

# Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** 14 March 2019

**Item:** 8

**Title:** Green Lanes Update

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## **Purpose of the Report**

The report provides an update on progress with looking after green lanes in the National Park.

## **Action Plans**

On 1 March 2019, Members of the Authority's Audit Resources and Performance Committee (ARP) considered actions for 2019/20 on green lanes, illegal use and communications. ([www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/committees](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/committees)). The committee papers also included the Green Lanes Annual Report which provides an update on actions during 2018/19. This includes details of monitoring, the voluntary restraint at Minninglow, TRO restrictions and exemptions, and repairs undertaken. The report is attached in Appendix 1.

As a result of the long-term investment in this area of work and the future direction set out by the National Park's Management Plan and the Authority's Corporate Strategy, the wider engagement and recognition and protection and enhancement of these valued routes is proposed. This is encompassed by the objectives for green lanes which are attached in Appendix 2.

## **Accessibility**

This year we will be developing accessibility on our green lanes with a view to some becoming future Miles without Stiles routes. A joint site meeting with the Stanage Forum is planned for Long Causeway - a TRO route, although the absence of traffic is not always a requirement for a Miles without Stiles route.

## **Wetton TRO**

Staffordshire CC have requested that the Authority's proposed TRO is not progressed at the current moment in time until the issue with the S56 notice of repairs is resolved and pending a meeting with the Authority. Staffordshire CC are aware of our intent to progress a TRO but they will need to give due regard to the notice that they have received. The meeting arranged for 10 April 2019 will allow us to discuss matters such as the nature and extent of potential repairs and timescales.

## **Exemption at Washgate**

An exemption to the TRO at Washgate has been issued for the Bemrose Trial which is due to take place on 24 March 2019. This is one of the named motorcycle trials considered as part of the proposed modification. Measures include reporting, a limit on the number of participants, and bio-security for the River Dove through which the motorcycles pass.

### **Keep on Track Campaign**

A campaign to implement the Green Lanes Code and prevent damage to areas adjoining tracks will be initiated this year. This will include selective placement of signs and the Green Lane Association has offered to sponsor the signage. Keeping on track is a responsibility of all users of green lanes. The Forum's Green Lanes Sub-group will be considering this at their next meeting.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the report is noted.**

# Green Lanes Annual Report 2018/19



## February 2019

Green lanes are untarmaced tracks, valued by nearby communities and many recreational users as walking, cycling, horse-riding and, where motorised vehicle rights exist, as trail-riding routes.

This is our second green lanes annual report and is for everyone who uses and looks after green lanes. It reports on the work we have done in partnership with others over this last year.

### 1) Monitoring

The Peak District National Park Authority uses electronic logging devices to monitor vehicle use. Differentiating between agricultural vehicles and larger four by four vehicles is difficult so locations are sought where there is little to no agricultural use to ensure data is as accurate as possible in the recording of recreational use.

Data is shared with the police to record illegal use on routes with restrictions to enable them to make intelligence-led decisions on their operations. At the beginning of the year, we bought two replacement loggers to ensure the consistency of data recording.

During 2018-19 we have monitored 15 sites. This includes all TRO routes, as well as monitoring at Wetton Hills, Minninglow Lane, Brough Lane, and the Nook and Tideswell Lane at Eyam. Illegal use has been monitored at Brushfield, Pilsbury, Taylor Lane and Chelmorton.

### 2) Education & Enforcement

During 2018/19, police have acted upon reports of illegal activity at routes in Derbyshire, Cheshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

Sheffield police have carried out training days on routes in the National Park. Derbyshire police took part in the West Yorkshire Charity Ride to educate 160 riders on legal use.

### **3) Signage**

There has been no further replacement of TRO signs; the signs are no longer being removed.

An offer was received from Peak and Derbyshire Vehicle User Group and Green Lanes Association to fund advisory signs where required.

