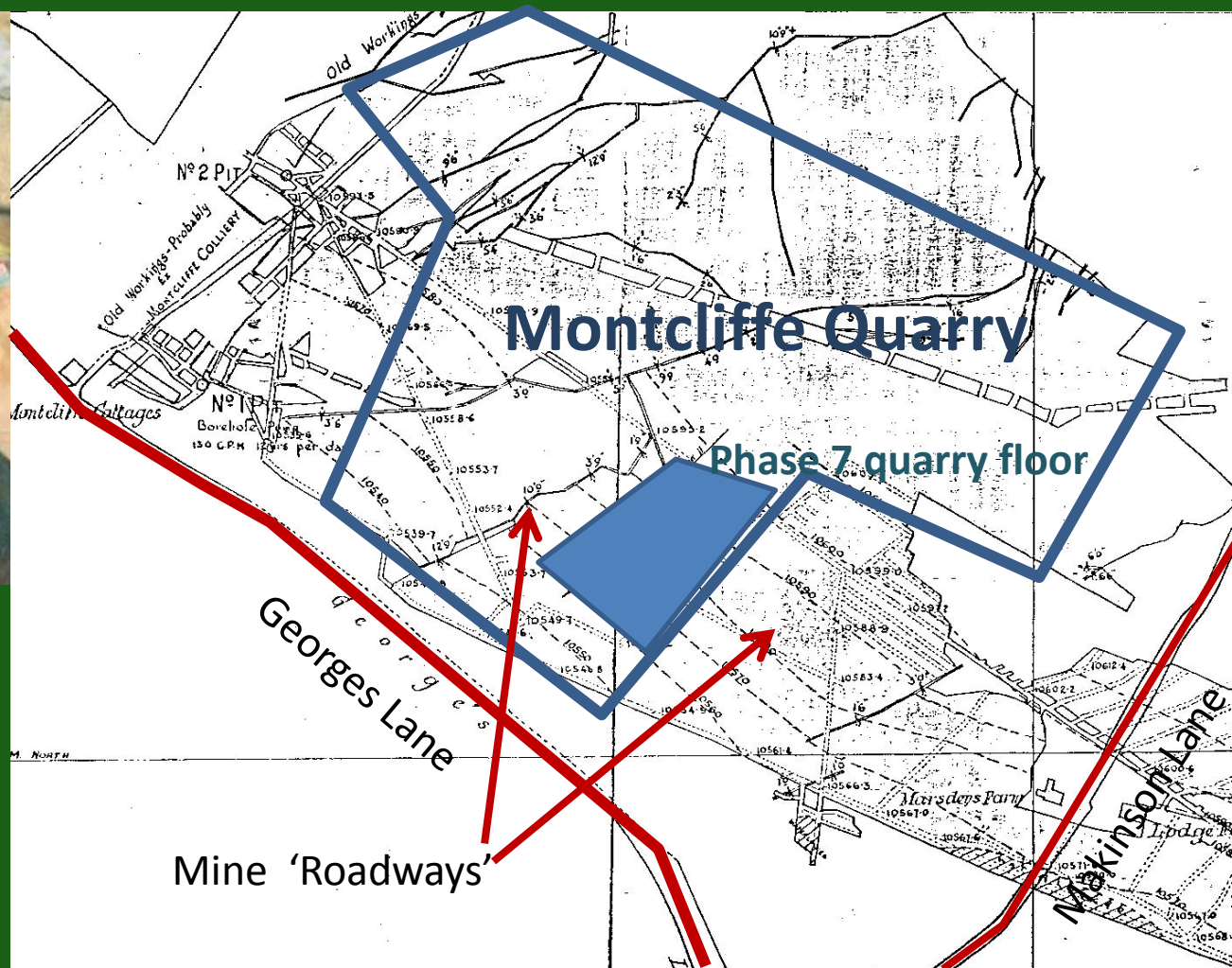


Photo taken  
“somewhere under  
Montcliffe Quarry”



# “Residents Montcliffe Issues”

- Speeding lorries down Chorley Old Road
  - “Any extension of the extraction deadline is an accident waiting to happen.”
- 2 residents observed noise level measurements being taken on days when no work being done in quarry
- Proper pedestrian access required to Georges Lane with 320 HGVs from Montcliffe & Pilkington 2
- Why is the restoration plan to be submitted after planning approval?
- “It is about time that the Council started to care for this beautiful and special area as much as the residents do.”

# What can YOU do

- Write to Object
  - Bolton Council website [www.bolton.gov.uk/planapps](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/planapps)
  - Instructions emailed to you after this meeting
  - Email [ragequarry@gmail.com](mailto:ragequarry@gmail.com) to receive email updates
  - Or sent letter to Bolton Planning, Bolton Town Hall BL1 1RU – quote application 86368/11
- Register YOUR VOICE
  - You must say how the plans will impact YOU and why YOU object to them.
  - Template letters are considered as a petition rather than individual objections
  - 100 individual objections are 100 times more powerful than one petition with 100 signatures

State your personal reasons why you think this development should not take place.

