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# TRAIL

The Bulletin of the TRF, the National Club for all who wish to ride Legal Motorcycles on Legal Carriageways. EDITOR: Fred Ellison.

NOVEMBER 2004 No. 315



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Cornishman Roger Fogg riding his 1927 AJS on the old ridge road at Helman Tor, Nr Bodmin. Photo by Sally Madgwick

**All Contributions to the Editor ..... Please keep it short and sweet!  
COPY DEADLINE: FIRST POST, 1ST TUESDAY OF MONTH**



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The views expressed in 'Trail' are those of its correspondents and not necessarily of the editor or the T.R.F.

## EDITOR

This year's AGM, at The Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon, was first class with a bigger turn out than we have had for some time - very informative and a lot of progress was made. Geoff Wilson was re-elected as Chairman. Richard Marshall, a past chairman with a lot of experience in rights of way, came forward to take on the demanding vital role of RoW Co-ordinator.

Unfortunately Roger Peters (present RoW Co-ordinator) who had indicated his willingness to take the position of Treasurer, had to stand down at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. The void was filled by Brian Thompson, who, in the absence of any other volunteers, said that he would take the position. However, as Brian's expertise lies in RoW (he was RoW Officer from 1975 to 1989 and is currently co-ordinating RoW work in the North of England) he would much rather somebody else took up the position of Treasurer allowing him to concentrate on his vital RoW work. So we **NEED** a Treasurer, we must also find a P.R. Officer to take over from Andrew Prince.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### TREASURER

Outgoing Treasurer John Gardner would like to hear from any members with experience of book-keeping and budgeting

### P.R. OFFICER

With the necessary expertise to deal with press and media issues confidently.  
Contact Outgoing P.R. Officer  
Andrew Prince

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All Contributions to the Editor ..... Please keep it short and sweet!  
**COPY DEADLINE: FIRST POST, 1ST TUESDAY OF MONTH**



# MINUTES OF TRF EXECUTIVE MEETING

*Held at: National Sport Centre, Lilleshall on 25 September 2004*

## **Present:**

**Principal Officers:** Geoff Wilson (Chair), John Gardner (Treasurer), Fred Ellison (Editor), Roger Peters (RoW Co-Ordinator), Tim Stevens (Vice Chair), Mary Stevens (Membership Secretary), Andrew Prince (PR)

**Co-Opted Officers & Contractors:** Mark Holland (Equestrian Liaison), Dave Tilbury (Contractor)

## **Groups Represented:**

Cumbria, Dorset, East Midlands, Gloucester, Peak District, Lancs, Lincs, Loddon Vale, Mid Wales, Northumberland, Oxford, Ribble Valley, Southern, South Wales, Sussex, Thames Valley, Teesside & N Yorks, West Midlands.

## **1. Welcome:**

The chairman opened the meeting and noted a disappointing turnout, especially considering the current threats to members' pastime.

The Chairman reported his activities over the past few months with the most demanding being the ongoing work involved with MPVs on Rights of Way legislation coming from DEFRA. Other issues taking up time are the RUPPs to Restricted Byways legislation and currently the concerns over the Preshute Lane Public Inquiry decision which may be taken to Judicial Review.

The Chairman said he was still concerned at the high level of e-mail traffic, which takes a considerable amount of time to read and respond to where appropriate. He asked that members be selective on who they copy e-mails to, be cautious about over-use of the "Reply to all" button, and to direct questions only to the Officer they wish to get an answer from.

The meeting discussed the website and e-mails, plus the possibility of renewing the Handbook to include up to date e-mail addresses, etc.

*Action: Webmaster to provide a list of who is on which list of e-mail. Groups and Principle Officers.*

## **2. Apologies for absence:**

Dave Giles (BMF Rep), Richard Fordham (LARA Rep), John Jenkins (Norfolk), Robert Wilson (Cumbria) & Ted Lowres (Secretary).

## **3. Approval of the Minutes of the 5 June 2004 meeting:**

The minutes were accepted without comment and signed by the Chairman.

## **4. Matters Arising:**

The Chairman reminded members of the actions arising out of the minutes and asked the Treasurer to report on mileage rates.

John Gardner circulated his report on his findings on what various clubs and organizations recommend for mileage rates. The meeting discussed the differing costs and attitudes to this whole issue, as well as the fact that volunteers are becoming

difficult to find and the recognition that not all volunteers had the same personal circumstances. For example, it may be that a member on a pension would have more flexibility to devote to the TRF, but at the same time may be less well off financially than full time working members. He said that he did not wish to have to apply a means test or to stand in judgment of any volunteer worker. The meeting felt that there should be flexibility at the discretion of the Chairman and Treasurer on these rates.

The Treasurer proposed: *That this meeting confirms the actions taken by your Chairman and Treasurer to reimburse the contractors at 40p per mile. Also that we continue to pay a single rate of 25p per mile to group reps and other volunteers fulfilling the specific duties of the office to which they were elected / appointed, and 40 pence per mile to officers or others asked by the chairman to attend a meeting on the TRF's behalf that the chairman considers to be outside of that officer's elected duty. All Agreed.*

**Matters Continued:** Tim Stevens noted that we have not heard from MAG on what they are doing for the TRF, and asked if the TRF is still a member of MAG. John Gardner confirmed that we are still members until the new year.

## **5. Elected Officers' Reports:**

**Vice Chairman:** Tim Stevens noted that he would be speaking in detail on items later on the agenda.

**Secretary:** Ted Lowres was absent on holiday and sent a report which the Chairman read to the meeting.

**Byway Bonus Scheme:** Dave Tilbury asked if there was adequate checking of the claims being made on the Byway Bonus Scheme. He fears that there is not a proper monitoring of this process.

