

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you as one of the parish councils that are affected (to a greater or lesser extent) by the effects of blasting associated with operations at Blaise Farm Quarry and Hermitage Quarry (both operated by Gallagher Aggregates Ltd). As you will be aware, KCC is responsible for minerals planning in Kent and is the Mineral Planning Authority.

Blasting is permitted to take place at both quarries. The relevant planning permissions and associated schemes of blasting include specific limits in terms of the number and timing of blasts and the maximum ground vibration that is allowed as a result of each blast. The vibration limits accord with Government Guidance and are designed to minimise disturbance and ensure that the blasting does not adversely affect properties or other structures. This said, it is likely that those living or working near the quarries may experience ground vibration and air overpressure (airborne vibration) and some may be concerned about this.

Details of the relevant planning permissions and approvals are available on the County Council's website via the following links:

**Blaise Farm**

**Quarry:** <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/KCC/TM/0058/2014> and <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/KCC/TM/0121/2020>

**Hermitage**

**Quarry:** <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/KCC/TM/0177/2010> and <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/KCC/TM/0291/2013>

Each blast is monitored by the operator and the results provided to the County Council in accordance with approved schemes of blast monitoring. The blast monitoring results are made available on the County Council's website via the following links:

**Blaise Farm**

**Quarry:** <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/BLAST%20MONITORING%20RESULTS%20BLAISE%20FARM%20QUARRY>

**Hermitage**

**Quarry:** <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/BLAST%20MONITORING%20RESULTS%20HERMITAGE%20QUARRY>

The County Council regularly checks the results of the blast monitoring and is satisfied that they demonstrate compliance with the relevant planning permission for each site.

The County Council commissioned independent blast monitoring which took place near Blaise Farm Quarry between 22 February and 1 March 2021 and near Hermitage Quarry between 1 and 8 March 2021. This established that the blasting was being undertaken in accordance with the respective planning permissions and was not giving rise to ground vibration or air overpressure above the levels at which cosmetic damage to properties was likely. The report on this is available on the County Council's website alongside the blast monitoring results provided by the operator (see above links). You will see that there is a main report prepared by Amey Consulting which relates to both quarries and another report by SLR containing the monitoring results for the relevant quarry in each case.

The County Council has published a document titled "Guidance on Blasting at Ragstone Quarries in Kent" (May 2021) which explains the main issues relating to ragstone blasting in Kent to members of the public and others who may be interested. This is also available on the County Council's website in the same locations.