

Limestone is a type of soft rock. The chemical name for it is calcium carbonate (CaCO_3). The elements in limestone are calcium, carbon and oxygen. It has many uses, but it is mainly used in cement, concrete and mortar. When limestone is quarried, it just means that it is being dug out of the ground. Limestone quarrying provides employment opportunities that support the local economy in towns nearby the quarry. The quarries are visible from long distances and they can sometimes damage the local environment. Quarrying is a heavy industry that creates noise and heavy traffic. This could damage some people's quality of life.

The social advantages of quarrying are that the money brought into the local economy can be used for local development – such as play areas. This will attract locals and tourists to take their families to places and they can meet new people and talk to new people. Another social advantage is that the transport is more organised so it might attract other businesses to the area because they would be able to get things delivered to them fast. Finally, the quarries could be used for educational purposes – such as school trips.

An environmental advantage of quarrying is that when the area has been finished with, it can be used for recreation – such as a climbing wall.

There are many economic advantages to quarrying. Firstly, it will create jobs for local people, and this will bring money into the local economy. The money could help with funding for social resources. Secondly, it will make the transport system more efficient, so it will attract other businesses that will buy the land and it will bring more money into the area. Finally, if the area is recreated for something else – eg a climbing wall – it will attract tourists and they will also bring money into the area because they will pay money to do things. This will only happen when the company has finished quarrying limestone from that area.

The social disadvantages of quarrying are that tourism is greatly reduced. This will take money out of the area because tourists won't be there to buy things. Secondly, the dust and noise from the machinery can be seen and heard by the local community, so this will affect the quality of people's life.

An economic disadvantage is that the slow moving vehicles could cause heavy traffic. This could cause more pollution in the area.

There are also a couple of environmental disadvantages. Firstly, quarries are dangerous areas, and if children wander off and go there not knowing the risks of being there, they could end up being seriously hurt. Secondly, more pollution could occur due to a vast increase in vehicles that are large.

For these reasons, some quarries have been closed down.

There was an inquiry to reopen a quarry in the Peak District. However, due to the disadvantages that would be caused by the reopening of this, it was cancelled only a few