**Shropshire Group does not exist:** The Mid Wales Group is being told that Shropshire Group does exist, but this is not known to any other TRF person, and certainly not the Membership Secretary who wrote to every member in Shropshire and got no response. The meeting therefore formally agreed that the Shropshire Group is disbanded.

*Action: Secretary to supply more detailed evidence of Byway Bonus Claims, and note the rules.*

**Membership Secretary:** Mary Stevens reported membership stands at 3163. (compared with 2892 members at this time last year). Non renewals are 801, new members are 1088 and retained members are 2075.

The meeting discussed improving membership numbers. Mark Williams asked if the motorcycle industry had been approached for assistance. The chairman asked Mark if he would help publicise the TRF in his capacity as a journalist.

**Editor:** Fred Ellison reported problems in getting good quality pictures for TRAIL and also there was a problem getting volunteers to help with stuffing TRAIL into envelopes. John Gardner asked if there would be a photo competition for the calendar. Fred explained that he may not be able to get any prizes for a competition, but felt it was important to produce a calendar.

*Action: Groups to send good pictures to Fred.*

**BMF:** In his absence Dave Giles sent a report in which he notes that the BMF continues to be staunch allies over the issues associated with motorcycles in the countryside and are fully committed to, and supportive of the LARA 'Solutions' paper which is



currently being discussed with DEFRA. He goes on to ask for delegates to go to the BMF AGM on 2 October at Leicester University (Charles Wilson Building).

**MAG:** There was no report from Richard Stiling. Dave Tilbury felt the TRF needs to ask someone to attend the meetings which the MAG rep should go to, this includes the NMC meetings. The Chairman noted there has been a MAG person at the recent DEFRA meeting who was also a TRF member, and wondered if we could ask him.

**LARA:** Richard Fordham was not present today, but sent a brief report that LARA is also very busy dealing with the MPVs paper.

**Treasurer:** John Gardner reported that the accounts are with the Accountant, but the funds are similar to last year, with costs increasing due to taking on the contractors. John asked if he should continue with the advertisement in Trail Bike Magazine and if so, should the wording be changed. The meeting discussed this in detail, concluding that the advert should continue with revised wording which John also asked for help with. Mark Williams volunteered to act as a conduit between TRF and TBM.

*Action: Mark Williams to liaise with TBM on advert space etc.*

John Gardner continued with his treasurer report explaining that he is getting applications for funding from Groups wishing to get research projects going. Some of these requests have been for Bursary Funding, but John feels he needs more by way of feedback from the Groups who already have Bursary Funding. The meeting discussed every aspect of research and how to fund it, including whether Groups should fund their own researchers, or whether matching funding must be the way for all Groups

involved with research. John Gardner proposed £1000 for each of the applications he has in, as a 'pump priming' process, then review the situation following receipt of reports and the likely outcome of research in terms of actual claims. **All Agreed.**

John asked for advice on subscription rates for 2005 for recommendation at the AGM. Some members felt that as their Groups are asking their members to assist with paying for researchers, it would not be a good idea to raise the membership fee as well.

**Right of Way Co-ordinator:** Roger Peters reported that he has given Alan Kind two assignments recently. One is to report on his findings about Roman Roads and the vehicle rights which exist on them. There will be a letter in the next TRAIL about this. The other is to investigate the apparent blanket TRO on Essex Lanes.

Dave Tilbury expressed the need for local trail riders to fight for the rights on the

Ridgeway.

John Gardner advised on the necessity for any Group thinking of organising a "Fun Day" event, to do a risk assessment well in advance of an event.

**Public Relations:** Andrew Prince reported on the PR Company Apple Tree at item 7.3 on the Agenda.

## 6. Consultation Paper:

**6.1 & 6.2. 'Solutions' paper and MPV Users/DEFRA working Group:** The Chairman explained that the 'Solutions' Paper had been written by user organizations in membership of LARA with TRF playing a lead role. DEFRA had invited the users to meetings about this paper, and they have now set up a series of meetings the first of which had been on 20 September. DEFRA had noted some good ideas in the paper, but needed them to merge more readily with what the Minister wants. This process will be ongoing, but needs to be kept confidential to members only, until the ideas put forward have been better thought through. There is a need for TRF to get feedback from its members. The Chairman noted that the TRF along with other organizations within LARA need to acknowledge that better management of use is needed, or the Minister will stop the activity altogether. Gone are the days of riding as fiercely as some members do now. The meeting discussed the future of trail riding. The editor asked for something positive to put in TRAIL which would encourage members to continue to support the TRF's work.

It was reported that the Faber Maunsell Research is with the Minister now, and also the analysis of the MPVs Consultation, and a contract for reviewing 'Making the best of Byways' will be out soon.

The Chairman also reported that the Minister has twice been to the Lake District to look at the management system there. And Civil Servants have recently been to the Yorkshire Dales and discussed management schemes. He reiterated that these processes are ongoing, and only time will tell how successful we have been in promoting good management.

## 7. Project Reports:

**7.1 RoW Project Coordination:** Roger Peters explained that he had let the contractors get on with their research into what the groups need, but only has a very sketchy knowledge of what is happening within the groups. The Chairman thought perhaps the contractors felt a lack of leadership, but knows that the results of the project depends on the groups responding properly to the contractors' questions. Dave Tilbury mentioned that a member close to him has done work on a database which has broken down the research process in bite size pieces, and this will be available to all groups. John Ward reported that he has approached a civil engineer who is willing to write a paper about maintenance issues for the TRF to use when talking to Councils.

