



North

Yorkshire County Council

News

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SAFETY STUDY FOR SUTTON BANK

A **SPECIAL** safety study is being carried out into problems caused by heavy goods vehicle incidents on one of the steepest routes in North Yorkshire.

Concern has been growing about the problems posed by heavy goods vehicle on Sutton Bank on the A170 near Thirsk. Throughout the year it is a popular tourist route as well as a key link for the North York Moors and the East Coast.

North Yorkshire County Council has established the Sutton Bank Freight Quality Partnership along with the Freight Transport Association (FTA), the Road Haulage Association (RHA) and North Yorkshire Police to determine the most appropriate solutions to reduce breakdown incidents.

A special exercise was carried out while the Bank was closed for routine maintenance to recreate HGV test runs using different loads and with different surface conditions. The results of the exercise, which was carried out by Faber Maunsel Consulting Engineers on behalf of the partnership, will be fed into the overall study aimed at tackling HGV issues linked to the Bank.

The steep 1 in 4 gradient on the hill presents a problem for many types of vehicles and their loads - a situation which is aggravated by a hairpin bend. Police figures show that - on average - there is an incident every other day involving obstructions by goods vehicles on Sutton Bank. Due to the limited width of the road and the length of the steep gradient most breakdowns require the road to be closed until the obstruction is removed, causing major delays to traffic.

Both the FTA and RHA are keen to ensure that operators are made aware of the problems. It's hoped that the information collected through the surveys will enable the authorities to provide hauliers with better information aimed at reducing the number of incidents.

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