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Peak District
Green Lanes Alliance

December 2013 Newsletter

Deregulation Bill: committee urges government to act on off-roading

The Joint Parliamentary Committee advising government on rights of way clauses in the Draft Deregulation Bill has accepted that off-roading is a problem and is urging the government to deal with it. The Committee did not go as far as recommending including in the Bill our proposal to reclassify all unsurfaced highways as restricted byways. However, their report acknowledges that there is a serious problem and they point out that over a third of the responses to the committee's call for evidence urged support for our proposals. The report quotes from the PDGLA evidence and it says this:

'We took the view at the outset that we would focus our attention on the clauses in the draft Bill and that we would not consider proposals for additional provisions. Given the level of public interest in rights of way, however, we draw to the attention of the Government the wider rights of way concerns raised in the course of this inquiry and we urge them to take action to meet them'.

So far, so good. We have succeeded in getting off-roading back onto the political agenda and we will continue working with our sister organisations to press for new legislation. Meanwhile a big thank you to all the individuals and organisations who submitted evidence to the Committee supporting our proposals.

The full text of the report is at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/draft-deregulation-bill/news/draft-deregulation-bill-report/>

The section on offroading start at para 147

The Roych

DCC has re-opened The Roych after carrying out extensive repairs. They have tried to improve the drainage, which hopefully will reduce future damage due to water erosion. Unfortunately there are signs that the new drainage is already beginning to silt up.



Example of new drainage. December 2013



New drainage already silting up. December 2013

South of Roych Clough, three tracks had developed: the original track which was worn down to bedrock and impassable to many users; a second track which was created to avoid the "bad step" and was also becoming badly eroded; and a third track which was muddy and rutted and appeared to be used by vehicles either to avoid parts of the other tracks which were worn down to bedrock or as an additional challenge with driving on mud.



The "bad step" and the middle track which was being eroded to bedrock. June 2013



The third track. November 2012



Repaired "bad step" area. December 2013



Middle route covered with soil & signs of trail bike use. December 2013



*Third track covered with turf.
December 2013*

The “bad step” area has been repaired. The middle track has been covered with soil. Although a post at the top prevents it being used by 4x4s, this middle track is still being used by trail bikes. The third track has been covered with turf and if not used by vehicles should heal.

The areas being used as a playground by recreational vehicles near the junction with Beet Lane have been fenced off.

Unfortunately, the steps which are beginning to develop on the climb from Roych Clough towards Beet Lane are worsening and there is still erosion down to bed rock in the section between Beet Lane and South Head. 4 by 4s continue to take up most of the track forcing other users to move out of the way.



New step developing north of Roych Clough. December 2013



Unrepaired section between the junction with Beet Lane and South Head. December 2013

The PDNPA Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) permanently excluding motor vehicles from the Roych is still not in place. We understand that they plan to discuss this TRO at their January 2014 meeting. PDNPA needs to get their TRO in place quickly or the surface will be damaged all over again and more Derbyshire tax payers’ money will have been wasted by DCC.

Jacob’s Ladder, Stoney Middleton

Ever since Jacob’s Ladder became a BOAT we have been supporting the Parish Council in its efforts to get all types of motor vehicle excluded from the lane, which is dangerous for non-vehicle users. The lane is being severely damaged and residents feel besieged by the amount of recreational vehicle traffic going through the village and along what used to be a quiet dead-end street to get to

Jacob's Ladder. A detailed case arguing for a permanent TRO has now been assembled and has been sent by the Parish Council to both DCC and PDNPA.

Please Continue to Report Illegal Off-roading

Illegal off-roading continues to be a problem in the National Park.

Trail bikes were recently seen on the other Jacob's Ladder – part of the Pennine Way from Edale onto Kinder. This is doubly illegal as the route is a bridleway and also has a historic TRO on it banning all recreational motor vehicle use. Some off-roaders are still using the restricted byway known as Wiggley Lane on Longstone Edge, the Taylor Lane bridleway (adjacent to Longstone Edge) and the Darleton Quarry bridleway (Eyam to Black Harry Lane) despite the new DCC vehicle barriers on this route. Trail bikers are also regularly seen leaving the A628 at Longshaw to use the Moss Road bridleway.

Some members recently saw four trail bikes leaving The Roych and riding onto the open moorland. This was probably not the first time that this has happened as there was a visible scar on the hillside before the incident.

Members recently also noticed signs of illegal recreational motor vehicle use on New Mills Restricted Byway 163 (this route is a continuation of Over Hill Road). The lack of signs and notices in this area meant that only the most “map literate” off-roader would realise that they should not be on the restricted byway part of what appears to be a through track.



4 trail bikes were seen riding on this open moorland near The Roych. The pictures of the tracks were taken after the incident. December 2013



Vehicle tracks on the verge parallel to New Mills Restricted Byway 163. November 2013

What you should do

It is illegal for recreational motor vehicles to use a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway and to drive on open moorland or on fields without the owner's permission.

If you see illegal offroading in progress, please report it to the Police as soon as possible using the non-emergency 101 number. **Insist** that the Police give you an

incident number so that it gets recorded on their system. If you can safely get photographs, please do so. Do inform the Rights of Way Officers of the relevant local authority and PDNPA by email (Mike.Rhodes@peakdistrict.gov.uk) so that they are aware of the problem. If the incident involves a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway, if you have the time, check to see whether signs are in place (they are often removed in some areas). If signs are missing or appear never to have been present, let the Rights of Way Officers know. Good signage could help to reduce the problem.