The Chairman expressed some concern that Brian Thompson's enthusiasm was leading him to pursue research and claim work independently of any TRF Group in some regions. It was agreed that RoW Contract Coordinators could be free to do research work additional to their TRF contract work, but that this must be under the direct supervision of a TRF Group and at the groups' expense. He said that it is fundamental to the contractors' work that TRF Groups are trained in the R&C process



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and this was not to be achieved if the contractors were to take on the role themselves.

**7.2 UCR Status Study:** Tim Stevens presented the paper on the history of UCRs. He explained that the TRF contracted three Independent Researchers to draw up this study. The conclusion of the research is that UCRs have always been accepted as having vehicle rights. Tim went on to ask what should the TRF do with this report. He has asked IPROW and the CSS to review the report and waits their finding. DEFRA has also had a copy of this report. Brian Harwood said he was wanting to use this with his local council and John Ward felt it was one of the finest documents we have ever had.

The Chairman felt that once we have got the peer group review we need to feed the report into the system, to Councils and to PINS so that Inspectors know the content, and also to the RoW Review Committee.

The meeting discussed this document and UCRs in general. The key purpose is to influence the people who process Byway Claims. It was suggested to produce two formats, a booklet and a CD and put a cover charge of £20 on the booklet and £35 with the CD and have 500 printed. **All Agreed.**

**7.3 Media Agency:** Andrew Prince reminded members that he has been using Apple Tree PR Company to put out press releases and articles for the TRF. This arrangement now needs to be renewed if members feel that it is worthwhile. The new arrangement would be in conjunction with GLASS.

Members discussed the PR activity and Apple Tree's articles and agreed that it was worthwhile spending money on this vital source of publicity.

There was also discussion about attending the Dirt Bike Shows, but there was no-one to organize this. Also the subject of becoming a limited company in order to protect the officers was discussed.

The Chairman asked members to decide on Andrew's proposal to spend £275 per month for 6 months. **All Agreed.**

**8. DEFRA Advice & Bridleway Preshute 12:** Dave Tilbury explained the background to this Byway Claim which went to Public Inquiry. The Inspector relied in recent DEFRA advice that RUPPs recorded as Bridleways under the 1968 Act suitability test cannot be claimed as Byway, he (the Inspector) would not look at any other evidence. TRF advisors feel that this needs to be appealed as it is wrong, and has serious implications for other modification orders.

The Chairman felt that this is a National issue which will affect all areas, and the next move is for Judicial Review which may cost between £20,000 to £30,000. There is a time limit on appeals and we are close to the deadline. Alan Kind is leading on this if members agree to go ahead with the appeal. The TRF will certainly be asking other user groups to help with costs etc.

The meeting discussed this review, as well as the idea of making the TRF a limited company.

John Williamson (Dorset Group representative) shared experience of a review over a planning (waste disposal site) decision. He explained how the pressure group against the waste site apparently limited their liability by being a limited company. The chairman expressed the view that TRF was an identifiable entity that possibly could

not escape liability by operating through another company. But he was applying only his own line of common sense and no legal expertise of course. The Chairman assured John Williamson that he would put this matter to Alan Kind and ask him to consider it with the legal "team".

Treasurer John Gardner expressed some anxiety about liability and asked the Chairman to advise Alan Kind of the conditional fee arrangement which a solicitor member advises will be feasible as the case is in the public interest. It may cost us a £1,000 or so for insurance cover BUT that would be the limitation of any liability if the review was to fail. Conditional fee arrangements can be found on the Bar Council website and our instructing solicitor will also be able to advise.

John recalled that when he took over as Treasurer 5 years ago he was advised that TRF had reasonable balances but that there was a "little" case, RUPP 13, being contested and that if we lost could cost us up to £4,000. In the event it cost us around £90,000 and very nearly bankrupted the TRF.

The Chairman summed up the situation and asked members if this appeal should go ahead, with the TRF underwriting the cost. The chairman read a draft of the formal instruction letter that he would send to Alan Kind if members agreed. **All Agreed.**

*Action: Alan Kind to take this Judicial Review forward.*

**9. Support for Equestrian/BHS events – update:** The Chairman reported that he is to have a meeting with the BHS Chief Executive on 6 October, and that he will go armed with the LARA Concordat between the BHS and users. Mark Holland asked whether the TRF is still only to fulfill current BHS events. The Chairman felt that co-operation should go on in anticipation of a satisfactory outcome to his discussions. **This was agreed.**

**10. GLASS offer of affiliation:** The Chairman explained that he has had correspondence with GLASS and he will discuss affiliation with the new officers of GLASS. He felt there is a need to know what the TRF will get in exchange for affiliating. The meeting directed the Chairman to seek a meeting with GLASS' CEO to discuss common issues and points of association and to report back.

*Action: Chairman*

**11. Membership Fees:** The Chairman noted that Poly Cody had recommended a review of the membership fee with a possible increase in subscriptions. Tim Stevens reminded members that this is a subject for the AGM and moved next business. **Agreed.**

**12. Advertising for membership and fighting fund appeals:** The Chairman noted that this meeting had earlier agreed to continue advertising in Trail Bike Magazine, and also to encourage other users to contribute to our expenses with the current Judicial Review.

Mark Williams felt there is a need to make the dealers and manufacturers aware of the TRF and our need for support. The meeting discussed various ways of trying to get our message across, without too much time and expense. The Chairman asked Mark Williams to put a paper on Marketing the TRF to the next Executive Meeting to help us move forward on this. There was some discussion on whose job this is, with Dave



Tilbury noting that the AGM can co-opt someone for this important duty. The Chairman summed up noting that the TRF will continue to advertise in TBM. The membership renewals will continue to appeal for fighting fund donations. Apple Tree PR will be asked to help publicise the current appeal.

