



DISABLED ACCESS

A GUIDE FOR THE QUARRYING INDUSTRY

There are currently in excess of 1,300 quarries within the UK, a large proportion of which incorporate public access into their design and restoration. However, very few have ensured that the access offered can be used by the whole of the population, including the 1 in 5 who are disabled.

This document seeks to remove some of the fear surrounding the issue of Disabled Access and to provide a useful source of advice on how to go about designing your site appropriately, what you should and should not be considering, where you may be able to look for funding and who to consult along the way.



Step 1: Can you incorporate disabled access at your site?

Quarries by their nature are highly variable, some will be ideally suited to Disabled Access and some will not.

Considering general public access to your site is a good starting point. Is public access desirable, necessary or indeed essential? If the answer to this is YES, then the next step is to consider how access can be made *inclusive*, i.e. how it can be made to meet the needs of all people, with or without disabilities.

An access audit may help to identify those areas of the site where it is best to concentrate efforts in terms of achieving access for all and, also, those areas of the site where access is not going to be feasible and where time, effort and expense could be wasted.



Identifying and removing the barriers: About the site location

- Can you get to it?
- Can you park, if necessary?
- Can you take advantage of public transport?
- Can you make use of adjacent facilities or are facilities provided on site?

About the path network

- Can you find the start of the path?
- Can you follow the path without getting lost?
- Can you physically travel on the path? widths, surfaces, gradients, steps?
- Can you negotiate any gates or barriers, stiles or fences?

About the site Interpretation

- Can you find out about the site in advance of a visit?
- Is information available on site?

About the Local Population

- Who lives in and around your site?

It may be worth contacting a professional Access Consultant for more advice in this respect.

Countryside Agency

Fieldfare Trust

The Sensory Trust

Centre for Accessible Environments

Disabled Living Foundation

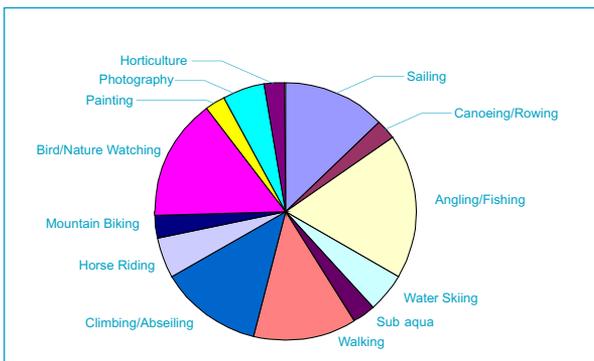
www.countryside.org.uk

www.fieldfare.org.uk

www.sensorytrust.org.uk

www.cae.org.uk

www.dkf.org.uk



Helpful Tips:

Improvements should not be undertaken in isolation but link together to form a comprehensive chain.

Step 2: Who should you speak to and when?

Consultation with interested bodies is key to the success of any scheme. It is particularly important to involve groups of disabled people at an early stage in order that they can influence the types of facilities being provided.

The Rights of Way Officer or Access Officer, employed by the Local Authority, should be able to provide advice on any local initiatives and local contacts. In addition to the Local Authority, try approaching local Disabled Groups directly.

British Blind Sport www.britishblindsport.org.uk Believes in the many benefits that sport can offer visually impaired people.

British Council of Disabled People www.bcodp.org.uk Promotes the full participation of disabled people in UK society.

British Deaf Sports Council www.britishdeafsportsCouncil.org.uk Aimed at everyone who is interested in being kept informed of the latest events in the deaf sporting community.

British Disabled Angling Association www.bdaa.co.uk The BDAA helps to develop fishing opportunities for disabled people.

British Disabled Water Ski Association www.bdwsa.org.uk BDWSA aims to introduce newcomers to waterskiing who, due to their disability would not have considered the challenge previously possible.

British Wheelchair Sports Foundation www.bwsf.org.uk The Foundation exists to provide, promote and develop opportunities for men, women and children with disabilities to participate in recreational and competitive wheelchair sport.

CARE www.care-ltd.co.uk Dedicated to supporting people with learning difficulties throughout their daily lives to achieve greater independence and a more fulfilled lifestyle.

Cerebral Palsy Sport www.cpsport.org Cerebral Palsy Sport aims to provide opportunities for all people with cerebral palsy to take part in sporting activities at local, national and international levels.

Deafblind UK www.deafblind.org.uk Provides a range of support services to deafblind adults and their carers.

Disability Sport England www.disabilitysport.org.uk Creates opportunities for participation in sport for people with all disabilities.

Down's Syndrome Association www.downs-syndrome.org.uk Helping people with Down's syndrome to live full and rewarding lives.

English Federation of Disability Sport www.efds.net Responsible for developing sport for disabled people in England.

English Sports Association for People with Learning Difficulties www.mencap.org.uk (now integrated with mencap) Working with Special Olympics and Mencap, they help young people with learning disability fulfil their sporting dreams.

