

Description / Development

Deepen and extend Windy Ridge Quarry; increase the number of HGV movements permitted; excavate former landfill to recover recyclable materials (retrospective); temporarily store soils on part of the previously restored quarry area (retrospective); form new access; restore the site by landfill operations to include the importation of inert waste and recycle imported construction; demolition and excavation wastes

PROW comments (PC)

The current access to the quarry is via public bridleway Holmfirth 94 (HOL/94/10), otherwise known as Moorside Road. During 2021 and 2022 the use of this bridleway to access and egress the quarry with HGVs, quarry plant and other vehicles, along with significant excavations and works to the surface to accommodate this use, led to significant damage to the surface of the route. The works also obstructed the highway, including by wheel washing facilities required under a condition on the current permission, along with parking of vehicles within the bridleway.

There was also a significant degree of conflict between quarry traffic and public users of the route, particularly equestrian use. This resulted in enforcement action being taken. The bridleway has been formally closed whilst bridleway restoration work has been underway. The site operator has restricted the length of the bridleway that is used by HGVs and other vehicles and is better managing vehicle movements within the site, by utilising only one entrance/exit point, closer to Cartworth Moor Road

However, due to the nature and frequency of quarry associated traffic there is likely to be an ongoing issue with surface condition on the part of bridleway HOL/94/10 and a degree of ongoing conflict with vulnerable users, particularly if number of permitted vehicle movements is authorised. A formal doubling of permitted HGV movements along the public bridleway is not acceptable and Kirklees PROW Team **OBJECTS** to this element.

The current proposal includes construction of a new access road direct on to Cartworth Moor Road, 180m south of the bridleway, thus removing the requirement for quarry traffic to take access via bridleway Holmfirth 94. That element of the proposal is considered acceptable. It is indicated in the design and access statement that the existing access via the bridleway would be closed when the new access is brought into use (estimated at 24 months after approval of the application)

Should permission be granted, PROW requests that a condition is included to the effect that HGV movements be limited to no more than currently approved (8 in, 8 out) until the new access road has been brought into use and thereafter there shall be no vehicular access or egress to and from the site via bridleway Holmfirth 94.

The route taken by HGVs to and from the quarry is via Cartworth Moor Road. A significant length of this road (approx. 1km), whilst maintainable by the highway authority, has an unsealed surface and is maintained 'in character'. This route is subject to an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order to record a public bridleway, as mentioned in the submission from the British Horse Society. However, it is possible that higher public rights exist (i.e., public vehicular rights).

The PROW team shares the concerns raised by the British Horse Society (BHS) regarding the increased number of HGV movement above that currently (from 16 to 30), including the potential impact on the surface of this route and the potential for conflict between vulnerable users and vehicular traffic. However, we stop short of objecting to this increase should the suggested passing places and other surface improvement be carried out.