

# What to do if you encounter problems and become stuck

## Do

- Stop the vehicle
- Call for assistance
- Use the emergency lay-by if safe to do so
- Ensure your vehicle is visible and use hazard warning lights
- Ensure you are visible and use high visibility clothing



## Do not

- Reverse unsupervised
- Endanger other road users



## Telephone numbers:

Emergency 999

North Yorkshire Police

Non-emergency 101

If your vehicle needs to be recovered, North Yorkshire Police can arrange this on your behalf.



FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

# Sutton Bank

A170 - 5 miles east of Thirsk

HGV Driver Information



The problems

Alternative routes

Driving advice from experienced drivers

# Sutton Bank: What type of road is it?

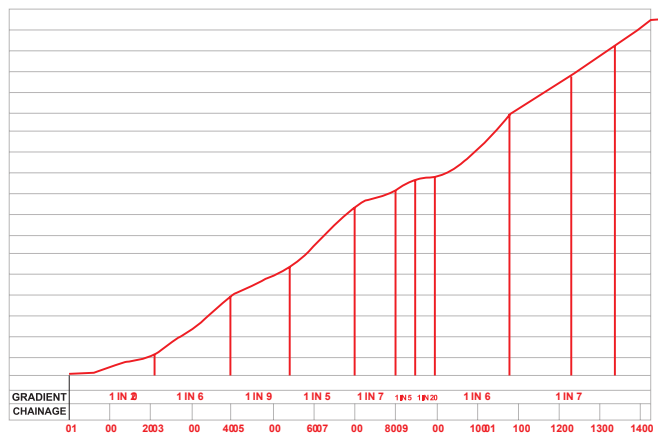
The A170 is a single carriageway carrying traffic between Thirsk and Scarborough.

At Sutton Bank, travelling eastbound, the A170 climbs 160 metres from the Vale of York to the top of the North York Moors in under 1 mile.

The bank has 3 sections of steep 1:4 (25%) inclines along its length. Just over half way up is a left hand hairpin bend.

Near the top, there is a final short steep section before the main road bends sharply right.

## Profile of Sutton Bank



## What's the problem?



- On average, 2 goods vehicles per day experience up to 4 hr delays ascending Sutton Bank
- On average, over 120 goods vehicles per year fail to make the ascent and require police assistance to proceed

## Field trials indicate:

- Wet conditions exacerbate the problem
- Drivers unfamiliar with Sutton Bank encounter more difficulties
- Deceptively steep gradient leads to incorrect or inappropriate gear choice by drivers
- Load position and weight strongly influences traction
- Extra load security measures are recommended
- HGVs with low power to weight ratios are more at risk

## When to avoid Sutton Bank



- It is wet, icy or snowbound (conditions are made worse during the Autumn by leaf fall)
- You are not familiar with Sutton Bank
- Your vehicle has a low power to weight ratio
- You are driving a fully laden articulated goods vehicle
- There is little weight over the drive axle
- Local signs indicate it is blocked
- You are an inexperienced driver

## Alternative routes to Scarborough

- From the North (via Middlesbrough and Whitby): A1(M) to junction 60, A689, A19, A174, A172, A1043, A171
- From the South (via York and Malton): A1(M) to junction 45, A64
- From Thirsk A19 (North) and A171 via Whitby
- or A19 (South) to York, and A64 via Malton



## Advice on how to drive up Sutton Bank

At the bottom, engage a suitably low gear that provides flexibility to increase or decrease speed without further gear changes AND remain in that gear until you are certain you have reached the top by the National Park Centre. Remember to dump or lift any axles.