Jubilee Sailing Trust www.jst.org.uk The aim of the Trust is to promote the integration of able-bodied and physically disabled people through tall ship sailing adventure holidays and associated activities.

KIDS www.kids-online.org.uk Dedicated to helping children and young people with disabilities and special needs develop their skills and abilities and to realise their potential.

Mencap www.mencap.org.uk Providing a variety of services for people with a learning disability and their families and carers.

Multiple Sclerosis Society www.mssociety.org.uk Provides advice on Multiple Sclerosis.

National Blind Children's Society www.nbc.org.uk Enabling blind and partially sighted children to achieve educational and recreational goals by providing serviced recreational opportunities.

RADAR www.radar.org.uk Promoting education, welfare and integration into the community for disabled people.

Riding for the Disabled Association www.rda.org.uk Aims to provide disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being.

Royal National Institute of the Blind www.rnib.org.uk Offering information, support, advice and practical solutions to everyday challenges for anyone with a sight problem.

Royal National Institute for Deaf People www.rnid.org.uk Aiming at radically better quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people

SCOPE www.scope.org.uk For people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers.

Sense www.sense.org.uk Offers a wide range of support and services across the UK to help sensory impaired people of all ages to reach their full potential.

Spinal Injuries Association www.spinal.co.uk Support for people affected by spinal cord injury.

Sport England www.sportengland.org Committed to creating opportunities for people to start in sport, stay in sport and succeed in sport.

Stroke Association www.stroke.org.uk Providing support for people who have had strokes.



Helpful Tips:

It may be very difficult to find the appropriate contact at a national level, so stay local where ever possible.

Step 3: What should you be seeking to provide?

The provision of facilities on site can range from the most simple, relatively low cost solutions up to money-no-object schemes. Before detailed design is undertaken it is worth consulting with interested people and bodies to understand better what they would like. It is important to select options that are appropriate for your site and, where possible, to ensure that improvements are done to the highest standard. As the schemes become more complex, so you may require additional input from professionals in the field of Disabled Access.

Car Parking

Disabled car parking needs to be clearly signed and measured: bay width should be 3.6m overall (2.4m bay plus 1.2m access way), with a length of 6m overall (4.8m bay plus 1.2m access way at rear).

Viewing Points

The surface should be firm, level and stable. It may be a good idea to include seating, resting places and shelves for people to lean on when using cameras or binoculars. Information boards should be positioned so as not to obscure the view for wheelchair users. Where safety barriers are installed they should take account of the viewing height of the users. The barrier should be a maximum of 920 millimetres high and should not be a solid feature. Slats should be positioned 100-125 millimetres apart.

Seats and Perches

- Seats and perches should:
 - Be placed at regular intervals along paths, with stops less than 100m apart.
 - Be visible to provide goals for users.
 - Be located with something to look at.
 - Have a tactile clue on the path to draw attention to their location.
 - Be set 0.6m back from the path.
 - Be 0.45-0.52m high for seats and 0.5-0.75m for perches.

Fishing Platforms

- Platform width 1.8 m & depth 1.5m.
- Safety board (bump stop) minimum 0.15m height & 0.75m depth.

Surfaces must be:

Compactable, Stable, Non slip, Obstacle free.

Suitable materials:

Concrete, Bitumen/macadam, Stone, Timber, Brick/paving, Mown grass

Specification for paths and Hard Surfaces

	Excellent Provision	Good Provision
Path Surfaces	Hard and firm surface with very few loose stones and none bigger than 10mm.	Hard and firm surface with some loose stones and chippings covering the surface, stones should be no bigger than 10mm.
Path Widths	1.2m, to accommodate wheelchair and pedestrian, with occasional wheelchair passing places 1.5m in width.	1.0m
Maximum:		
-Distances between passing places	100.0m	150.0m
-Distances between rest areas	200.0m	300.0m
-Steepness of ramps	1:12	1:10
-Height rise between landings		
On ramps steeper than 1:20	83.0cm	95.0cm
-Slope across path	1:45	1:35
-Step levels	1.0cm	15.0cm

Also:

- Sustained slopes of 1:20 will need to have resting points at least every 30metres. These should be level and approx 1.8m long.
- There should be no steps, stiles or barriers to access.
- Surface breaks, in grills or board-walks for example, in the surface of the path should be no more than 12mm measured along the line.
- Path width may be reduced to 815mm for a maximum of 300mm, at a gateway for example.
- Ideally there should be a clear walking tunnel 1.2 width x 2.1m height

Helpful Tips:

Don't try and do too much, good access over part of the site may be better than poor access over the whole.

Step 4: How will people know about the site?

