

**Route Summary Report
Charity Lane
March 2018**



Description

The route commences on Oven Lane, adjacent to Toothill House, heading in a generally north westerly direction along an enclosed lane via partially stoned track to Hacked Way Lane. There is an adjacent permissive bridleway along part of the route.

Legal Status: Unclassified Road

County: Cheshire East

Parish: Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough CP

Grid Reference: SK 9738 7207 to 9621 7310

Length: 1580m

Nearest Other Byways/Non-classified Highways/Claimed Byways

Links to Oven Lane (UCR) in the south, which is subject to a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting vehicles.

Sustainability Analysis

Undertaken in 2013

Physical - Does the route show serious signs of physical damage resulting from usage?

Score: 1 (1 or no user groups would find the route hard to use)

Conservation - Is the route subject to any protective designation (for heritage or wildlife)?

Score: 1 (no areas of protection abut or cross the highway)

Complaints - Have there been any complaints about vehicular use conflicting with other uses?

Score: 1 (few or no complaints)

Character - Is the character of the route being damaged by vehicular use?

Score: 1 (little or none)

Conflict - Is the free passage of non-motorised users being prejudiced?

Comment: The lane benefits from a considerable section which has a permissive bridleway adjacent to it, while this alleviates the conflict on this section, the bridleway is permissive. This bridleway does not extend along the whole lane, however.

Score: 3 (yes)

Total Score = 7/15



Levels of Vehicular Use

Friday 12 June 2015 – Friday 11 September 2015 (92 days)

Daily Totals	Large Vehicles only	Motorcycles Only
Mondays	4	19
Tuesdays	2	23
Wednesdays	3	24
Thursday	2	16
Fridays	2	20
Saturdays	6	55
Sundays	10	99
Mon-Fri Total	13	102
Sat-Sun Total	16	154
Overall Total	29	256
Average Per Day	0.3	2.8

Conservation interest

Ecology - An ecological survey was carried out in December 2015 (Appendix 1).

Landscape – Charity Lane lies within the South West Peak landscape area – an area of upland and associated foothills. Roads and tracks cross the landscape...some tracks link upland grazing to lowland settlements, while others are former transport routes. In places 18th century roads follow almost direct routes, while elsewhere such roads were abandoned and more sinuous replacements were built...to avoid steep gradients which wagons could not negotiate in winter. This is a generally peaceful landscape with small winding lanes which are often sunken on slopes.

Peak District Local Access Forum Comments

The Green Lanes Sub-group surveyed the route and met in November 2015. The LAF subgroup unanimously agreed that:

- The Peak District National Park Authority should liaise with the landowner (United Utilities) and the Highway Authority (East Cheshire Borough Council) in relation to the proper and appropriate signage of this route.
- The Ordnance Survey are asked to note that the lane is mistakenly shown as a classified road on the latest editions of the explorer map for the area and asked to rectify this for future editions.
- The PDNPA seeks to extend the concession bridleway and ensure that the entire concession route is protected in the future.
- Solutions should be investigated for drainage issues on the lane and these should be monitored.
- The condition of the lane and its use should then be kept under continuous review.

Issues

People

- Disturbance to residents – proximity of village and church carpark
- User conflict – recreational value for all users of the route and area

The Route

- Route nature – narrow, limited visibility
- Route condition – loose surface, poor drainage

The Area

- Impact on adjacent land – illegal use of adjacent permissive bridleway

Appendix 1 - Conservation Report

Site: CHARITY LANE

Date of survey: 07 December 2015

Description and ecological interest

Length: 2.44 km.

The route begins at Forest Chapel and ascends steeply uphill to where it joins the minor road leading to Walker Barn.

The track runs between two banks, higher on the SW side. It is just wide enough for 4WD vehicles, but there is no passing space.

The surface is stony or rocky along its length. The steeper lower section is very loose and contains some low rocky steps. On the evidence of tracks, is used by pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motor cyclists. There is also some use at least by small 4WD vehicles or quad bikes, as tyre tracks are visible in places on the very edges of the track – that is, the vehicle is using the full width of the route and almost squeezing through.

The upper section has a firmer, less stony surface. A large pool has developed at one point.

Along the upper half of the route, on the SW side an informal footpath has developed, either to avoid the uneven, stony surface or to gain open views from the top of the bank. This path is muddy and boggy in parts and there are signs that it is used also by cyclists and motor-cyclists.

The adjoining land is mainly semi-improved pasture and coniferous plantation. The narrow banks support some acidic species but of fairly limited ecological interest. There were signs of red deer adjacent to the plantation at the upper end.

Site designations

The route does not pass through any SSSI or Section 3 land.

Vehicles leaving the highway

The route is walled and/or fenced along its length and there is no access to adjoining land.

Impacts

The steeper sections are clearly vulnerable to increased erosion from 4WD use, especially vehicles travelling uphill and it is likely that the bare rocky steps have been exposed by vehicle use, at least in part. One section has deep rut in the centre that has been eroded through the surface and also channels water, so likely subject to continuing erosion.