*Action: Mark Williams to write paper for the Executive Meeting.*

**13. Arrangements for AGM:** The Chairman reminded members the AGM will take place on 31 October at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon. Warwickshire. There is a standard Agenda for the AGM. The Chairman was concerned that there will be some vacant positions on the Executive Committee and he asked the current Principal Officers if they will be continuing.

Secretary: Ted Lowres is willing to continue.

Chairman: Geoff Wilson is willing to continue.

Vice Chairman: Tim Stevens is willing to continue, but asked for others to help as well.

RoW Coordinator: Roger Peters will not be standing again. Roger felt he may be put forward for the Treasurer position, as he feels that he would deal with finance with more confidence than RoW.

Membership Secretary: Mary Stevens is willing to continue under her current arrangements.

Public Relations: Andrew Prince will not be standing for re-election.

Editor: Fred Ellison is willing to continue.

The Co-opted Officers are as follows.

BMF Rep: Dave Giles is willing to continue.

LARA: Richard Fordham is to advise.

MAG: It was felt that there is a need for another person to take this on, as there is no word from the current officer. Tim Stevens said he would speak to Steve Wass who was at the recent DEFRA meeting on behalf of MAG.

Display Equipment: Leo Crone is to advise.

Equestrian Events Liaison Officer: Mark Holland is willing to continue.

NMC: Dave Tilbury offered to attend these meetings.

The Chairman felt that, as the AGM is very much a business meeting, he would like to incorporate some lighter topics, or trail management discussions.

*Action: Chairman to arrange PowerPoint presentation based on ones that he and Tim Stevens have given to external organization about trail riding..*

**14. Any Other Business:** Sean Fosberry reported that he had spoken to the Authorities about the TRO on the Ridgeway, and he had been told that there had been no letters of support for a seasonal TRO, but lots of letters of objection, but this TRO seems to be going to be put on anyway. Members asked about the Monks Trod TRO, but no one had any news of it. Tim Stevens felt that it may be kept on for quite a time, as it is for some spurious environmental excuse.

The meeting closed at 4. pm.

**15. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be the AGM on 31 October at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon. Sign on at 09.45 for meeting start at 10.30 am.

## NOTICE BOARD

### HEALTH WARNING TO MEMBERS

If you use a paid guide for trail riding make sure you get a receipt.

*Dave Giles*

### TO ALL MEMBERS

This is a plea from the TRF 'P.O. Box Man'. We are approaching membership renewal time so I ask you all to direct membership renewals/queries etc. to The Membership Secretary (address in "TRAIL" and on the Renewal Form) and **not** to the TRF P.O. Box. This will save money, time and not a little frustration! The same applies to other items for TRF Officers.

*Many thanks,  
Peter Allt (TRF P.O. Box Collector)*

### GREEN LANE DAY IN KENT

Sunday 28th November on Byway AT64, near Rolvenden.

We need as many volunteers as possible, even if you can only spare a few hours please come along. 08.30 start bring a packed lunch.

*For more details call Rich Colquhoun on 07802 902797*

### BYWAY CLAIMS

We badly need user evidence on the following claims in the Yorkshire Dales in the Coverdale/Scar House Reservoir area.

1. Carlton Road from West Burton to Carlton in Coverdale.
2. Carle Fell Road from Scar House Reservoir via Pott Moor ending on the metal road Pott Lane a few miles north east of Lofthouse.

Riders are being stopped and some are turning back.  
Both shown as BRs on OS maps.

If you can offer from 5 to 25 years user evidence on the above contact Brian Thompson on email [briant950@aol.com](mailto:briant950@aol.com) or tel 0191 2674842. I will then send you a user form to fill in and return. The above lanes are at real risk unless we submit a Byway claim soon.

*Brian Thompson and on behalf of the West Yorks TRF group*



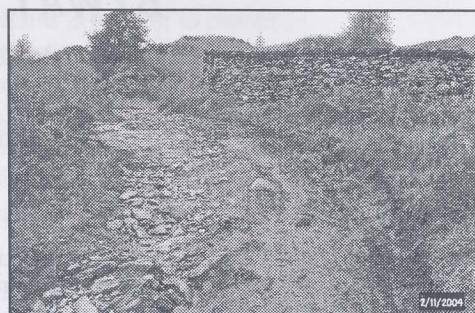
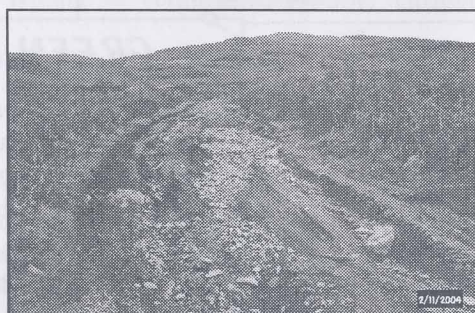
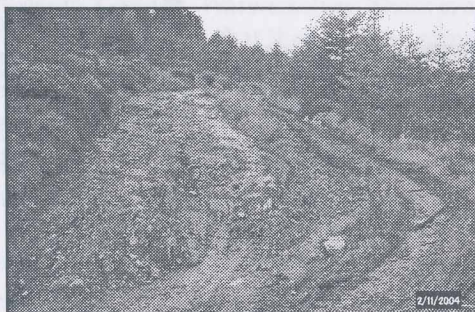


# RoW News

## PARKAMOOR

The U5051 Parkamoor will be open during NOVEMBER 2004.

