

## Green Light Given to Quarrying Appeal

Supporters of the Save Longstone Edge Group are today cautiously optimistic about the news that the Court of Appeal have given leave to appeal against the decision by the High Court in March which allowed the continued destruction of 350 hectares of an ancient limestone edge in the beautiful Peak District National Park.

The appeal follows a decision by a High Court judge to overturn the rulings of a Government planning inspector, allowing the continuation of large scale quarrying in this area of great natural beauty. During the summer while numbers of tourists visit the Peak District, most will be unaware that it is still possible for a landowner to remove huge amounts of mainly low value limestone from a National Park to be used as aggregate to build roads and car parks.

John Lambert is the Chairman of the Save the Longstone Edge Group;

“We are pleased that the Peak District National Park and the Government will be allowed to appeal against the decision made by the High Court. Even in the last few months, the scale of the destruction of our beautiful countryside has escalated. We are hoping that the appeal is heard sooner rather than later to ensure that quarrying operations end as soon as possible.

“The support of Hilary Benn at DEFRA is still crucial to finding a permanent solution to resolving the issue of quarrying at Longstone Edge.

“Although we have not been in direct dialogue with the landowner Mr Harpley, we are pleased to hear that he is open to discussions about a settlement which would in effect buy out the disputed planning permission.

“We are grateful for the support of local residents, coalition members and visitors to the Peak District who have campaigned tirelessly for a halt to this destruction.

We are now calling on Mr Harpley and the National Park Authority to meet as a matter of urgency to agree that there should be no more destruction on Longstone Edge while they negotiate a long term agreement.”

ENDS

Editors Note

1. The coalition consists of a number of national environmental organisations including the Ramblers Association, the British Mountaineering Council, Friends of the Earth, Plantlife, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Council, Campaign for National Parks, Friends of the Peak District, Save Longstone Edge Group and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.
2. The Peak District national park press release is available to download at; <http://www.peakdistrict.org/index/news/news-display-page.htm?id=17529>
3. Visit our website at [www.longstone-edge.org.uk](http://www.longstone-edge.org.uk) for recent photographs of the continued destruction and further information on the campaign.