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# Staying on the Right Track

## Vehicles in the Countryside in the Peak District National Park



**Update – March 2011**

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### **Update on Specific Routes**

We last updated interested parties in July about how action is progressing on the ground and wanted to provide a further update as issues are moving along.

### **Action Plans**

The 23 'priority' routes in the Peak District National Park have been identified for closer inspection and action. A further route – Hurstclough Lane at Bamford – has been reclassified to a route requiring management after the lane showed clear signs of deterioration since the original survey took place. This route will be investigated in line with the other routes when the final batch of plans are investigated.

### **Top 8 Routes**

The latest situation regarding each of these routes is as follows:

#### **Bradley Lane, Pilsley**

Derbyshire County Council will discuss this route at Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

#### **Brough Lane**

Works to repair sections of this lane have been approved and will take place after works at Long Causeway (see below).

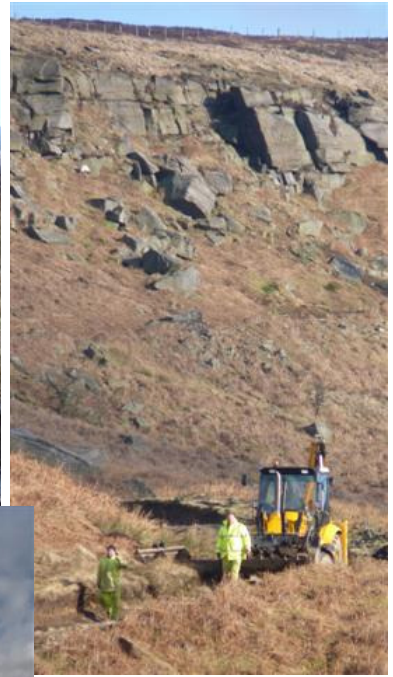
#### **Chapelgate**

Engineering works have been designed and sent out for quotation, with works approved the contract is about to be signed and repairs should commence in the next few weeks. Works will repair the surface of the route and at the same time deal with the very significant drainage issues prevalent on the road. The parish council, National Trust and Natural England have been involved in this process. The National Park Authority have consulted upon a proposal to make an experimental TRO for 18 months at Chapelgate, a report is being prepared and a decision will be made in the near future.

#### **Long Causeway**

Significant repairs are taking place to this lane now, and the works are shown in the photos over the page. Although no official closure is in place we ask that all users try to avoid using the lane whilst repairs take place as the site is very muddy. Works are initially addressing serious drainage challenges and then moving on to surfacing works. Officers have asked partners from the user groups and Derbyshire County Council to consider a voluntary partnership approach to the ongoing maintenance of this route once repairs have been carried out. In addition to these works, fencing has been carried out by Sheffield City Council at the Redmires (north) end where repeated trespass onto protected moorland still occurs.

# Long Causeway Repairs – February 2011



### **Moorlands Lane Bonsall**

Action to remove illegal use in the quarries nearby has been successful and is continuing to be monitored. Use of this lane remains very low and whilst repairs are required they are presently less important than those being progressed.

### **School Lane, Great Hucklow**

Following the implementation of a school safety plan involving signage and discussion with interested parties Derbyshire County Council are looking to take forward a Traffic Regulation Order.

We were very concerned to hear that on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February a party of 7 motorbikers trespassed through adjacent woodland and onto this lane through informal (and private) access through the playing grounds at 8:50am when infants were heading into the school. Obviously this distressed the children and the police have been involved. We believe the bikers may have been an organised group possibly being led by a private individual and we are sure that all law-abiding users are as shocked as us at this behavior. If you are aware of any information we would be grateful if you would pass it onto the police, who will treat your call in the strictest confidence. Please call 0845 123 3333 if you have any further information.

### **Shatton Lane**

Use continues to be monitored, the lane is showing no signs of deterioration.