### **4) Reporting**

Action plans on priority routes, illegal use and communications for 2018/19 to protect the special qualities of the National Park were approved by Members of the Authority in March 2018. The plans can be viewed at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles) and are due to be updated at the March 2019 Audit, Resource and Performance Committee.

A summary report on the Traffic Regulation Orders made by the National Park Authority was provided in May 2018 and has recently been updated. As well as giving details about the special nature of these routes, it also updates the level of logged vehicle use and includes a section on accessibility.

The routes identified as priority routes within the National Park, namely those requiring improved management, are covered by route reports and are kept updated with the latest vehicle logging data, changes in legal status and environmental information. The reports can be viewed at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/priorityroutes](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/priorityroutes).

## 5) Voluntary Restraint



**VOLUNTARY  
RESTRAINT**



**Recreational 4x4s are asked  
NOT TO PROCEED  
BEYOND THIS POINT**

**VALID FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2018 - 1 MAY 2019**

**Failure to comply could result in full time closure**  
The future of recreational motoring is in your hands

<b>Reason:</b> For the protection of the highway due to waterlogged track and deep rutting	<b>Road reference:</b> Minninglow/Gallowlow Lane Contact <a href="mailto:derbyshire.rep@glass-uk.org">derbyshire.rep@glass-uk.org</a>
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**GLASS**  
GREEN LANE ASSOCIATION  
Promoting sensible driving in the countryside

**PDVUG**

tread lightly! 

The Peak District National Park Authority is keen to see user groups taking voluntary action to address issues. We've worked with groups like the British Mountaineering Club and mountain bikers for several years and in recent years have also been working with the Peak and Derbyshire Vehicle User Group and its associated member groups.

This winter, PDVUG has again been urging recreational vehicle users to refrain from using Minninglow and Gallowlow Lane which gets waterlogged in winter. Ruts can make the lane difficult for all users and the restraint is to prevent further deterioration. To date, we've seen approximately 60% less 4x4 vehicles. In the meantime, Derbyshire County Council have repairs in hand.

## 6) Traffic Regulation Orders



In February 2018, the Authority carried out a public consultation at Wetton Hills, near the Manifold Way. The consultation responses were considered at a committee meeting in September 2018 and the decision was made to progress with the making of a TRO on this route to prohibit all mechanically propelled vehicles at all times. A meeting with Staffordshire County Council is pending.

## 7) TRO Exemptions

At Derby Lane an exemption to the traffic regulation order allows for caving access on application. During 2018/19, there have been 7 applications for exemptions.

At Washgate, exemptions were granted for the Bemrose and Reliance Cup motorcycle trials held in March and June 2018.

## 8) Repairs

During 2018, the Authority's Countryside Maintenance and Project Team carried out repairs, on behalf of Derbyshire County Council, on the upper section at Brushfield to address ponding of water and damage to walls and adjacent land by those avoiding this ponding.



## 9) Volunteers

In November 2018, we were contacted by Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale volunteers about repairing a famous hill climb known as the Corkscrew and possibly one of the first TRO routes (1938). We will look forward to updating you on these repairs.

## Appendix 2

### Objectives for Green Lanes

**Heritage routes** connect the access of today with discovering the use of the past.

**Conservation routes** connect people with nature for enjoyment and understanding.

**Community routes** connect communities with their wider area for the well-being of residents and visitors.

**Recreational routes** form part of a promoted trail or an integral link to wider access for enjoyment, escape, or adventure.

#### People Objectives

- Reduce impact of use on local community
- Improve amenity and safety for route users
- Promote responsible use
- Encourage voluntary action
- Provide for exploration and escape
- Allow for the enjoyment of nature

#### Route Objectives

- Improve condition of route
- Maintain the character of the route
- Enhance the heritage features of the route
- Clarify legal status and/or line of the route
- Remove barriers to accessibility
- Integrate with access and rights of way network

#### Area Objectives

- Protect the environment of the area
- Enhance the biodiversity and wildlife connectivity of the route
- Minimise illegal use onto adjacent land
- Prevent deviation from the route