

REASSESSING

RISK

# Tackling teenage trespass

ADVICE FOR QUARRY MANAGERS





# Project team

This action pack is a product of an 18-month research project run by the Quarry Products Association (QPA). The project has been supported by funding from the government tax on aggregates through its Mineral Industry Sustainable Technology Programme. QPA would like to acknowledge the input of the following members of the project team. We are particularly grateful to our four pilot schools, their enthusiastic staff and the pupils who brought it all to life.

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# Introduction

Ask anyone who has been through the awful experience – a child dying or being injured on a site for which you are responsible is devastating. This action pack has been produced because the problem of young people trespassing in quarries, marine aggregate wharves and other quarry products industry sites is a serious one.

A survey undertaken by the Quarry Products Association (QPA) in 2006 showed that over 55 per cent of the managers who responded were concerned about trespass. Despite the best efforts of operators to fence their sites and provide warning signs, there could be many “accidents waiting to happen” all over the UK. More often than not, they relate to teenagers.

Fencing and signs are not enough. You cannot afford simply to hope that it doesn't happen on your site. If it does, both your company and you personally could be liable.

This guide has been produced following an 18-month study of the problem of trespass by teenagers led by the QPA. It builds on the success of the QPA's *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* campaign but accepts that techniques which work with young children are unlikely to succeed with teenagers.



*Abi Cosnett (14) had a narrow escape from death when she fell 50 feet down a sheer face at Edwin Richards quarry in the West Midlands*

## Personal experience

“It was the situation every manager dreads. You believe your fences are intact and warning signs in place but you are still vulnerable. When it comes to children's lives, we can't do too much and we certainly can't

afford to be complacent just because we don't have an immediate problem. If all else fails, we have to be able to say that we have done our very best.”

*Ray Tyrer, Midland Quarry Products*

# Using this pack

There is no simple prescription for dealing with the problem of teenager trespass. Every situation is different and this guide can only offer a general approach that must be tailored to suit individual circumstances. It must also be applied to suit the requirements of individual companies. In some cases, for example, liaison with the media will be the responsibility of a centrally-based public relations manager. Others may have specialist staff to work with schools.

This action pack has been designed to work at several levels. It starts from the belief that no site can afford to be complacent about the issue of public safety. Deaths and injuries have occurred in quarries where there had previously been little or no concern about trespass.

Quarry managers with even slight concerns should, therefore, take on board the action points suggested in the “Basics” section and should consider taking the *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* programme into their local primary schools. The safety message is also implicit in the QPA’s new *Virtual Quarry* [www.virtualquarry.co.uk](http://www.virtualquarry.co.uk), which is great fun for younger children and includes 20 lesson plans through to key stage 4.

The sites that will benefit most from this guide are, however, the “hotspots” – those where accidents are waiting to happen. For managers with high levels

of concern, we set out a programme built on:

## **Working with the community**

Techniques to win you wider support in the immediate area and including liaison with local authorities, community safety partnerships and the media.

## **Working with secondary schools**

Engage with your local school in projects that deliver the safety message while benefiting the National Curriculum. Greatest benefit arises when pupils themselves devise projects, so absorbing the messages and passing them on to their peers.

## **Mature Thinking**

Specially devised for QPA, an innovative new schools programme that encourages youngsters to take a more mature general attitude to risk. Many schools will welcome the opportunity to

run such a programme, which can be implemented at different levels by teachers using the materials provided in this pack.

# Toolkit

The “tools” listed below are available from QPA to support you in implementing this programme.

RESOURCE	AUDIENCE	SOURCE
<b>Videos</b>		
<i>Play Safe ... Stay Safe</i>	The basic safety message for under 11s	Order DVD from QPA
<i>999 Quarry Rescue</i>	Built around a real rescue and told by teenagers	Order DVD from QPA
<i>Mature Thinking</i>	Teachers interested in the <i>Mature Thinking</i> programme	Order DVD from QPA
<b>Websites</b>		
<i>Virtual quarry</i>	Mainly primary – quarry fun with implicit safety messages	<a href="http://www.virtualquarry.co.uk">www.virtualquarry.co.uk</a>
QPA	Youth zone carries info and resources for all ages	<a href="http://www.qpa.org/youthzone">www.qpa.org/youthzone</a>
QPA members	Managers - downloadable resources and detailed report	<a href="http://members.qpa.org">http://members.qpa.org</a>
<b>Online game</b>		
Quarry Rescue	Tots to teenagers – save yourself from quarry hazards	<a href="http://www.quarryrescue.co.uk">www.quarryrescue.co.uk</a>
<b>Printed resources</b>		
Wallchart	Primary – a quick introduction to quarrying and safety issues	PDF on websites. Order printed A2 version from QPA.
Safety signs	Set of safety signs in various sizes for quarry display	Order via <a href="http://members.qpa.org">http://members.qpa.org</a>
Activity leaflet	Primary – a fun way to identify quarry hazards	PDF on websites. Order printed versions from QPA.
Education pack	Primary – range of activities including lesson plan on peer pressure	Order via <a href="http://members.qpa.org">http://members.qpa.org</a>
<b>Presentation</b>		
PowerPoint	Primary – to add interest to your talk to schools	Download from <a href="http://members.qpa.org">http://members.qpa.org</a>