### **Washgates**

Derbyshire County Council are due to discuss this route at Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

## **Next 8 Routes**

Works are continuing to finalise the management plans on the next 8 routes. The Local Access Forum subgroup have visited the sites and made recommendations, which will be included in the reports, which we hope will be finalised in the near future. The routes to reiterate are:

- **The Roych (see below)**
- **Brushfield – Upperdale NCH**
- **Castleton - Pin Dale**
- **Great/Little Longstone - Chertpit Lane BOAT**
- **Stoney Middleton – Black Harry Lane**
- **Bamford CP – Bamford Clough**
- **Peak Forest – The Cop**
- **Tideswell - Monksdale Lane**

### **The Roych**

Readers of these updates will be aware that a proposed one way system has been advertised and will be implemented from 4 March 2011, we trust that this proposal will help to lessen damage from less skilful users unable to traverse a feature on this route and enable all parties to press for funding to carry out repairs. Please do spread this

information on, the more widespread this proposal is made the better the chances of success.

### **Final 8 Routes**

We continue to monitor and seek progress on these routes when works on other routes allow or the opportunity arises. These routes are:

- **Eyam – Riley Lane**
- **Taddington – Sough Lane**
- **Birchover – Clough Wood NCH**
- **Wheston CP – Hay Dale**
- **Eyam – Nether Bretton NC**
- **Monyash – Derby Lane**
- **Hurstclough Lane, Bamford**

- **Ballidon – Minninglow Lane/Gallowlow Lane**

We would like to thank users for the restraint shown from using this route whilst repairs are given the winter to bed in, only 2 users drove vehicles on this route during the last counted month and these may have been farming vehicles. The restraint shown here and at other sites is a clear indication that voluntary restraint is a feasible option at some locations.

National Park Officers are now investigating further repairs along this route which will be taking place on an ongoing basis.

### **Illegal Use**

Our action with partners continues at illegal sites

**Rowland RB 6 – Wigley Lane:** We are concerned to see illegal use still occurring, use is monitored at all times and police operations are taking place, users will be reported and police action will be taken. Continued use of this lane can only hamper progress in educating all parties about responsible use and must stop. Until such use stops resources that could be used in a more positive way elsewhere are having to be spent here. We know that all responsible users and groups are totally opposed to illegal use and if anyone has any evidence of use please contact the police directly.

**Other Reclassified Sites:** We are happy that in the vast majority of cases illegal use at sites has reduced to a trickle but will continue to monitor these sites in the future.

**Winchester Case Routes:** A special edition of this newsletter will be published in the near future to inform parties about route as affected by this case within Derbyshire.

**Vandalism to Signage:** We continue to be concerned that a very small minority of people vandalise signs informing all users of the status of some routes. These signs are in place to ensure that correct legal status is shown, in the same way that a public footpath or bridleway would be so designated, and is a statutory highway authority duty. Signs that are vandalised are replaced and this diverts funding and resources from elsewhere, it does not change the status and legitimate users may accidentally use illegal routes where signage has been vandalised. CCTV is now being installed at locations where repeat vandalism occurs and those who damage signage risk a criminal

record. Please spread the word about this unacceptable situation and allow us to use our time more proactively.

## Information and Signage

It is vitally important that users know where to go legally and that where issues are present on the ground. All users are given clear information and we regularly provide individuals with the latest information where status is an issue. Whilst we are happy to do so, the Highway Authority is the best place to get the very latest information.

The issue as a whole was recently part of an edition of Countryfile and many users will know that filming is taking place across the national park as part of a further documentary. The photograph shows Wayne Bexton of Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Team explaining issues at the Roych to members of the Local Access Forum.



## Ongoing Work

We hope once again that everyone involved in this issue can see that as per our policy we are taking a case by case approach to routes and that this approach is as successful as our resources allow.

Whilst our work in general will proceed, we will be paying particular attention to how engineering works at Chapelgate, Long Causeway and Brough Lane bed in, and to the future management of Chaplegate. We will of course keep all interested parties informed and as ever, your comments are greatly appreciated either by email [righstofway@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:righstofway@peakdistrict.gov.uk), by phone 01629 816296, or by post Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE.