



Claughton Moor Quarry and Manor Brickworks in Lancaster to continue operating. (Article from June 2019).

A [Lancaster](#) quarry and the neighbouring brick manufacturer which it supplies have been given the go-ahead to continue operating for the next 18 years.

Claughton Moor Quarry first secured planning permission in 1978 and the associated Claughton Manor Brickworks opened in 1990.

Both sites had been due to cease operations this year, but members of Lancashire County Council's development control committee granted the extensions after hearing that there are 1.2 million tonnes of material yet to be unearthed at the Lune Valley quarry.

The brickworks - one of only three operating with Lancashire - produces around 50 million bricks per year and is currently operating at full capacity. Although it also imports raw material from other sites, the meeting was told that its "viability would be threatened" if excavation at the neighbouring quarry on Hornby Road came to an end.

Both facilities will now be able to operate until the end of 2036, with restoration of the brickworks land required within 12 months of the closure of the site and within two years of the end of quarrying operations.

"The method of working allows for progressive restoration of the quarry," said Jonathan Haine, principal planning officer at [Lancashire County Council](#).

"Restoration which has taken place over the last 20 years has allowed worked areas of the quarry to be returned to a landscape type which would enhance the [Forest of Bowland] Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [in which it is located]," he added.

The applicant for both sites - Forterra Building Products Limited - voluntarily submitted an environmental impact assessment for its plans and the committee was told that there was limited visibility of the facilities from the Lune Valley itself.

Members were told that they should judge the application on whether it was an appropriate use for the land - because they should assume that the regulatory regimes controlling noise, dust and air quality would operate effectively.

Meanwhile, a request from the authority's own highways officers for the extended permission to be conditional upon the heightening of a bridge Photo Above - across which material is transported by pulley from the quarry to the brickworks - was dismissed by council colleagues in planning.

The current bridge height means vehicles exceeding 4.7m are unable to pass beneath it. Highways bosses had asked for it to be raised to just over 5m, so that it could be cleared by all vehicles - primarily because the A683 which it crosses acts as a diversion route during times when the M6 is closed.

"[The highways department] does not consider it is reasonable to have this low bridge in situ for the next 18 years, due to the increasing demand and pressure on the highway network," papers presented to the meeting noted.