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Peak District
Green Lanes Alliance

Newsletter September 2014

Long Causeway – PDNPA TRO starts on 18 September

The long awaited Traffic Regulation Order on Long Causeway which will prevent all recreational motor vehicles using the route starts on 18 September 2014. We are very pleased that PDNPA has finally managed to protect this iconic route. Some vehicles will still be allowed to use Long Causeway such as the emergency services and farm vehicles. If you see any recreational motor vehicles on the route please ring the Police on the non emergency number of 101. If the vehicles are seen west of the Wooden Pole you will need to ask for Derbyshire Police; if you are east of the Wooden Pole ask for South Yorkshire Police. Don't expect an instant response with blue lights flashing and sirens blazing.

DCC repairs to Long Causeway

DCC have now completed their repairs on Long Causeway and the route is officially open again. There has been a major change to the appearance of the route – especially on the steps.



The "steps" in February 2014



The same area in August 2014 after repairs

As well as making the surface suitable for all users, drainage looks to have been really improved (which hopefully will reduce the water erosion on the route in future.).

Members noticed a family with a toddler in push chair, and a road bike on the track (along with many walkers and mountain bikers) on a recent walk. The old surface would not have been suitable for the push chair or the road bike. Horse riders say the new surface looks great and they are looking forward to riding from

Dennis Knoll to Redmires Reservoir when the PDNPA TRO comes into effect and the route is free of recreational vehicles.



New drainage underneath the surface where a pipe leads water to a new "wetland area"



A new substantially built culvert across the path

If you haven't seen the route since the repairs, here are some more pictures.



Long Causeway in February 2014



A similar area in August 2014 after repairs



After the repairs in August 2014



The repairs have sympathetically preserved the historic double causeway.

Near Redmires Reservoir (on the Sheffield side), it was good to see the regeneration in the area that was fenced off to prevent off-piste damage by irresponsible off roaders. This shows how rapidly nature can recover if recreational vehicles no longer use an area. But it is a pity that Sheffield City Council was forced to fence off an area of previously open moorland.



An area of moorland used as an off roaders' playground in February 2011



The same area in August 2014

Route of the month – Jacob's Ladder Stoney Middleton

Jacob's Ladder, more formally known as Stoney Middleton BOAT 15, was the subject of a public inquiry two years ago where the Inspector decided that it should be a BOAT.



Photograph: August 2014

Although DCC have carried out repairs on a number of occasions, a combination of recreational motor vehicle use and wash out after heavy rain has meant the surface is in a poor condition yet again. The surface above the cemetery but near Stoney Middleton village has been repaired within the last 17 months, but it is already showing signs of deep rutting. The continuous rut is 30 cm (12 inches) deep at one spot.

Because of the bends on the route, visibility is a problem. Users are concerned that they will meet a speeding vehicle who won't see them until it is too late. Evidence was given at the public inquiry that local residents and horse riders no longer dare use the route. In some places there is little room to get out of the way of a 4 x 4. Paradoxically, this problem of visibility is worse in the summer when the route is darker because of leaf cover and is more overgrown in places.

Stoney Middleton residents have been campaigning for a TRO for many years because of concerns for safety on the lane. The Parish Council has recently

submitted a case for a TRO to DCC – but they don't know what action DCC will take following this. PDGLA formally supported the TRO submission.

Here are some pictures of the route all taken in August 2014 showing the poor surface, some of the corners with limited visibility and how narrow the route is in places during the Summer months.



PDNPA – Jim Dixon leaving in December 2014

Jim Dixon who is currently CEO of the Peak District National Park Authority has resigned “in order to take up new duties”. The recruitment process for a replacement will be starting immediately. The press release can be seen at: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/news/current-news/national-parks-chief-executive-to-move-on-to-new-roles>

Update on TRF appeal on Bradley Lane, Pilsley

As we told you in the Stop Press item in July’s Newsletter, the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) has appealed to the High Court against the Inspector’s decision that the status of Bradley Lane is bridleway. We now know that the TRF is asking the High Court to quash the Inspector’s decision, and for a different Inspector to decide the status of Bradley Lane. The TRF’s reasons for challenging the decision are (in summary) that the Inspector’s approach to the evidence and conclusions were irrational; that he made errors in law relating to certain items of evidence or was irrational in the weight he gave to them; and that he did not take account of user evidence as historic evidence of status. We understand (from the TRF’s magazine, Trail) that the Secretary of State for

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (on whose behalf the Inspector acted) intends to contest the TRF's challenge.

Death of John Riddall

It is with sadness that we report the death of John Riddall, our Honorary Vice President. John was a distinguished figure in the rights of way world and the joint author of *Rights of Way, A Guide to Law and Practice*, known to everyone as 'The Blue Book'. John lived in Derbyshire and was a strong supporter of PDGLA and our efforts to rid the Peak District of the damage being done to it by offroading. His advice will be much missed. You can find out more about John and his life at <http://www.oss.org.uk/john-riddall-a-lawyer-for-the-people/>