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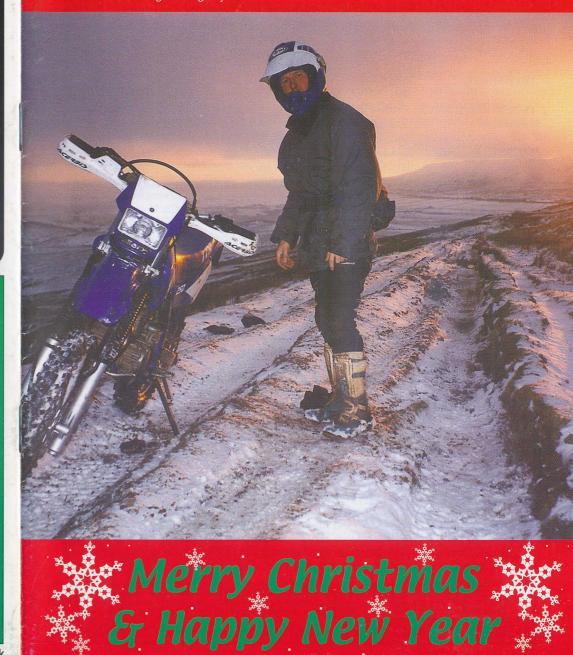
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The Bulletin of the TRF, the National Club for all who wish to ride Legal Motorcycles on Legal Carriageways. EDITOR: Fred Ellison.

DECEMBER 2004 No. 316



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	Northumberland, NE61 3JS. Tel: 01670 519432.

TRF Website http://www.trf.org.uk

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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.

FIGHT PREJUDICE

Over the past few months a number of TRF members that I have spoken to have suggested that it might be a good idea for us to join the Countryside Alliance, feeling that we have a problem in common being a misunderstood minority. Some of you have written to me and, in some cases, enclosed literature from the Countryside Alliance. Now I personally do not have any axe to grind for or against hunting but I cannot help thinking that we could adopt their slogan 'Fight Prejudice' because, like them, we seem to be at best misunderstood, as they claim they are, and if we were to adopt this slogan we should expect to get some support from the land owners and horse riders who make up the membership of that organisation once they have considered that we too suffer from prejudice - just a thought.

At the end of 2004 the TRF has reached a record number of members and we are still, despite the unwelcome and often anti two wheel prejudice, enjoying the countryside and maintaining the amenity that the unsurfaced roads of

Britain offer.

So here's to a Good Trail Riding 2005.

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DON'T FORGET TRF EXEC MEETING

15th January 2005 National Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon

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COVER PHOTO by Fred Ellison
Wayne Clarke enjoying the

seasonal weather.

All Contributions to the Editor Please keep it short and sweet!

COPY DEADLINE: FIRST POST, 1ST TUESDAY OF MONTH

FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

PUNCHING ABOVE OUR WEIGHT, BUT WE NEED MORE SECONDS

It's a tremendous credit to the TRF's officers and membership that the fellowship has always been more effective than most other organisations of similar (read small) size. This was never better displayed than at this year's Annual General Meeting at the Motor Heritage Centre in late October. Amongst all the other standard stuff that has to be done at AGMs members present received updates on DEFRA's MPVs on Rights of Way consultation and the TRF's enormous input to that process through the LARA "Solutions" paper, which is still going on. We also received a report on the independent TRF funded study into the status of unclassified county roads (UCRs). We heard reports on the work of the TRF funded Rights of Way Project Coordinators working with TRF groups to increase the amount of research and claim being done. Then we saw a presentation on how TRF people are taking the trail-riding message to the core of countryside access through Local Access Forums.

All this shows how strong the TRF is at working at the highest level; punching

where the message is most powerfully felt.

However, there were down-sides to the meeting, illustrating where the TRF is currently very weak. For all manner of very good reasons, come 31 December the TRF loses the services of some of its key officers that we weren't able to replace on a permanent basis at the AGM. Officers that are fundamental to the operation of this club on a day-to-day basis. John Gardner has been TRF Treasurer for more years than he ever intended, one too many years, and just had to stand down this year, but no-one has come forward to fill his place on a permanent basis. We managed to press one volunteer into the task on a temporary basis, but he's already too committed really doing other things and we can't impose on him for too long. The TRF needs a treasurer. Someone who can be trusted to handle the financial things promptly and reliably, and in whom we can trust for good financial management and planning. There must be members out there who can take on this role ... PLEASE.

We also failed to find a replacement for Andrew Prince, TRF Press Officer. Andrew has done a first class job in his short time in this role, and as is so often demanded by members, raised the TRF's profile enormously amongst national media, including the BBC. But the impact of Andrew's good work stands to be lost

if someone equally effective doesn't step forward to fill his boots.