In pursuing any of these options, you may well benefit from the support and advice of the QPA's Communications Team who can be contacted as below. You will also find the QPA's public website ([www.qpa.org](http://www.qpa.org)) and its members' website (<http://members.qpa.org>) invaluable. They have downloadable copies of some of the resources mentioned in this guide. Others can be ordered via the members' website.

Finally, please remember that sharing your experiences can help others in the same situation. Let us know what success you have in using this guide and keep us informed if accidents do occur at your site.

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# The basics

Whatever level of trespass your site experiences, there are a few basics that need to be in place to protect not just the public, but you as the responsible manager.

Under the Quarries Regulations 1999, operators' responsibilities include:

- ensuring that work activities do not endanger the health and safety of anyone (ie not just employees)
- the quarry must have a health and safety document with sufficient information to demonstrate that risks have been properly assessed and

adequate measures taken to safeguard all persons who might be affected

- if the quarry is abandoned or operations have ceased, ensuring that it is left in a safe condition.

## Fencing and signs

Maintaining your fences - even under attack from repeated vandalism - is an absolute fundamental in protecting the public. It is all the more galling, of course, if your fences are being cut by irresponsible adults who then leave children to face the consequences. Regular patrols to a fixed timescale

are essential and may be needed on a daily basis in some circumstances. Speedy repairs are equally vital. Fencing itself may not be adequate without signs to make clear that crossing the fence is not just entering someone else's property but putting yourself at risk. Whether it is your own sign or the set available from QPA, you may well need this added line of defence.



# The basics

## Community relations

Sometimes, problems with trespass (by young people or adults) can be addressed through good basic community relations. The company's concerns can be raised on a cautionary basis with individuals and with local councils. In a rural area, an informal discussion with the chairman of the parish council or the head of the primary school may be all that is needed to spread the word quickly and effectively. By liaising with the local council, you may be able to encourage more impetus for a school holiday play scheme.

## Visiting schools

Good community relations should also involve contact with primary schools on an educational basis as well as to give safety warnings. Building such bridges can be a big help in overcoming subsequent trespass problems. See the section headed *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* for more advice.

## Talking to kids

Talking to young people at the scene of their trespass may be sufficient to overcome the problem. Try to reason with them and point out the potential outcomes of their actions. Whatever the provocation, do not under any circumstances lose your temper, threaten them or touch them.

## Talking to parents

If you know the children and believe talking to them direct won't work, it may be helpful to speak to their parents. It goes without saying that a friendly rather than officious approach is needed.

# When the problem is serious

QPA's teenage safety pilot project was initiated because of growing concern over the number of "hotspot" sites where trespassing teenagers are putting their lives at risk. It is to those sites that the remainder of this action pack is directed.

The research project concentrated on ways in which teenagers' thinking can be influenced at school – covered in detail in the sections that follow. But there are several other tactics that may be relevant, the first of which is sharing your concerns with the wider community and with those who are in a position to help. Their support could be invaluable in overcoming the problem. And if the unthinkable does happen, you may need to be able to demonstrate positive action to the Health & Safety Executive – and possibly even to a coroner.

## Community action

If you have serious concerns about trespass by any age group, you have a duty to make the wider community

aware. Parents and teachers can only influence children if they have been told of the problem. The advice contained in the "Basics" section holds good when the trespass is of a more serious dimension and it is then that the groundwork you have done on the general community relations front should pay dividends.

Talk in particular to those who have been elected to represent the community and the officers of the county, district and parish councils. It may be that one or more of them will issue a wider warning that, because of his / her standing, has more impact than if it came from your company.

## Team effort

Several QPA members teamed up to take part in the North East Derbyshire's *Safety Crew* event. Over a period of two-weeks, over 1,400 eight to ten-year-old local school children listened to talks on subjects such as road safety and drugs awareness. The QPA provided resources for Tarmac's David Pargeter (pictured) to talk about the dangers of playing in quarries followed by a short question and answer session to see what the children had learnt. Similar schemes operate in other parts of the UK.



# When the problem is serious

## Working with local authorities

Councils often take the initiative in running summer play schemes that may divert younger age groups away from quarries. Perhaps one is needed in your area – your encouragement may help. Youth leaders could similarly be asked to consider diversionary tactics for teenagers.

Some councils also run special events at which organisations such as the fire service and police deliver their safety messages to children. Some industries also participate – quarrying has been a particular supporter in Derbyshire. If there is one in your area, it might be worth getting involved.

## Community safety partnerships

Community safety is a government priority and it covers much more than just preventing crime and disorder. It also sets out to create social and economic change in areas with real problems. Crucially, the National Community Safety Plan (published in November 2005) recognises that, for

communities to become safer, organisations and individuals must work together.

Priorities for the next three years include:

- making communities stronger and more effective
- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- creating safer environments
- protecting the public and building confidence
- improving people's lives so they are less likely to commit offences.

As key contributors to communities, quarrying companies will be welcome partners within local Community Safety Partnerships. Through such partnerships, it may well be possible to devise a broader approach to the problems of teenage trespass. Community Safety Partnerships are being set up right across the country and could give you valuable assistance. To find out if there is one in your area visit [http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/regions\\_map.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/regions_map.htm).

## Working with the police

When your concerns reach a certain level, you would be well advised to make the local police aware and to ask for their advice and support. While manpower resources can inhibit preventative action by some forces, it is important that you register your worries and ask for help.



# When the problem is serious

## Working with the media

Local media can have a valuable role to play in communicating your concerns about quarry trespass – and in demonstrating action to overcome the problem. Publicity is a valuable weapon and should not be feared. If an accident does subsequently occur, you would then be able to say that you gave a public warning.

Editorial comes free – the downside is that you cannot fully control what is written, though you can guide the journalist. Larger quarrying companies will usually have a press or public relations officer who will help you with this aspect. For those that don't, the following pointers should help:

- Be clear on your message before you contact the media. Write down what you want to say and concentrate on no more than four key points
- Start with the news editor and explain the basis of your concern. He or she may then assign another reporter.

## When all else fails

At Nuneaton in Warwickshire, quarry operator Midland Quarry Products has had particular problems with adult trespass. By cutting fences, they left children exposed to danger. Working closely with the company, the police apprehended four individuals who refused to give written undertakings not to trespass. The company subsequently took out injunctions which resulted in two men being banned from entering the quarry.

- A picture really is worth a thousand words and newspapers will usually take one. Point them to vandalism, holes cut in fences and particular dangers
- Don't be too harsh in your criticism of youngsters as you could alienate the wider community. It is usually adequate to say that you understand why they want to go into your quarry but that they clearly aren't aware of the dangers they face
- Quote some of the better places to play (or 'hang out') in your area.
- Try not to give an impression of your quarry as an all-round dangerous place. Explain that its perfectly safe if you work there, are trained and have the right safety gear
- Make clear too that the quarry has a vital role to play in the wider area and quote socially beneficial projects that have used your products
- If you need advice, contact the QPA's Communications Team.

# Play Safe ... Stay Safe

One very obvious way of getting teenagers to take on board a safety message is to deliver it in earlier years when they may be more receptive. Growing up with the knowledge that trespassing in quarries can cost your life will, for many, be sufficiently persuasive. Primary schools are generally receptive to requests from quarry managers to visit schools to talk about safety without necessarily engaging with the National Curriculum. Alternatively, you could offer them additional curriculum-related benefits by inviting parties to come to your quarry.

The QPA's annual *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* campaign is for the primary age group and includes a series of resources to help you as identified earlier in this guide.

Try to make your safety talk more of a chat and make it interesting by arriving dressed in your safety gear and explaining why it's safe for you to work in a quarry but not safe for them to play there. You could also point schools to the QPA's *Virtual Quarry* [www.virtualquarry.co.uk](http://www.virtualquarry.co.uk), which carries the safety message loud and clear.