Given that we have had a relatively dry last week of October, the route has dried out considerably. There are some water filled potholes on the lower section nearer Nibthwaite but most of the potholes and wheel ruts towards Low Parkamoor are dry. The section across to Seven Wells remains the muddiest despite drainage work earlier in the year. There is a rock step halfway along this section that some vehicles have detoured around, doubling the width of the track. It is not difficult to get over this step and I first raised this issue sometime last year. We now have landscape implications to deal with because this detour line has no hard surface. Please keep to the hard stone surface of the track at all times.



The section of the route around Selside Beck (grid ref. SD 301910 to 303915) has deteriorated because of poor drainage and lack of maintenance. As above there are sections where all users are detouring around washed out sections (see photos). I know that users are entitled to do so to get round an obstacle but there will be wider landscape implications if this continues. Please try and stick to the centre of the track if you can. I will write to Cumbria County Council, who is responsible for this UCR, to see if any remedial work can be carried out.

Dave Robinson,  
Trails Adviser, Lake District National Parks Authority

## U5782 GARBURN PASS (OCTOBER 2004)

Garburn Pass is currently closed to motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles. A six-month temporary Traffic Regulation Order began on 11 October. This is because we are carrying out a major programme of drainage and surface improvements to both the Kentmere and Troutbeck sides of the Pass. This work should take approximately two months to complete but will remain closed for a period after to allow the work to settle and consolidate.

The closure is from the junction with Dubbs Road on the Troutbeck side (grid reference 421032) to its junction with the tarmac road in Kentmere (grid reference 454044). Therefore the circuit of Dubbs Road and the lower section of Garburn Pass is still open to recreational vehicles. Please do not drive past the Road Ahead Closed signs at Kentmere and Appleshwaite Quarry.

For further information contact Dave Robinson on 01539 792649 or Dave.Robinson@lake-district.gov.uk.

## TRO PILGRIMS WAY

A SIGNIFICANT EVENT? The Inspector at the Public Inquiry into the Pilgrims Way (a not insignificant Byway) at Boxley, nr Maidstone, has concluded (and the Secretary of State has agreed) that this part of the historic, well documented Byway shall be closed to vehicles. We have not yet seen the report (we have been informed by the press today - why them first? Who knows...), this appears to be a travesty of justice. We believe that a precedent will be set if this judgement is allowed to go unchallenged and unchanged. It seems to us that it will encourage all councils across the country to close every lane that suffers fly-tipping or illegal riding, as those were the main arguments put forward at the PI. We (that's the Kent TRF, plus the 4WD clubs in Kent, in an association called KORVA) will hopefully be getting the full report from the inspector shortly, and then we'll give you more details on the argument used to justify this ridiculous conclusion.

Richard Colquhoun

## RIDGEWAY

All TRO's on the Ridgeway & access routes approved (22 TRO's) bar 2 - Berwick Bassett BOAT and Winterbourne Bassett BOAT. None can now be legally ridden/driven between 1 October and 1 April each year.

### Response from Wiltshire County Council to query

Thirty three objections were received to the advertisement for the Ridgeway. However prior to the Public Notice appearing in the local press considerable consultation was carried out which included national motoring user-groups, none of whom objected. In total at that stage there were 14 supportive responses and only 3 objections, all from representatives of local motoring user-groups but even then the motor-cycle user representative did not object in principle to a seasonal ban on The Ridgeway itself; it was only the connecting routes he was unhappy about at that stage.

Tony Sleep



## ALL OUR LANES ARE UCRS SO CRoW WILL NOT AFFECT US.

Wrong! Some four years on from the Countryside & Rights of Way Act I still hear members asserting that this Act will have little impact on their riding because nearly all their routes are shown in the List of Streets.

Please understand that this legislation ignores completely the List of Streets and focuses solely on the definitive map and statement (DM&S). What it says, in broad terms, is that one day the definitive map WILL be an accurate record of public rights of way. No longer will it show a minimum status - it will show THE status. Therefore if the DM&S shows a footpath or a bridleway that is, in law, what it is. No longer will it matter if that footpath was set out as a public carriage road under an Act of Inclosure and the fact that it is recorded elsewhere as a road will count for nothing.

In the plainest of English: If a route that you want to continue using is shown on the definitive map as anything other than BOAT you need to make an application to your highway authority, seeking to have that route shown as BOAT.

If, as a member, you are concerned that your group is not acting to protect your rights please contact one of the Principal Officers. The TRF have in place

a system of training and assistance that should enable every group to make byway applications (claims). If you have chosen not to align to a group you can still assist in an area of your choice. That assistance might be no more than looking at a map in the comfort of your living-room but for every hour you contribute as a 'non-expert' you are freeing up a more experienced person for the more technical tasks. It is **all** important - even looking through the old maps in a second-hand bookshop.

If, when the axe falls, you find you can no longer ride your favourite lanes you will have no one to blame other than GLEAM, Alun Michael and yourself.

*Dave Tilbury*

## BYWAY BONUS

*Reclaim your membership fee many times over - Ten Pounds for every Byway claimed by YOU.*

Sure, this only just covers the postage to make the claim but if that application is successful the TRF will give the applicant £250.

All you need to do is follow the advice in the TRF leaflets How to Claim a Byway and Making the Claim and with literally hundreds of byways to be claimed in every county this is one big bonus you could claim for doing no more than your hobby requires.

### RULES

All monies to be gifted under this scheme are hereafter referred to as the 'Byway Bonus'.