Keeping an operation such as the TRF running with such key officer positions vacant makes it doubly difficult for those of us left holding the handlebars. If any members can take on either of these positions then please call either secretary Ted Lowres or me before the end of the year so that we may approach the first national committee meeting of the year in good operational health. Or phone treasurer John or press officer Andrew for more details of how they do things. PLEASE don't just expect that someone else will make the offer.

Geoff Wilson, Chairman

MEETING OF THE TRF EXECUTIVE

Saturday 15th January 2005

Heritage Motor Centre, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ (between Warwick & Banbury J12 M40) http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/location.htm

Signing-in will commence at 09.45 – **BRING MEMBERSHIP CARDS**The meeting will start at 10.30

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's introduction and report.
- 2. Apologies for absence
- 3. Appointment/co-option of Treasurer & Public Relations Officer (brought forward from AGM).
- 4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 25th Sept 2004
- 5. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
- 6. Elected Officer Reports (prioritise on important points please): Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Rights of Way, Public Relations, Editor etc. etc.
- 7. Use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on Rights of Way.
 - 7.1. "Solutions" paper.
 - 7.2. MPV Users/DEFRA Working Group
- 8. Project Reports:
 - 8.1 RoW Project Coordination (Richard Marshall)
 - 8.2 UCR Status study (David Giles).
 - 8.3 Media agency (Andrew Prince)
- 9. Judicial Review Bridleway Preshute 12
- 10. Change of Rules for Byway Bonus Scheme (E Lowres)
- 11. Change to Constitution
 - 11.1 Nomination of Officers (Tim Stevens)
 - 11.2 "Events" & TRF Insurance (E Lowres & T Stevens)
- 12. TRF leaflets/brochures/booklets (D Tilbury).
- 13. Review of payments to co-opted officers (M Holland)
- 14. Group Constitution (M Holland)
- 15. Advertising for membership and fighting fund appeals.
- 16. AOB (At chairman's discretion)
- 17. Date of future meetings: Sunday 20 March 2005, National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham Saturday 25 June 2005, National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham Sunday 18 September 2005, National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham AGM, 30 Oct. 2005, Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire.

Target finishing time 16.00

NOTICE BOARD

PEAK DISTRICT AGM

Due to poor attendance at the November meeting the group AGM is postponed until Thursday 6th January. It is important that you all attend (there are 65 local members) to support your local group and to particularly support the excellent work being done on Rights of Way.

See you there.

Peter Allt, Peak District Group Secretary

TRF EXEC MEETINGS & AGM

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:

15th Jan - National Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon 20th Mar - National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham 25th Jun - National Motor Cycle Museum, Birmingham 18th Sept - National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham

AGM

30th Oct - National Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon

Please ensure that you book all dates OUR MEETINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. Make
sure your group is represented at the executive
meeting. The AGM is for everyone.

Ted Lowres, Secretary

YORKSHIRE DALES

Thank you for a good response to my request for use evidence on Carlton Road and Carle Fell Road. I now have sufficient. The Notice Board is clearly a good way to reach some of the veteran riders whose evidence is valuable but who may not attend group meetings. Details have been noted for further help. Some have moved away and TRAIL is the only way to reach them. Filling in a use form is not a commitment. You are under no obligation to attend public enquiries. You will NOT be liable for any costs.

Brian Thompson

TO ALL USERS OF TRAILS IN NORTHUMBERLAND

The Northumberland Group is considering making new and reinforcing existing byway claims with user evidence. We would be grateful if any members or non members, from within or outside the area, who have used any of the routes listed below within the last twenty or thirty years contact: Ray Smith, 1 Moor View, Kenton

Village, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3EH. Tel: 0191 2861578, email: raysmith10@btconnect.com giving D.o.B., occupation, no. of years riding the trail and relevant dates. Only one outing per year will be helpful (all information will be kept for information purposes only and will not be circulated to any other bodies or organisations). The Cheviots...Clennell Street, The Street, Dere St, Salters Road etc; The Broadway, The Blackway, Longcross, Maiden Way, Tyne Head.

Ray Smith

missed please let me know.

Defra Rights of Way Consultations

In connection with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 DEFRA have just published two consultation documents. These cover:

• Joint orders and power to include modifications to other orders

• Registers of definitive map modification orders

Copies are available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ rightsofway-jointorders/index.htm and http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/rightsofway-registers/index.htm. Responses have to be made by 31 January 2005. Any Group or individual may respond, but I will be responding on behalf of the TRF nationally. Could you please send me your comments by 15 January so I pull together a composite response.

Richard Marshall, National Rights of Way Co-ordinator

FROM BRIAN THOMPSON TRO News

The present six month TRO on Highway which expires in January 2005 is to be extended for a further six months. The YDNP says the reason is to allow the newly repaired National Pennine Bridleway chance to settle and stabilise. Byway status is in the pipeline for Highway, also Gorbeck Road, Long Lane and Moorhead Lane (both in Ribblesdale).