**Former Blue Peter presenter Katy Hill presents the QPA's *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* video which has been updated to include advice on resisting peer pressure.**



# Working with schools

QPA believes that forging relationships with secondary schools is one of the best ways of tackling the problem of teenage trespass. Its research project focused on finding new and better ways of communicating with young people and recognised from the outset that all such work needed to fall into line with the National Curriculum. Understanding teachers' needs in that respect will be helpful in persuading them to undertake projects based on personal safety.

## The National Curriculum

Secondary school teachers have to stick to the National Curriculum.

Understanding that fact is fundamental in getting their attention on an issue like quarry safety. It isn't enough simply to go to them with a local issue; that issue has to be relevant to the curriculum. A basic understanding of how quarry safety can be made to fit into the teaching templates will, therefore, assist you.

Teaching health and safety is a requirement for all age groups from five to 16. This includes recognising hazards, assessing risks and taking steps to control them. It applies to those subjects where pupils carry out practical activities and use tools and equipment. The ability to transfer this learning to other areas of their lives should also be an aim of safety education.

Safety education also covers:

- understanding factors that influence attitudes and behaviour. Young people need personal and social skills like assertiveness to deal with pressures that can encourage risk-taking.
- involving young people in taking responsibility for social and moral issues, such as agreeing new safety rules for their schools and presenting their suggestions to policy-makers.

- discussing the roles of safety professionals to understand the importance of safety issues. This is an important aim of career-related learning.

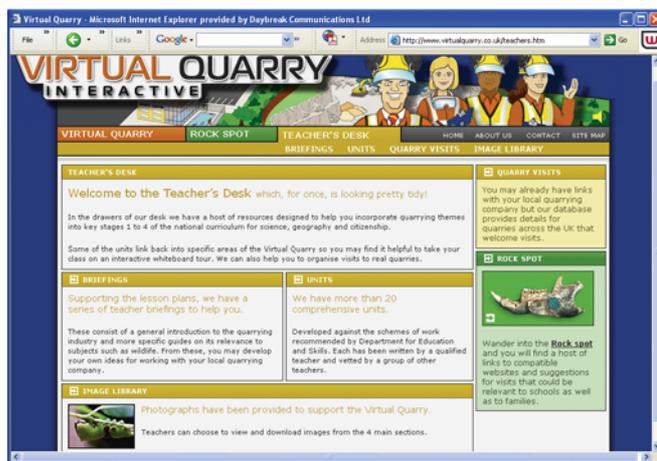
Within the curriculum, safety education is most appropriately located within the relatively new topic of citizenship. Schools are encouraged to teach citizenship as part of the framework for personal, social and health education (PSHE) at key stages 1 and 2, but they are required to do so for key stages 3 and 4 – although programmes of study are flexible.

*Citizenship education equips young people with the knowledge, understanding and skills to play an active part in society as informed citizens who are socially and morally responsible. It gives them the confidence and conviction that they can act with others and make a difference in their communities.*

# Working with schools

While primary schools focus on how pupils can keep themselves safe and make responsible choices, the focus widens to social safety at key stage 3 (age 11-14). Students are encouraged to take an active role in making their communities safer and mentoring younger pupils. A key stage 3 citizenship unit, *Crime and Safety Awareness*, gives students the responsibility for planning and organising a one-day event for either the whole school or a year group. They attend a series of workshops run by relevant local agencies and so investigate the nature and consequences of criminal and anti-social behaviour. They are also encouraged to develop a youth action group to identify issues, develop solutions and take action on matters that concern them, such as supporting younger pupils in developing initiatives that contribute to community safety.

The QPA's *Virtual Quarry* [www.virtualquarry.co.uk](http://www.virtualquarry.co.uk) includes more than 20 teaching units that can be used by your local school. Written by teachers, they cover key stages 1 to 4 of the National Curriculum. Use them to



build a wider relationship with your local school that includes safety education.

## Special projects

The QPA's pilot project has demonstrated considerable benefits from working closely with secondary schools in key quarrying areas. It recognised from the outset the benefits from engaging with teenagers rather than preaching at them. Teams of pupils were given creative control in developing a range of initiatives designed to communicate the safety message to their peers. Case studies are included in the teachers' leaflet that is part of this pack.

If your quarry has teenage trespass problems, consider asking your local

secondary school to run a similar project. It matters not what communications medium the youngsters opt for – the real benefit lies quite simply in doing the project and properly understanding the dangers of quarry trespass.

