


Our ref:
Your ref: CAO/AB/871/15

HM Coroner's Office
PO Box 282
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 4FY


Regional Director, Yorkshire & Humber
and North East
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds LS11 9AT

Direct Line: 0300 470 2422

24 November 2015

For the attention of Crispin A. Oliver

Dear Mr Oliver

**Response to Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths
Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013**

**A66 Vale House Farm (formerly the Otter Trust)
In relation to the Death of Mr Charles Ernest Rayner**

I refer to your letter of 9 October 2015 and the accompanying Regulation 28 Report to prevent future deaths in relation to the above.

Highways England was saddened by the news of Mr Rayner's death and would wish to extend sincere condolences to his family in this respect. We note your conclusion of accidental death.

Your report details concerns that you have in relation to the arrangement of the road in this location and that you believe that Highways England has power to take action to prevent future deaths. Highways England accepts that it has power to take action and would refer you to the measures set out below.

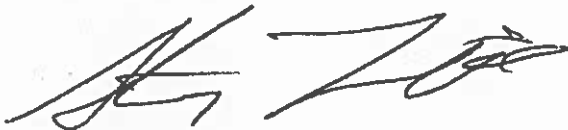
Following receipt of the Report, a detailed examination of the circumstances of this and other collisions recorded in the vicinity of this location has taken place, and a detailed inspection and assessment of the road's layout has been undertaken.

Following a review of the arrangement of the A66 in the vicinity of Vale House Farm, Highways England has determined that the most suitable approach to reduce future collision risk and improve road user safety is to stop up the gated access to the moorland, thus removing the need for future right turn manoeuvres to be made from the A66 westbound carriageway. Work is also proposed to improve an alternative access to the moorland that is located 380m west of Vale House Farm, subject to agreement with the landowner.

Regrettably at this time, no funding is available to undertake this work. A bid will be placed to request funding, which is normally allocated on a priority basis to ensure that funds are targeted at sites that are likely to provide the greatest collision savings and safety benefit to road users.

I trust that this information is of assistance in explaining Highways England's proposals in relation to this location.

Yours sincerely




Regional Director, Yorkshire & Humber and North East

Email: 