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Peak District  
Green Lanes Alliance

## February 2014

### The Roych TRO Started 20 February 2014



*View from The Roych. Photo:  
December 2012*

The long awaited TRO, banning recreational motor vehicle users from using the Roych started on 20 February 2014. We are delighted that this beautiful route is now being protected.

Thank you to all who took part in this consultation.

### BBC Inside Out programme on Monday 3 March

The BBC has been filming a programme on off-roading in the National Park. This programme will be broadcast on Monday 3 March, 7 pm. on BBC East Midlands as part of the programme "Inside Out." This is a regional TV news programme. For those of you who get BBC Yorkshire, you should be able to pick it up on the iPlayer. Just put 'Inside Out' in the iPlayer search engine.

### Route of the month

#### "How Green Was My Valley" – A Wetton ORPA



*The route in November 2011 with  
minimal sign of vehicle use. Photo:  
November 2011*



*The same section of the route in  
February 2014*

We are concerned that routes are deteriorating faster than PDNPA and the Highway Authorities can deal with the problems caused by off-roading. We believe that all these agencies should be doing more to protect routes that are vulnerable to damage before a problem arises rather than when the route is severely damaged. Genuine “green lanes” are particularly vulnerable to damage by recreational motor vehicles as they have no surface to protect the route.

The ORPA (Other Route with Public Access) from the Manifold Way (SK098556) to Manor House (SK105567), Wetton, Staffordshire is one such “green lane”. It is on the PDNPA list of priority routes. The only action currently being taken by PDNPA is annual vehicle logging and a bi-annual monitoring of the condition. Some of our members have been checking this route and photographing it since November 2011. Unfortunately it is not a happy story and shows how quickly things can change. We have photographs taken in November 2011, January 2013 and February 2014 which show the rapid progressive deterioration. The “before and after” pictures on the previous page show what is happening.



*Photograph: November 2011*



*The same area in February 2014*

In November 2011, the route through the predominately dry valley was a grassy track. There were few signs of any vehicle use (agricultural or recreational). One patch was slightly wet and rutted.

In January 2013 earthen steps were beginning to form in one area. One of the steps had considerably deepened by February 2014.



*Earthen step. Photo: January 2013*



*The same step in February 2014*



The centre section of the route, which is the worst drained, is now very heavily rutted.



*Photograph: February 2014*



*Photograph: February 2014*

The track is being widened and will soon stretch across the whole of the bottom of the valley in some places.



*Widening of the track by vehicles.  
Photograph: February 2014*



*More widening of the track by  
vehicles on both sides of the route.  
Photograph: February 2014*

Damage can be repaired if money can be found. However, repairs are likely to change the character of the valley. Meanwhile, the amenity of the area is being destroyed for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Minninglow Lane, Ballidon, Derbyshire is a similar grassy route which is now unusable by many cyclists in both summer and winter because of the deep ruts and mud across the width of the track. We don't want to see this route end up in the same state.

We feel that all the authorities need to act swiftly to protect routes such as this one. It would be even better if they acted pre-emptively.

### **A positive response to a request for more signs**

In our December 2013 Newsletter we had a picture of vehicle tracks on the verge parallel to New Mills Restricted Byway 163. Members wrote to DCC about the

lack of signs at points where routes that vehicles can use join this restricted byway. DCC have told us that they are going to fit new signs as part of their next signposting contract. This should take place in the Spring of this year.

Please continue to report lack of signs or damaged signs on footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways that are being used by recreational motor vehicles to Rights of Way Officers and PDNPA. They don't have the resources to monitor everything all of the time and your reports will enable them to provide better information on the ground to responsible off-roaders.