# The *Mature Thinking* programme

One of the early conclusions of the QPA research project was that many teenagers fully appreciate the risks they are taking when they go into quarries. Indeed, that is often what attracts them. For such youngsters, quarries are usually one of a number of risks they actively seek. Often, the lure of a quarry is that it appears a wild place, remote from the day-to-day controls they see as being imposed upon them by adults.

It was the appreciation of this fact that encouraged the project team to go beyond its initial schools pilot projects and engage a leading educationalist and motivator, Roy Leighton, in an extension programme. Roy devised *Mature Thinking* not so much to change teenagers' thinking about quarry trespass, but as a means of helping them to make more mature decisions on all types of risk, sometimes welcoming it as desirable and sometimes rejecting it as plain foolish.

Roy successfully trialled *Mature Thinking* with one of the pilot schools, Anthony Gell. In three half-day sessions, run over several weeks and with exercises between, Roy made a considerable impact on the thinking of 30 pupils.

We believe the programme has particular potential for quarrying companies with "hotspot" trespass sites. Roy has now developed support materials (enclosed with this pack) that

will allow teachers to implement the programme in their own schools. We would, therefore, encourage managers with serious trespass problems to make the *Mature Thinking* materials available to their local secondary schools and to work with them as appropriate.



*Visit to the Hillhead quarrying exhibition*

# Other approaches

While the pilot project concentrated on how to keep teenagers out of quarries, it did also consider the prospect of tackling the problem more positively by allowing controlled use of specific areas. As an extension to the main project, Tarmac agreed to look more closely at such a challenge posed by the pupil team from Anthony Gell involving the disused Middle Peak quarry near Wirksworth in Derbyshire. Pupil interviews with youngsters who regularly went to the quarry showed that they identified with the freedom of a “wild” environment away from town. Stocking a lake with fish and allowing teenagers to use was one idea suggested.

While considered very seriously by Tarmac, the proposition hit problems on two fronts. First, how do you make a quarry environment (operational or disused) sufficiently safe to allow public use? If you did, you would, of course, probably take away the very features that would make it attractive to teenagers.

And secondly, how do you overcome the problem of liability? Legal advisers point out that it is very difficult for a quarry operator to “pass on” legal responsibility for safety to other users of the quarry. One QPA member company investigated the possibility of allowing a local motorbike club to use sections of an operational quarry for weekend meetings. Although the club was happy to accept liability for any accidents, legally the burden remained with the owner / operator.

Our advice is not to dismiss such ideas but to treat them with caution on a site-by-site basis, and seek legal advice at an early stage. However, don’t allow your local community to become too excited by any such prospect until you have properly “bottomed it out”.

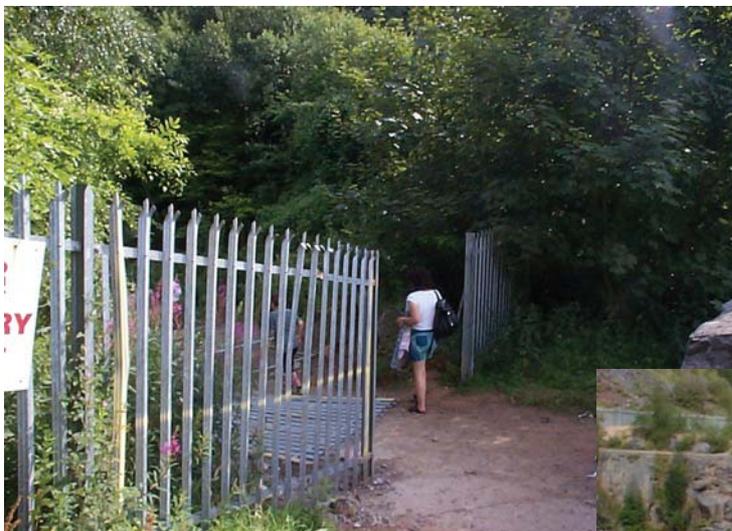
# Disused quarries

The most serious teenage trespass problems tend to involve disused quarries. While some remain the responsibility of operators, others have reverted to their original owners. Sometimes, however, ownership is unclear and trespass goes unchallenged.

Notwithstanding the issue of ownership, it is clear that any disused quarry where young people are putting themselves at risk requires action. Generally, that action should come from the owner. But if no such action is

forthcoming, QPA operators in the area should do all that they can to bring appropriate pressure to bear, sometimes in tandem with local authorities. It is bad news for the industry as a whole if a child is injured or killed in any quarry.

At the very least, such sites can be included in the QPA's annual publicity campaign, so please make your concerns known to the Communications Team.





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