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# Staying on the Right Track

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



Update - May 2009

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### Sustainability Update

Engineer's reports for the first 8 'priority routes' in the Derbyshire area of the Peak District National Park have now been completed. The reports will be added to the management plans being prepared for the Highway Authority to determine the appropriate actions. We will keep you informed of the progress of this important issue.

### Concerns at Houndkirk Moor, Pin Dale Castleton and Great Longstone

We continue to be concerned that vehicles are damaging the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) next to the unclassified road at Pin Dale. Please spread the word about this damage which is destroying a protected feature. The pictures show serious damage which continues to take place at Houndkirk Moor where a small number of reckless people are leaving the highway and are damaging an SSSI. If caught, we will press for the toughest action to be taken against these individuals and we thank all our partners for their help in trying to address this unacceptable situation.



### Code of Respect Signage Launched



Proactive signage has been erected on a lane at Eyam at the request of the parish council. A press release for the signage work is attached below.

*Pictured are (l-r) Garry Bacon (Peak District National Park Authority Area Ranger), Wayne Bexton (Derbyshire County Council Greenways Officer), Graham Till (Peak and Derbyshire Vehicle User Group), Richard Taylor (DCC Head of Countryside), PC Kevin Lowe, Richard Entwistle (PDVUG) and John Fox (Chair, Eyam Parish Council).*

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Please do pass this information on to others you feel may find it useful or interesting. And as ever, your comments and suggestions are welcome, either by email at [rightsofway@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:rightsofway@peakdistrict.gov.uk), by phone on 01629 816296 or by letter to The Rights of Way Officer, Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE

## Driving forward together

**Narrow Route  
Please Proceed  
with Care**

**Code of Respect**

Max. speed 5mph  
Group size: 4 or fewer

Max. speed 20mph  
Group size: 6 or fewer

**PLEASE RESPECT OTHER USERS**

Full details of the Code of Respect  
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles)

*Thank You*

No particular right is to be inferred by the depiction of users

Clearer information is to be provided to users of a narrow Peak District byway to improve the route for all users.

The Peak District National Park Authority is taking the action at Tideswell Lane, near Eyam, in partnership with the Peak and Derbyshire Vehicle User Group (PDVUG), Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire County Council and Eyam Parish Council.

Signs will be put up on the route explaining who is allowed to use Tideswell Lane and encouraging respect between the different types of users, such as walkers, cyclists, horse riders, 4x4s and trail bikes.

The initiative is part of the Peak District National Park Authority's Code of Respect, which has the support of all the partners as well as organisations representing motor vehicle users including:

- Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA)
- Auto Cycle Union (ACU)
- Trail Riders' Fellowship (TRF) and the
- Green Lane Association (GLASS).

Mike Rhodes, access and rights of way manager for the authority, said: "The use of sensitive routes like Tideswell Lane by different types of user can create tensions.

"By bringing together all the users of the byway we have been able to get common agreement about the best way of protecting and maintaining the route while respecting the rights of all users."

The Peak District and Derbyshire Vehicle User Group, which represents a variety of trail bike and 4x4 groups, has been involved in the new initiative.

Representative Richard Entwistle said: "As a result of legislation over the past 10 years many routes are now denied to 4x4 and trail bike users. This has led to the volume of traffic increasing significantly on the remaining byways and unclassified roads.

"These signs will make everyone aware this is a "multi-user" route and tell motorists of the characteristics of the route."

John Fox, chair of Eyam Parish Council, said: "Residents and visitors are drawn to the Peak District National Park to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the area.

"By advising vehicles to keep to small groups and drive with caution, it is hoped that further erosion of the route will be avoided and all users will be able to enjoy the countryside in safety."

The advisory signs will be backed up by Police, Peak District National Park Authority rangers and representatives of motor vehicle user groups visiting the area as part of the on-going Operation Blackbrook.

The operation involves stopping illegal off-roading and educating legitimate users about the best ways to minimise the impact of their activities.

PC Kevin Lowe, who leads Operation Blackbrook, said: "We will continue to take appropriate action against illegal off-roading. We will continue with our multi-agency approach to this issue by engaging with drivers and riders and provide them with diverse information to assist them in "Staying on the Right Track"

"The signs project is an excellent way forward, and similarly the TrailWise Initiative, a website where vehicle users may go to find information on possible routes, is another step in ensuring vehicle users stay on the right track and the general public are better informed."

The code can be seen at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles) while TrailWise can be found at [www.trailwise.org.uk](http://www.trailwise.org.uk)

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#### **Note to editors**

**Operation "BLACKBROOK"** was launched in April 2007 to look at the problem of 'off road' bikers and 4x4 drivers travelling through areas such as Taddington, Longstone Edge, Pilsley, Baslow, Eyam and Millers Dale.

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Residents in these areas had complained of noise and pathway erosion caused by the motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles, which in turn had affected their quality of life using the unsurfaced tracks, public footpaths and bridleways.

The Operation is the result of a close working partnership between PDNPA staff and Bakewell Police. Lead Officer on the ground is PC Kevin Lowe, of Tideswell Safer Neighbourhood Team. Operations are supported by National Park Rangers, Derbyshire County Council and motorists' representatives.

### **TRAILWISE – THE NATIONAL CATALOGUE OF RIGHTS OF WAY**

TrailWise ([www.trailwise.org.uk](http://www.trailwise.org.uk)) is a database that aims to bring together people in the UK who are interested in Rights of Way, to share their knowledge and experience. The system records the location of Rights of Way along with a collection of information about each route. The database is managed and maintained by members of the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) and Green Lane Association (GLASS).

Anyone can access the basic facilities of the database – a good starting point from the web site is to go to “Browse maps”.

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