All claims for the Byway Bonus must be made by current TRF members who remain members during the period between making the Schedule 14 application and determination.

The Schedule 14 applications must be made in the name of the TRF member, on behalf of the TRF. (i.e. ...your name, on behalf of the TRF...)

Copies of the Schedule 14 application must accompany the claim for Byway Bonus. \*

All claims for the Byway Bonus must relate to applications made post 27th October 2002.

The meaning of the term "successful" in relation to this offer shall be interpreted as the claimed route being added to the definitive map and statement as a Byway Open to All Traffic.

The TRF reserve the right to terminate this offer at any time.

### HOW TO APPLY

The scheme will be administered by the TRF's National Secretary.

Send to the Secretary both a copy of the letter of acceptance from your local authority and copy of the Schedule 14 application. \*

You will be sent a Byway Bonus reference number and a cheque for £10.

When the definitive map modification order is made and confirmed send proof of the new byway to the secretary, along with your claim reference number.

You will receive your Byway Bonus of £250 and the thanks of the TRF.

\* In order to enable the TRF to follow up these claims in the event of the applicant removing themselves from the scheme the Byway Bonus application must include the Schedule 14 notice to the Order Making Authority, with list of evidence - not the certificate or landowner's notice.

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On the 3rd and 4th July John Gardner, from Lancashire TRF, swapped his Yamaha Serow for his slightly more road friendly VFR and joined hundreds of other competitors, to take part in the 2004 National Rally. The 24 hour rally was this year sponsored by the ACU, BMF and Mencap and is 'an amazing challenge of endurance and navigational skill' (Mencap). Known as a navigational scatter rally, competitors start at numerous sites throughout the

country and must plan their route through various checkpoints to finish at a common end point whilst obeying mileage and safety rules. Riders also collect sponsorship for various charities - a useful incentive to keep going at 2am! John was raising money for the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Relate West Lancashire and Women's Refuge Services - the current chairman's charities at West Lancs (inspired no doubt by chairman's consort Keith Westley also of Lancs TRF).

The rally is a great excuse to do something slightly crazy (how else could you justify riding through Chesterfield town centre at 3.30am on a rainy Sunday morning?) and gives competitors a great sense of achievement. Checkpoints provide visor washes, coffee, sandwiches and sometimes a piece of floor to nap on. Friendly motorcyclists and volunteers are present in their hundreds and the finish on Sunday morning is a sea of bikes and riders tucking into breakfast and comparing experiences of the night before. The rally is also part of the 3 nations award - an award for motorcyclists enthusiastic (or crazy enough) to take part in all three of the Scottish, Welsh and National rallies.

On arriving at Uttoxeter racecourse (this year's end point) competitors were given a wooden finishers plaque to commemorate their experience but memories of midnight roads, wrong turnings and the feel-good factor will last much longer. Next year's rally is being planned, details can be got from Mencap and is definitely to be recommended.

*Val & Hannah Gardner*

# LaneWatch

## - A Sussex TRF Initiative

The TRF is a national, voluntary and non-competitive body that was established in 1970, for people who enjoy exploring green lanes by 'roadlegal' trail motorcycles. Its aim is to conserve our heritage of green lanes for everybody to enjoy.

'LaneWatch' is a local TRF initiative, working in unison with Local Councils, Sussex Police, Parish Councils, Conservation Boards and User Groups to positively contribute to the



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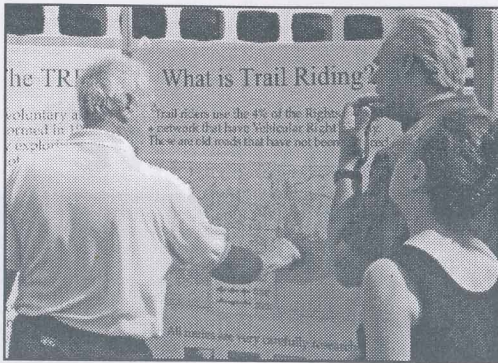
**See [www.tottontrailbikes.co.uk](http://www.tottontrailbikes.co.uk)  
for more information & photos of stock**

Please phone before visiting as not all stock is kept on site  
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protection of the environment. Its philosophy is closely aligned to the 'Solutions Approach' that the National TRF & LARA have proposed to Alun Michael and DEFRA. The aim of 'LaneWatch' is to eradicate illegal and irresponsible users of our countryside, and promote the safe, sustainable and legal use of the legitimate Green Lanes.

*Protecting the Environment:* Green Lanes, and all users of them, will enjoy maximum protection through effective and sustainable management principles. Any proposal to ban motorised vehicles from using legal rights of way in the countryside will not resolve the issue of 'damage and disturbance'. In fact, it will probably just encourage illegal riders to continue breaking the law. The TRF





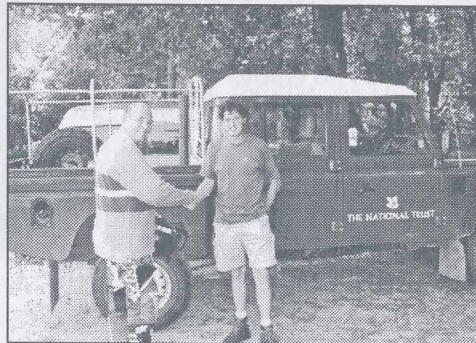
believes that better solutions can be found when people work together and not against each other.

**Successful Protection:** A consolidated approach will ensure the most successful long term protection to the environment. The Sussex TRF is therefore dedicated to working closely with all interested bodies to ensure our

efforts and goals are aligned with those contributing organisations.

