

PDGLA
PO Box 7976
Great Longstone,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire, DE45 9AY
Web: www.pdgla.org.uk
Email: sec.pdgla@btinternet.com



Peak District
Green Lanes Alliance

Saving our green lanes from off-road vehicles

October 2018 Newsletter

PDNPA agrees full TRO on Wetton Hills

PDNPA has been consulting on the management of a route known as Wetton Hills in Staffordshire since mid 2017. The consultation process has been completed and the authority's Audit, Resources and Performance committee debated whether to go for a full Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at their meeting on 7 September 2018. Members voted by a majority to proceed for a full TRO, ie excluding all types of recreational motor vehicle at all times.



The middle section, heavily rutted, in January 2013

The route runs from Manor House Farm, Back of Ecton at SK 105566 to the Leek Road / Manifold Trail at SK 098557. It is an ORPA (Other Route with Public Access on OS maps) which goes down a predominately dry limestone valley. The most obvious features of the route are its beauty (which local residents describe as magical), tranquillity and feeling of remoteness. It forms a useful link for non-motorised users to the Manifold Trail and to the public rights of way in the Wetton area.

Use is relatively light compared to many routes but local residents said at the meeting that whilst in the past it was possible to take a pushchair down it, that was no longer possible. Voluntary restraint has been tried in the winter months but was not successful in reducing damage to the surface in the middle section. Because the impact on the surface is greater in the winter months, PDNPA members considered if a seasonal TRO would be sufficient. But ultimately they decided that it would not deal with the loss of tranquillity and the effect of vehicle traffic on other users during the summer months or the effect of recreational vehicles on the surface during a wet summer.



February 2017

Members noted the support of the Parish Council and local residents for a full TRO. A statement read out from the tenant farmer said that rogue motor cyclists had been seen chasing sheep up the hillside – affecting farming and potentially the SSSI site (where the limestone flora is to be found on the slopes of the hills rather than on the valley floor.) A blind rambler described how the route was important to disabled ramblers like himself and how further deterioration of the surface would make it unusable for the blind and partially sighted.

The full debate can be heard by clicking on the link which can be found at <https://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=1766&Ver=4>

We are delighted that PDNPA decided that this route needed protection. The TRO will not come into effect immediately as there are still administrative tasks to complete such as contacting all the objectors. We will let you know when the TRO starts.



Even in the summer, the ruts are still visible. July 2017

Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty - public consultation – please take part

The government review of the national parks (NPs) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) announced in January has now called for evidence. The purpose of the review is ‘to ask what might be done better, what changes could assist them, and whether definitions and systems – which in many cases date back to their original creation – are still sufficient’.

The online questionnaire is at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence/>

The consultation closes on 18 December. Please take part.

Update on Chapelgate and Hurstclough Lane Repairs

Repairs have been promised on both Chapelgate (Edale and Chapel en le Frith parishes) and Hurstclough Lane (Bamford and Outseats parishes) for many years. Part of Chapelgate has been closed to all users by a series of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) since December 2014 in order for Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to carry out these repairs. But no repairs have been completed in that time. DCC carried out further public consultation recently on the type of repairs needed on both these routes.

A report was presented to the September 2018 meeting of the Peak District Local Access Forum on progress on repairs to these two routes.

An order to repair a section of Hurstclough Lane should be issued before Christmas.

The design for the surfacing of Chapelgate has been finalised with supplementary advice from the Peak District National Park Authority. DCC still needed to find a solution for managing the water run-off. (Since this is fundamental to the success of any repairs, we are surprised that drainage was not considered as an integral part of the consultation as it might influence the type of repairs proposed.) Determining how the drainage can be improved should be completed before the end of this month (October). As soon as this part of the scheme is finalised DCC will issue instructions to their contractors for the work to commence on site.

The current TTRO expires at the end of December 2018. If the work is not completed by then DCC will need to apply to the Minister for a further extension.