

Hundreds object to Fife quarry expansion plans as council requests extra time to consider 'complex' case

Balmullo Quarry would double in size if a planning application is approved.

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The quarry from the air, with the village of Balmullo in the background. Image: Fife Council

A controversial bid to double the size of a north east Fife quarry has received a deluge of opposition.

Some 240 people have lodged formal objections to the Balmullo Quarry plans on the Fife Council planning portal.

A petition signed by more than 1,800 concerned members of the public has also been submitted.



Campaigners make their feelings known. Image: Mhairi Edwards/DC Thomson

One of the objections is from Butterfly Conservation East Scotland, which says the area affected by the proposed expansion is home to 21 species of butterfly and 300 different kinds of moths.

Many of those are classed as scarce and endangered species.

The organisation's Geoff Ballinger says survey reports submitted with the application are "clearly completely inadequate".

And he describes proposed mitigation measures as ranging from "inadequate to fanciful".

The Scottish Wildlife Trust (Fife and Kinross Group) has also objected to the plan.

Balmullo Quarry objections include noise and dust fears

Quarrying firm Breedon lodged its plans in early 2024.

It wants to extend the lifespan of its [Balmullo](#) operation by at least 20 years and expand it by seven acres.

This would allow it to extract a further 3.2 million tonnes of aggregate.

A video taken by Fife Council and pinned to the top of this article shows the quarry's current size along with the proposed area of expansion.



Some of the people who have lodged objections to the Balmullo Quarry expansion plans. Image: Supplied by Sally Northcott

Residents fear it would mean the loss of half of Lucklaw Hill, along with popular walking and cycling routes.

They also have concerns about the effect on wildlife and heathland.

Sally Northcott from the Save Lucklaw Hill Community Action Group says: “The proposed extension would remove part of the hill, enlarge the quarry footprint and extend quarrying operations for an estimated 27 years.”

Meanwhile, Colin Findlay from Balmullo Community Council has raised health fears due to noise, dust and vibrations.

Breedon has said it would take action to minimise the effect of its expansion if the plans are approved.

Extra time to consider ‘complex’ bid

Those include diverting the local path network to allow continued access to Lucklaw Hill.

It says vibrations from the new section of quarry will not have a significant effect.

Noise impact is also said to be highly unlikely.

And the effect of dust from the quarry is described as “not significant”.

Fife Council is now seeking independent advice on natural heritage impacts after its own natural heritage officer declared an interest in the case.

Planners have also asked for extra time to consider the application due to its complex nature.

A planning recommendation is not expected before September 21.