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| **NORTH YORKSHIRE**  **LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** |

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FAO - Joan Jackson

Dear Sir/Madam

**Application: Re-working of quarry, south of Gayles, for Stainton Quarries.**

Planning Authorities are required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from a Local Access Forum in carrying out its functions.

The North Yorkshire Local Access Forum has considered the draft Traffic Statement in relation to the proposed quarry operation and have the following advice to offer.

The quarry is situated in the midst of a rural area with a network of rights of way accessed by several miles of narrow lanes which constitute the only practicable access to Gayles quarry. However, access by lorry traffic will inevitably impact on the users of rights of way who are entitled to enjoyment of these precious routes and the lanes which are currently lightly trafficked. The Forum advises that thought must be given to the safe passing of quarry traffic (10 lorry journeys per day in addition to staff and visitors) and vulnerable road users and notes there are few passing places currently indicated on the plans. The Forum therefore advises that these should be increased, particularly along Sturdy House Lane and the Tank Road – off which runs Hergill Lane bridleway – and which lead to the unclassified road alongside the quarry.

All passing bays must be constructed to accommodate a large wagon, not only so that two wagons can pass each other without damaging the verges but also to ensure that any horse stays on the lane, not the recess, as trapping a horse in a passing bay would be most unsafe. This would enable the new Highway Code requirements to be met regarding passing distances between cyclists/horses and vehicles. The Forum notes the Tank Road will need strengthening and resurfacing but advise that stone mastic asphalt or crushed stone with a high limestone content would be unsafely slippery for horses; acceptable surfaces are to be found on the website of the British Horse Society.

In conclusion the Forum would remind North Yorkshire County Council that the needs of walkers, cyclists and horse-riders must be fully considered in this application as the A66 to the north and the Army ranges to the south limit the recreational scope for these vulnerable road users, making the unclassified roads and rights of way in this constrained corridor particularly valued. The Forum also ask that within the planning permission is a responsibility for the quarry operators to instruct their lorry drivers to be alert for those without a car and exercise special caution in passing them.

The Forum hopes this advice given will be viewed as constructive and would like to emphasise the value of consultation with the Forum at the earliest possible stage so that NYCC, as a sec.94(4) body, can review/incorporate advice before the full planning application is made after which changes are more difficult to make.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage further on any particular issues arising from this, and look forward to your feedback on the above advice. Please provide this to the Secretary of North Yorkshire Local Access Forum – see contact details above.

Yours faithfully

Melanie Carr

NYLAF Secretary

Signed on behalf of:

**Paul Sherwood**

**Chair, North Yorkshire Local Access Forum**