**Effective Contribution :**

**Lane Awareness:** This is in effect 'self policing' of the use of motorised vehicles in the countryside. It involves TRF members educating



other users of the Lanes in order to promote the safe and quiet use of green lanes. We actively promote the TRF 'code of conduct'.

**Lane Monitor:** Working closely with other interested parties, the TRF will target sensitive areas of the countryside that perhaps are being used illegally, or abused in any way. This may include the illegal use of private land or protected areas such as SSSI's.

**Lane Clearance:** Our organised work parties clear, repair and maintain ROW's, for all users to enjoy. This is done in conjunction with the appropriate managing bodies.

*Nick Harris*

# letters

## 'OPEN ACCESS' - NOT FOR US

*In response to John Chilcott, October TRAIL:*

Let's scotch misunderstanding and wishful thinking - the areas of 'open access' are for foot traffic only. However, use on existing (or future claims for) linear rights of way should not be affected.

The DEFRA web site shows the location of 'open access' - most is in Wales, the Pennines, the Lake District and Dartmoor, with only tiny parcels in the remainder of England.

The areas, when all confirmed, will total about 1.6 million hectares (or 3.95 million acres, or 6200 square miles i.e. a square with sides of 78 miles, or 16,000 square kilometres i.e. a square with sides of 126km).

A hectare is 10,000 square metres, so a 1 metre wide standard footpath with the same area as 'open access' would have a length of 16 million km! An appreciable addition (100 times) to the existing 160,000 km of linear rights of way already open to foot traffic!

Anyway, we wish well the users of 'open access'.

*Mark Holland, Gloucester Group  
P.S. comments on my accuracy and conversion are welcome.*

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## FABER MAUNSELL STUDY

In the October issue of TRAIL John Chilcott wrote that he had written to his MP regarding the Faber Maunsell Study and that he had received no reply apart from an acknowledgement of his letter.

I wrote to my MP Andrew Smith on 28/08/04 asking when the study would be available to the public. On 1/09/04 I got a reply to say that my enquiry had been passed to Margaret Becket, Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs and on 24/09/04 I received a letter from

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Andrew Smith enclosing a copy of a letter from Alun Michael at DEFRA dated 16/09/04 stating 'The research data for the Faber Maunsell Study has been collected, but the report summarising the data is still being finalised. It has always been my intention to publish this report in full upon completion and we will do so shortly in conjunction with the publication of the Government response to the consultation on the use of mechanically propelled vehicles on rights of way.'

On the same day that I wrote to Andrew Smith I also wrote a similar letter to Alun Michael. I have not received an acknowledgement or answer to this letter but then given the above letter perhaps this is not surprising.

Last month a small deputation from the Oxford group met Boris Johnson the MP for Henley and among other things also asked that he would look into the question of the Faber Maunsell Study. We do not expect to hear from him but hope that he may ask some questions at an appropriate time.

Bob Combley

## SCOOTER CLUB

I write with great concern over the lack of P.C. Mr. B. Thompson showed in his article in the October edition of Trail. For any "Victor Meldrew" that may be reading this I refer to the opinion expressed that a "Scooter section might

attract the fairer sex which would portray a softer gentle image of two wheels"!!! What time warp did this chap step from! I ride a ZX6 Ninja on the road and a Gas Gas Pampera on the lanes! I have been a member of TRF for three years, have ridden in Wales, Wiltshire, Surrey, Kent, Essex,..... Oh, and I've passed my Advanced Motorcycle test and am the rep for Harlow Motorcycle Action Group. Have met with Alun Michael (blah, blah..) and I'm not the only female member who could boast such feats!!! Maybe if I rode with see through body armour on, it may be more obvious that I am a girlie!

I agree, we could do with more female members, but this attitude won't help.

Sue Fitch

(definitely female!)

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**HONDA CRM AR** 1999 Renthals bars, hand guards, sump guard only 5500km. Black & Red. V.g.c. Tel: 01458 253707 or 07802 358030. £2950 ono.

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**WULFSPOORT** Lined armoured waterproof trousers predominantly black, size large (36"W 34"L), used once £20. **Weise** unlined waterproof oversuit XL black jacket with belt & 4 pockets. Trousers have 1 pocket. Packs into small space or bag. Ideal for over leathers. V. good nick. £35. **Wanted** for XR400 Bashplate to fit under and around engine. Tel: 02920 843643.

**HONDA XLR 250** 1991, 5000kms only. T&T, new C&S & AC10s. Good orig. cond. £950 ono. Tel: Keith 07792 607655 (County Durham).

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## GROUPS

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**BLACK COUNTRY** Nick Hammond, Tel: 01902 700749  
1 & 3 Tues, 9pm, The Mitre, Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton.

**BRISTOL** Richard Stiling, Tel: 07974 151439  
4th Mon, 8pm, The Tennis Court Inn, Deanery Road, Warmley, Bristol.

**CAMBRIDGE** John Brooker, Tel: 01767 692805  
1st Thurs, Golden Ball, Boxworth.

**CORNWALL** Sally Madgwick, Tel: 01208 74411  
3rd Thurs, 8pm, Pencaron Club, Bodmin.

**CUMBRIA** Anthony Hayhurst, Tel: 01539 721115  
2nd Tues, The Gilpin Bridge Inn, Levens, Nr. Kendal.

**DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE**  
Kevin Marsh, Tel: 01246 811949  
2 & 4 Tuesdays, The Angel Hotel, Sprinkhill, Eckington, Nr. Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

**DEVON** Rob Williams, Tel: 01626 364564  
2nd Tues, 8pm, The Welcome Stranger, Bickington, Nr. Newton Abbott.

**DORSET** Martin Diamond, Tel: 01202 571325  
1st Tues, 8pm, Greyhound Inn, Winterbourne, Kingston, Nr. Bere Regis.

**EAST MIDLANDS** Graham Chinnery, Tel: 01332 863433  
2nd Wed, The Chequers Inn, Main St, Breaston, South Derbyshire, J25 on M1.

