

David Parrish [via email]

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

5 April 2017

**Comment on Planning Application: C/23/67K full planning permission for proposed deepening of Swinden Quarry by 50 metres from the currently permitted extraction depth of 95 metres AOD down to 45 metres AOD and extension of the approved period for the winning and working of Carboniferous Limestone from the end of 2030 to the end of 2039, with restoration to be completed by the end of 2041 Swinden Quarry, Cracoe**

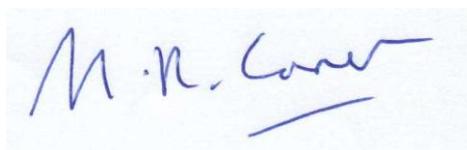
Dear Sir

The Yorkshire Dales Society has no objection in principle to the proposed deepening of Swinden Quarry provided that the necessary technical work has been done to provide assurance that such activity will not have adverse effects on water supply, stability of the foundations of local housing etc.

We do, however, challenge why a 9 year time extension should be granted at this juncture when the existing permission still runs until 2030. We recognise that the proposed time extension is intended to cover estimated sales of aggregate including the proposed additional resource from the quarry deepening but would prefer to see no time extension agreed to now. Circumstances can change in the next 22 years - customer demand and location, technology, transport links etc. - and there is no obvious benefit to the National Park or to Authority to have its hands tied on this matter now when it does not need to. The quarry operators have a poor track record in estimating sales, hence the number of time extensions in quarries throughout the Park that have been requested and granted. It would not be surprising to see a further extension requested before 2039 so we would suggest that sticking to the current 2030 permission remains appropriate.

Should a time extension be granted we would prefer to see a stronger and growing commitment to use of rail rather than road, including in the period of the existing S106 agreement, i.e. up to 2030 so that the proportion that is moved by rail grows from the current 50% to at least 70%.

Yours sincerely



Mark Corner, Chairman

*The Yorkshire Dales Society was founded in 1981 and is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. The Society is free of political and financial affiliations. We work to ensure that the Government, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and other relevant agencies deliver their obligations to care for the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales, an internationally important area. We do this by considering major planning applications and policy development affecting the Yorkshire Dales and adjacent areas. We also offer a year round programme of walks and talks so that everyone can enjoy and learn more about this beautiful area and why it needs protection. The Society has a membership of around 1,200 individuals, families, businesses and organisations.*