

Daniel McVey

Planning, Public Protection, and Countryside Services
Smithfield Road,
Denbigh

(By email)

Dear Daniel,

Graig Quarry Graig Road, - Denbigh Consolidating application for the extension of winning and working of limestone, importation of inert waste and restoration to amenity land

If the proposed extension of the quarry is permitted to proceed, Public Path 6 Denbigh (PFP) will require to be diverted. In order to consider the setting of the existing path and impact of proposals to divert the path, a site inspection was carried out of both the existing and the proposed routes. In considering our findings, we are not of the view that the proposed route to be inferior to the existing path in relation to surface & views, the proposed route could also provide a potential opportunity to improved/upgraded access on the popular path leading to Crest wood to make it more attractive to a wider range of path users, in particular as has already happened at path 52 Denbigh (Mount Wood FP) by applying an all-weather surface.

The outlook from the proposed route offers some views looking towards Denbigh of the castle (between points 3 & 4 on the plan) which are not visible from the existing path. However, the proposal that is a section of path that starts as the existing path then turns along a new route to rejoin path 5, before using a second spur leaving path 5 that leads to Crest woods could be improved. Our preference would be by directly linking the first path directly to the path leading to Crest wood which would then need only one spur with a junction to path 5. We have shown this preferred route on the enclosed plan as A-B-C-2.

We do require further information from the applicant regarding how they intend setting out the path:

- is it to be confined on both sides by either fencing or hedging?
- is it to be bordered by the quarry fence on one side and open to livestock etc on the other?

If the path is to be confined within the quarry boundary with fencing to either side, we consider a minimum of 2m width to be appropriate. If either side is bordered by planting of shrubs or a hedge we strongly recommend a minimum width of 3m, from past experience we have seen the useable width of a path reduced by un-managed overgrowth to half over

just a few years. If the path is confined & bordered by vegetation, we will require further details of how the quarry intend to manage & control this in the future.

To ensure the most effective replacement for fp6 the new path could be improved to provide greater access to a wider range of users, we would like to see an all-weather surface installed from the housing at Upper Bryn Seion as far as the Crest woods. This would open up access to the less able and users with restricted mobility.

Any new furniture required on the proposed route where the path crosses boundaries would have to be hand gates as present statutory guidance from the Welsh Government requires that stiles are no longer to be considered acceptable when creating or diverting paths.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Walls

Adrian Walls MIPROW

Rheolwr Gwybodaeth Priffyrdd / Highways Information Manager

