

Peak District National Park Green Lanes Action Plan 2020/21

Celebration

Interpretation

We will be using the different descriptors of heritage, conservation, community and recreational route categories to aid understanding of the value of and support for green lanes. In 2020/21, we will also be telling the story of the Peak District's packhorse trails and at Long Causeway will be sharing the history with the support of the Stanage Forum.

Promotion

During 2020/21 we will be identifying routes which support health and well-being, are key routes to wider access and provide for exploration and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park. We will also be celebrating green lanes as part of our 70th anniversary events.

Accessibility

Surveys and Audits

During 2020/21, surveys of byways and unclassified roads will be undertaken to identify barriers to access and to assess the character and appropriateness of routes for different users.

Improvements

Using available funding, accessibility improvements will be undertaken with the support of landowners and Highway Authorities. Routes will also be identified which might be suitable for promotion as future Miles without Stiles routes. In 2020/21, improvements will be considered at Long Causeway at Stanage, Wetton Hills, Bretton Edge, Kiln Bent Lane in the Holme Valley, and Blakemere and Blakelow Lanes at Bonsall.

Enhancement

Stay on Track

During 2020/21 we will be working with partners and user groups to promote the Stay on Track campaign to help to minimise damage to lane verges and to help to reinstate any areas of damage. We have also received an offer from GLASS to pay for any signage that might be required and will consider the suitability of this, including identifying locations in conjunction with the Peak District Local Access Forum.

Repairs and maintenance

The Highway Authorities have a duty for maintenance commensurate with the level of use. Where schedules of repairs are identified, the Authority will seek to ensure that repairs are undertaken in a way that is sympathetic to the character of the route sympathy with the National Park. During 2020/21, the Authority will continue to provide advice on any schemes and, as required, monitor their effect during and following the works.

Work by the Authority

The Authority encourages the use of volunteers for small scale works including routine maintenance. The Authority can also liaise with and work with landowners to protect and enhance the National Park and users' enjoyment of it. The Authority does not have a budget for this work and is reliant on support from the Highway Authorities, grant funding and donations. During 2020/21, further work is proposed at Washgate and on other routes as part of the Miles without Stiles work.

Engagement

Volunteers

In 2020/21 we will be expanding on the projects managed by Peak Park Conservation Volunteers. We will also be considering different opportunities for volunteering to build on the expertise of our existing volunteers and to link in with Miles without Stiles, Stay on Track and Sharing the History.

Reporting

During 2020/21, we will be updating the website to encourage wider engagement and understanding of green lanes and their special qualities. We will also be providing details in the ARoW newsletter and other forms of media and at events.

Monitoring

Vehicle Logging

We monitor vehicle use using electronic vehicle loggers. During 2020/21 we will focus our monitoring on the following routes: the seven TRO routes, Minninglow and Gallowlow Lanes, Nether Bretton, Pindale, Kiln Bent Lane, Houndkirk Road and Moscar Cross Road. We will also react to developments on other routes where there is intensification or excessive or inappropriate use and monitor accordingly.

Visual Inspections

We monitor routes by visual inspections and photographic records. This is carried out at the same time as placing vehicle loggers on those routes meriting action. We also undertake visual inspections on other routes, as required. During 2020/21, our focus will be on the routes where vehicle logging is proposed and other routes as required to fit in with the Miles without Stiles and Stay on Track work.

Respect and Restraint

Responsible use

Everyone who visits and passes along a green lane has a right to do so with understanding and respect for others and the environment. The National Park's Green Lanes Code promotes responsibility amongst all users. During 2020/21, we will be promoting this in the context of Peak District Proud and with an emphasis on keeping to surfaced tracks.

Voluntary restraint

Four-wheeled vehicle users have been continuing with the established voluntary restraint at Minninglow and Gallowlow Lane over the winter months and to allow time for the recent repairs to establish. During 2020/21, we will continue to support their measures for restraint. We will continue to monitor the level, type and pattern of vehicle use that takes place, both during and outside the periods of restraint, work with those proposing restraint, and promote the measures.

Traffic Regulation Orders

TRO exemptions

On those routes where we have made TROs, exemptions may allow access for specified purposes, on application. In the case of Derby Lane, this is access for the purposes of caving along part of the lane from Monyash. In the case of Washgate, this is for two named motorcycle events which take place annually. During 2020/21, we will consider applications for exemptions for these purposes and for the compliance with the terms on which they may be

granted. Applications for access by registered disabled users may also be received and considered for suitable sections of the TRO routes.

Consulting on TROs

The Authority has powers to make traffic regulation orders. These are similar powers to the Highway Authorities. The Authority also facilitates meetings of the Peak District Local Access Forum who are a statutory consultee for consultations on TROs. The process for TRO consultations involves at least 2-stages: a 28 day consultation with statutory consultees, a 6-week public consultation and also, if required, a consultation to modify a proposed draft order. During 2020/21, we will keep under review any routes throughout the National Park where a traffic regulation order may be a possible course of action.

Responding to consultations on TROs

The Authority is a consultee on consultations on traffic regulation orders carried out by the National Park's constituent Highway Authorities. During 2020/21, we will contribute as required to any consultations on TROs by the Highway Authorities and facilitate meetings of the Peak District Local Access Forum.

Legal Status

Determination of legal use

The Highway Authorities have a duty to determine legal rights and to ensure the definitive map and statement is correct. The Authority can contribute to this through the provision of evidence. During 2020/21, we will respond to consultations with any relevant information we hold.

Signage

The Authority supports the Highway Authorities in the signing of public rights of way in the National Park. We do this by waymarking routes and providing advisory signage where appropriate. During 2020/21, we will check, replace and erect signage on those routes identified for monitoring and those encompassed in the route surveys. Signage will also be considered as part of the Stay on Track work.

Funding

Miles without Stiles

Donations to the National Park's Access Fund, including from the sales of the Miles without Stiles handbook, will be used for access improvements as identified. Additional funding has also been offered by the Peak District Foundation for the work on Miles without Stiles.