Most decisions to visit a site are made at home. It is, therefore, important that sufficient relevant information is made available in order that a visit can be planned. This information will need to show that the site is safe, welcoming and accessible and will need to include:

Parking and Transport Information

Information produced will need to include:

- Local access information on toilets, refreshments and other facilities
- A description of the sort of independent activities available
- Information on guided events
- Opening times

It may be necessary to consider the provision of this information in:

- Large print
- Braille
- Plain language
- Audio

The following methods of production can also be considered:

- Local Radio
- Leaflets in surgeries, day centres and community halls
- Direct mail to disability and other groups

Interpretive Materials

Signs- Sign design should follow these basic rules:

- They should incorporate upper and lower case letters, as words are recognised by shape rather than by individual letters
- The font should be Helvetica type or a similar uncomplicated style.
- They should have increased space between the words (25%)
- Tactile characters must be embossed or raised to an approximate thickness of 1-15mm and must not be engraved
- Sign characters should contrast with the background

Leaflets- Written material should:

- Be at 14-20 point minimum with letters at least 2.5mm in height
- Have a standard format e.g. Helvetica Regular, Times New Roman or Univers 55
- Have both upper and lower case lettering
- Have less than 40 - 65 characters per line of text
- Have a simple layout
- Be justified to the left
- Have a strong contrast between text and background printed on opaque, non-glossy, medium weight paper



Helpful Tips:

Ask local disabled groups where they usually acquire information for interesting visits.

Step 5: How can you finance the project?

The following list is by no means exhaustive but provides a good overview of the types of funds that could support projects, affording disabled people access to the environment. Most of the funds will only give to registered charities, some are aimed at educational projects, some at specifically funded projects for children.

Abbey National Charitable Trust Limited

www.abbeynational.com Operating nationally, the Abbey National Charitable Trust donates money to a range of causes including disability.

Barclays Community Investment Fund

www.barclays.com Operating nationally through a network of regional offices, the Barclays Community Investment Fund provides sponsorship and donations focussed on five main areas, including helping people with disabilities.

Camelot Foundation

www.camelotfoundation.org.uk The Camelot Foundation seeks to work with young people who have slipped out of mainstream society, including young disabled people.

Carnegie UK Trust

www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk Part of global partnership, the Carnegie Trust funds projects aimed at rural community development and young people.

Chase Charity

www.chase-charity.org.uk Operating nationally, the Chase Charity seeks to support people with mental and physical disabilities.

Chelsea Charitable Trust

www.thechelsea-charity-foundation.co.uk Operating nationally, the Chelsea Charitable Trust seeks to support vulnerable people including disabled people.

Children in Need

www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey Operating nationally, Children in Need gives grants to organisations working with disadvantaged and young children, including disabled children under the age of 18 living in the UK.

CLA Charitable Trust

www.clacharitabletrust.org.uk Operating nationally, the CLA Charitable Trust provides funding for facilities for disabled and disadvantaged people to take part in recreation and education in the countryside.

Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust

www.cfct.org.uk Operating nationally, the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust seeks to promote community access to the natural environment.

Community Fund

www.community-fund.org.uk Operating nationally through a network of local offices, the Community Fund distributes money raised by the Lottery. Grants are mainly to help meet the needs of those at greatest disadvantage in society and also to improve the quality of life in the community.

Denne Charitable Trust

www.denne.co.uk Operating nationally, the Denne Charitable Trust was set up to offer assistance to local charities, with particular emphasis on those with disabilities or medical need.

Ford Britain Trust

www.ford.co.uk/ie/fob_trust/

Operating nationally, but with a preference for charities located and working in areas in close proximity to Ford Motor Company Limited's locations in the UK, Ford Britain Trust offer funding to projects concerned with disabled people. Grants normally range from £100 to £5,000.

Foundation for Sport and Arts

www.thefsa.net

Operating nationally to distribute money raised through Littlewoods Gaming, the Foundation supports sporting and artistic causes.

HBOS Foundation

www.hbosplc.com

Operating nationally, the HBOS Foundation provides funding for projects which seek to bring people back into the community who have been excluded, including disabled.

John Ellerman Foundation

www.ellerman.org.uk

Operating nationally, the John Ellerman Foundation provides funding for severely disabled people, including deaf and blind.

Lloyds TSB Foundation

www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Operating nationally, the Lloyds TSB Foundation makes grants to charitable organisations which help people (especially those who are disadvantaged or disabled) to play a fuller role in communities throughout England and Wales.

Peter Harrison Foundation

www.peterharrisonfoundation.org

Operating nationally, the Peter Harrison Foundation provides funding for projects that provide sporting equipment or facilities for disabled or disadvantaged people.

Lord's Taverners

www.lordstaverners.org

Operating nationally, the Lord's Taverners raise money to 'give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance'.

Sport England

www.sportengland.org

Operating nationally, Sport England provides funding for sports related facilities.

Tesco Charity Trust

www.tesco.com/everyLittleHelps

Operating nationally, Tesco Charity Trust benefits local organisations whose core work supports children and adults with disabilities, offering one-off donations from £1,500 and £5,000. Applications for funding must be made by 30 June each year.



Helpful Tips:

Contact these bodies early in the design process and establish their requirements so that you can tailor your scheme.