**EAST YORKSHIRE** Peter Hall, Tel: 01405 862616  
1st Tues, The Plough, Snaith.

**ESSEX** Dave Anderson, Tel: 01277 657783  
2nd Wed, The Wheatshaf Public House, Hatfield Peveral.  
4th Wed, The White Hart Public House, High Street, Billericay (social meeting).

**EXMOOR** Ian Sadler, Tel: 01884 821547  
2nd Wed, 8pm, The Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, A396 1 mile north of Tiverton.

**GLOUCESTER** Geoff Wilkie, Tel: 01453 811412  
1st Wed, 8pm, Wagonworks Club, Tuffley Ave., Gloucester.

**HERTFORDSHIRE** Dave West, Tel: 07768 402424  
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**ISLE OF WIGHT** Andy Hawkins, Tel: 01983 617232  
1st Wed, 8pm, The Eight Bells Inn, Carisbrooke, Newport, IOW.

**KENT** Anthony Evans, Tel: 01732 360884  
2nd Wed, 9pm, Pied Bull, Farningham, Off A20, Nr Brands Hatch

**LANCASHIRE** Keith Westley, Tel: 01704 893215  
1st Tues, Black Bull, Hall Lane, Marwadesley.

**LINCOLNSHIRE** Paul Vernon, Tel: 01522 889079  
4th Thurs, 8pm, Manvers Arms, Monks Road, Lincoln.

**LODDON VALE** David Cook, Tel: 0118 901 4481  
2nd Thurs, Inn in the Park, Woodley Centre, E. Reading.

**MID WALES** Stephen Hall, Tel: 01982 570295  
Last Thurs, 7.30pm, The Crown Inn, Rhayader.

**NORTHUMBERLAND** Chris Moody  
Tel: 0191 387 3507 6-10pm or 07860 302001 (mobile)  
1st Tues, 8pm, North Durham Motorclub, Annfield Plain, Nr Stanley.

**NORTH WALES** Richard Hughes, Tel: 01244 533855  
1st Wed, 8pm, Cross Keys, Buckley, OS 117 290 637.

**NORWICH** John Jenkins, Tel: 07721 880463.  
2nd Wed, 7.30pm, White Horse, Trowse, Norwich.

**OXFORDSHIRE** Peter Cole, Tel: 01844 214075  
3rd Thurs, 8.00pm, Royal British Legion Club, Rutten Lane, Yarnton.

**PEAK DISTRICT** Neil Walker, Tel: 01788 811919  
1st Thurs, 8pm, Travellers Rest, Ashbourne Road, Derby.

**RIBBLE VALLEY** Mark Wolstenholme, Tel: 01282 432088  
2nd Tues, Pendle Hotel, Chatburn, Clitheroe (off A59).

**SOMERSET** Greg Hughes, Tel: 07887 821472  
2nd Thurs, 8pm, The Bell Hotel, Curry Rivel, Nr Taunton.

**SOUTHERN** Lee Wildsmith, Tel: 02380 611110  
3rd Thurs, Southampton & District MCC, Woodside Ave., Eastleigh, (opposite Halfords).

**SOUTH LONDON & SURREY**  
Steve Sharp, 0208 773 4204  
9pm 1st Wed, Carshalton United Ex Service Club, West Street, Carshalton, Surrey.

**SOUTH NORTHANTS**  
Graham Walker, Tel: 07841 158820  
2nd Mon, 9pm, The Live & Let Live Pub, Harpole, Nr Northampton..

**SOUTH WALES** Stuart Dodwell, Tel: 01446 710851  
1st Thurs, Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, 8pm.

**SUFFOLK** Richard May, Tel: 01787 374073  
Last Wed, Manger Pub, A134 Sudbury Rd, Bury-St-Ed.

**SWINDON** Phil Male, Tel: 01793 731777  
1st Wed, 8.30pm, The Carrier's Arms at South Marston, Swindon.

**SUSSEX** Nick Harris, Tel: 01798 344594  
Last Thurs, Ashington Social Club, Rear of Red Lion, A24, 9 miles North of Worthing.

**TEESSIDE & NORTH YORKS**  
Roger Preston, Tel: 01429 837093  
3rd Tues, The Ranch House, Thoraldby Farm, Nr Stokesley, map ref 93...493074.

**THAMES VALLEY** Gary Hiller, Tel: 01932 851291  
3rd Mon, District Arms, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex.

**WEST ANGLIA** David Knight, Tel: 01933 313816  
1st & 3rd Thurs, Scott Bader Social Club, opp. Parish Church, Wollaston, Wellingborough.

**WEST MIDLANDS** Simon Mills, Tel: 01926 332982  
1st & 3rd Thurs, Wilmcote Mens Club, Stratford on Avon.

**WEST YORKSHIRE** Gordon Carr, Tel: 01729 830569  
1st & 3rd Thurs, Bankfoot Cricket Club, Wickets Close, (off Cleckheaton Rd), Odsal, Bradford.

**WILTSHIRE** Vic Price, Tel: 01380 724651  
1st Tues, The Bell On The Common, Broughton Gifford.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**  
Dave Gunster, Tel: 01527 456095 Mob: 07960 422523  
1st and 3rd Tuesday, White Hart, Fernhill Heath, Worcs.

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