

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 10 March 2016

Item: 4

Title: Traffic Regulation Order Consultation

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report

The National Park Authority is carrying out a public consultation on its proposal to prohibit mechanically propelled vehicles at Washgate. The report asks the Local Access Forum to consider any response they may wish to make.

Washgate Consultation

The LAF's Green Lanes Sub-Group provided a response to the consultation on Washgate under Regulation 4 of the National Parks Traffic Regulation Order (Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007, on 14 July 2015. The letter is attached in Appendix 1. The response was reported to the open meeting of the Forum on 17 September 2015 (which included a copy of the consultation response as an annex).

At the meeting of the Audit Resources and Performance (ARP) Committee (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/committees) in September 2015, Members resolved to proceed to publicise its proposal to make a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prohibit mechanically propelled vehicles on the Washgate route. The LAF has been notified under Regulation 5 of the National Park Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England) Regulations 2007.


The consultation documents comprise a notice of proposal, a draft order, a statement of reasons and a map. The 6 week public consultation expires on 22 April 2016. Details are available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/consultations

Pursuant to Regulation 7, LAF members are asked for their views on the proposal and to consider whether they wish to make any changes to the response attached in Appendix 1. The outcome of this will constitute the Forum's formal response to the consultation.

Recommendations

- 1. That the LAF considers whether they wish to make a response to the current consultation on Washgate.**

Appendix 1

	Peak District Local Access Forum (LAF) C/o Peak District National Park Authority Aldern House Baslow Road Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1AE
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Sue Smith
c/o Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Rd
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1AE

14th July 2015

Dear Sue

WASHGATE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Park Authority's consultation on the possibility of a TRO at Washgate.

The Local Access Forum has a long history of involvement with this route, and has sought to find ways to improve its management by advising both the Highway Authority and the National Park on ways to do so.

On 28th November 2008 a sub group of the LAF met at Losehill Hall to discuss the route. The sub group were asked to comment on how the route could be managed to improve the condition. After discussion the following was recommended:

- A permanent TRO for recreational motor vehicles (except with specific permission)
- A repair of the historical route surface

The sub group agreed the above with one member abstaining.

Detailed comments on the route are recorded in the route management plan which were later used as a response to DCC's consultation on a proposed TRO for Washgates in July 2010.

Since 2010 both DCC Highways and the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers have carried out repairs. There are boulders and signage to restrict the use of the route by wide vehicles.

On 1st October 2014 the LAF Green Lanes sub group had a site visit to look at the management issues associated with the route and to make further recommendations for improvements. The findings were discussed at the sub group on 2nd July where the members recognized that although significant time and resources had been spent on this route since 2008 (including repairs by volunteers) progressive deterioration, even with limits on width, have made the route inaccessible for some users.

The sub group agreed that the use by motorized vehicles is unsustainable and that the environmental significance are considerable.

It is worth noting that the route is in both Derbyshire and Staffordshire and the LAF urges support from both Highway Authorities.

The unanimous decision by the sub group was to recommend a permanent full time TRO on motorized vehicles

Yours sincerely

Edwina

Edwina Edwards
Chair , LAF

Cc: LAF members, Mike Rhodes