# Planning Permissions

# Planning Applications Update

1. 80931/08 – Rejected Oct 2009 – Appeal withdrawn Jan 2011
2. 83299/09 – Granted Oct 2010 – Judicial Review – Quashed
3. 83999/09 – Granted Oct 2010 – Judicial Review - Quashed
4. 84065/10 – Granted Jan 2011 – Judicial Review
5. 86368/11 – Consultation until July 2011
  - Question – Do we have the support & funds to continue ?

# Judicial Review (JR)

- Legal review of planning decisions in the courts
  - Plus – Objective, only planning issues relevant, gives us a voice
  - Minus – Expensive & only cancels the decision - the applicant can re apply
    - But hopefully mindful that inadequate / unlawful planning applications will not work
    - The extra detail provided in the Montcliffe application allows better scrutiny
- Buxtons Solicitors – Environmental & Public Law Specialists
- First JR case led to 2 planning permissions being quashed
  - Funded by some local residents & bheag - Donations please
- JR against Pilkington Extension is being contested by Bolton Council

**STOP PRESS – Judge ruled today granting permission for judicial review**

**Yet again our concerns are being backed by the legal process**

**But WHY are we having to go through this process?**

# Our Action

# What do we want?

- We want to stop the Quarries in Rivington Greenbelt becoming a giant waste processing centre and waste dump!
- We want planning applications to receive proper, lawful & fair scrutiny
- We want promises to the people of Horwich to be kept
- We want the voice of local residents to be properly heard
- We want Bolton Council & Armstrongs come clean about their long term plans for Montcliffe & Pilkington quarries

# We need your help

- **Raffle Tickets**      Volunteers to gather final entries while I finish
- **Events organisers**      We want to organise a fund raising event
- **Expertise**      Legal, Planning, Environmental
- **Research**      Reading documents, finding issues, errors
- **Administration**      Follow up meetings, coordinate volunteers etc...
- **Petition**      Anyone who has not signed - please do tonight

Please let us know of any expertise you have that could be useful

# What can we do? – Gaining Support

- Getting Organised

- RAGE Action Group
  - Not Charitable status
- Over 800 Email subscribers & Facebook followers
- Thousands of bheag website visitors
- RivingtonRage.org website set up

The image shows a composite of two screenshots. The top screenshot is a Facebook page for the 'RAGE - Rivington Against Greenbelt Exploitation' group. The page header includes the group name and 'Open Group — Horwichquarry@groups.facebook.com'. A post by Stuart Ogden is visible, featuring a photo of a landscape and the text 'another blot on the landscape'. Below the post, there are interaction options like 'Like', 'Comment', and 'Subscribe'. The bottom screenshot is the RivingtonRage.org website. The website has a green header with navigation links: 'home', 'latest news', 'about rage', 'the threats', 'get involved', 'photos', 'downloads', and 'contact'. The main content area features a 'RAGE' section with a description of the organization as an environmental charity. A prominent 'Donate!' button is circled in red. To the right of the donate button is a 'Recent Posts' list. At the bottom, there is a 'Next Meeting' section and a 'Join us on facebook!' section with a 'Sign up for the Rivington Rage Newsletter!' link. A small image of a newspaper clipping with the headline 'COME CLEAN ON QUARRY' is also visible.

# What can we do? – Petition

- Target at least 4,000 signatures
  - 4,000 signatures means petition has to receive a full council debate (200 sheets)
  - Over 3,200 completed
  - Please take some with you (NO duplicates)
  - Complete by end July
  - Hand in at New Chapel Post Office
- “We the undersigned object to extending the life of Montcliffe and Pilkington quarries for stone extraction, waste recycling or dumping of waste. These proposals will harm this area and go against promises made on earlier planning permissions. We request that we are able to present our case to the council and that the council presents its plans for this area together with the reasons underlying their position.”



# What can we do? - Fundraising

- Cheques payable to.. Rivington Against Greenbelt Exploitation
- PayPal on [RivingtonRage.org](http://RivingtonRage.org) website
- Almost £10,000 already contributed by individuals & local residents associations in last 2 years – mainly legal bills
- Over £3,000 raised since last meeting
- More funds required for ongoing legal battles & campaign
- Even though we won the argument with the first Judicial Review & promised costs - likely to get less than 75% back

# We Need Your Help?

- Be there – Turn up, sign up to emails, show poster
- Help out – Petition, leaflets & protest letters
- Get Involved – Time, skills, organising
  
- Email [ragequarry@gmail.com](mailto:ragequarry@gmail.com) to receive email updates
  
- Showing support
  - STOP the QUARRY - Window Poster
  - RAGE Badge (suggested £10 donation), Last chance to buy a raffle ticket!

# What Now?

- Stay after for...
  - Raffle prizes
  - Drinks at the bar
    - (support RMI who have supported this meeting)
  - Pick up
    - 'STOP the QUARRY' poster(s)
    - Petition
  - Donations, badges & raffle Table A
  - Pick up Petitions & Posters Table B
  - Offer of help & Information Table C

End of Presentation