



THE BERMUDA NATIONAL TRUST

To protect and promote Bermuda's unique natural and cultural heritage forever.

PRESS RELEASE

Joint Statement to The Royal Gazette

Bermuda National Trust and Bermuda Audubon Society on Judkin Lane, Hamilton Parish, Open Space quarrying proposal

February 11, 2020 - The Bermuda National Trust and Bermuda Audubon Society are extremely disappointed with the decision of the Minister of Home Affairs to approve the proposed commercial quarrying on the lot north of 9 Judkin Lane in Hamilton Parish, against the recommendation of the Independent Planning Inspector appointed to review the appeal.

As noted by the Independent Planning Inspector, this decision overturns the protection of Bermuda's open space afforded by the Bermuda Plan 2018 and would result in the permanent destruction of a large section of woodland on a highly visible hillside in an area of significant environmental value.

We urge the Government to put in place a long-term plan for the provision of slate from acceptable development zones, for present and future use. The current approach is too damaging to our long-term future.

The ongoing piecemeal loss of Bermuda's places of natural beauty, so essential to the wellbeing of the entire community, including our tourism product, is alarming. It flies in the face of the growing global understanding that we must do more, not less, to protect woodlands as part of the global fight against climate change.

We are pleased that in his report, the Independent Planning Inspector supported the appeal submitted by the Bermuda National Trust against the Development Applications Board's original decision to approve the quarry development. He found that the analysis presented to the Board "did not adequately address the overriding environmental policy objectives of the Bermuda 2018 Draft Plan for lands zoned Open Space Reserve with Woodland Reserve and Agriculture Reserve conservation area overlays".

He added: "Further, the lack of any attention to the surrounding context of the site, located as it is in an area of significant environmental value including contiguous areas of intact woodland reserve and a nature reserve the Bermuda's largest lake, and the potential negative impacts of a commercial quarry on these resources, constitutes, in my view, a significant omission in the planning analysis."

In spite of the Inspector's recommendation to overturn the Board's decision to approve the quarry development, the Minister has upheld the Board's position and the Bermuda National Trust, with the support of the Bermuda Audubon Society, is considering its options.

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