Eleven RUPPs reclassified as Bridleways in the Cumbria area of the YDNP under the 1968 Act such as Great Wold, are awaiting the results of the High Court appeal against DEFRAs decision that these are extinguished, and cannot be reclaimed under the 1981 Act. Great Wold was awarded a public carriageway by Act of Parliament which should be enough to satisfy the test for Byway status. In addition we have very good user evidence.

A TRO is still in place on Pockstones Moor which was closed for repairs now completed. Also on Horse Head Pass at Halton Gill and Mastiles Lane. The TRO signs are missing on one end of Mastiles Lane. This does not mean it is legal to use it!

YDNP The General Situation

At present there are only 14 miles of Byways in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. These are Cam High Road from Bainbridge south west for 6 miles. And Stake Road and Busk Lane from Semer Water and Bainbridge running south to join the B6160 Buckden Road for about 8 miles. All are shown on modern OS Maps as Byways Open to All Traffic and all are excellent long trails, hassle free.

There are a further 170 green lanes (about 200 miles) with UCR, or Public Footpath or Public Bridleway status or dual status throughout the Yorkshire Dales. The YDNP say that there is a potential of 170 Byway claims that can be made before the cut off date proposed by the Government. The YDNP are themselves researching 15 and the TRF and other vehicular bodies are preparing about the same number. The YDNP has rejected a Byway Order on Foxup Road but that does not preclude the TRF from making a Byway claim. Alan Kind is looking into this case.

A lot of invaluable documentary research has already been carried out mainly

thanks to Sam Watt of the West Yorkshire Group. Together with user evidence all it needs is to process our files of evidence into finding and notifying the landowners and then submitting the forms to the National Park. We need more volunteers who will receive full training! Getting Byway claims on to the Register of Claims is our first priority.

Does anyone know of the whereabouts of the use evidence affidavits for many tracks in the Dales that I obtained from George Abbey in 1985, which has gone missing?

East Yorkshire

Can I appeal for anyone willing to help save green lanes in the former East Riding, now East Yorkshire, to come forward?

This is the very rural area called the Yorkshire Wolds. It stretches from Hull up to Bridlington across to Malton and York and round to Goole and along the River Humber.

There are about 100 marvellous green lanes some over 100 feet wide which need a Byway claim. These are all very quiet and mostly unused. In 1977 I researched 42 green lanes in East Yorkshire and put in Byway claims which have lapsed. With some help these might be updated and re submitted in order to preserve them for the future. The TRF needs someone to survey and photograph each lane and to offer use evidence if possible. Also someone to act as the local representative and perhaps visit the council.. Every possible help and assistance will be given.

If you can help save lanes in this quiet hassle free region of Yorkshire please let me know.

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South Yorkshire

Good news. Thanks to some superb detective work by Barnsley TRF researchers Andy Lazenby and Dean Hodgson, 27 "lost" Byway claims that lodged with South Yorkshire County Council in 1978 have now been found. After updating, adding new evidence and form filling, these will be accepted as legitimate Byway claims, and therefore safe for the future.

Regular meetings are to be held with council staff in Barnsley to monitor progress of new claims to be submitted soon. The first claim will be on High Bank Lane. This runs out of Thurlstone village, west for 2 miles. Thurlstone is near Penistone. If you have use evidence please contact Andy on alys14875@ blueyonder.co.uk.

Later we shall turn our attention to Doncaster Council who took over from South Yorkshire in 1984. We shall try and find the 22 Byway claims I submitted in 1977 and update them.

There are about 80 green lanes all the wrong status of Public Footpath despite being 40 ft wide(!) in the eastern area many around the Thorne, Fishlake, Sykehouse region, all of which have claims still awaiting the council's attention.

Brian Thompson, email briant950@aol.com

WEBSITE INFORMATION ON PERMIT SYSTEM FOR MOTORCYCLES AND 4X4 VEHICLES, GATESCARTH PASS

From 4 November 2004 a revised permit system will apply for all motorcyclists and 4x4 drivers. The application procedure and operating details of the permit system are as follows:

- 1. Gatescarth Pass will be open for one day per month from November 2004 subject to conditions detailed below. The permit days will be a combination of weekend days and weekdays and will be the first Friday, Saturday or Sunday of each month. The dates are;
 - Sunday 7 November 2004, Friday 3 December 2004, Saturday 8 January 2005, Friday 4 February 2005, Sunday 6 March 2005, Friday 1 April 2005, Saturday 7 May 2005, Friday 3 June 2005, Sunday 3 July 2005, Friday 5 August 05, Saturday 3 September 2005, Friday 7 October 2005.
 - In the event of bad weather the open days will be postponed. The alternative day will be exactly two weeks after the original date i.e. if Sunday 7 November is postponed the new date will be Sunday 21 November. If the weather is also poor on the alternative day, then that month's open day will be lost.
 - The decision to postpone the open day will be based on the series of monthly inspections on route condition, previous weather conditions and weather forecasts for the day itself. Information will be posted on the NPA's website, via an e-mail circulation message, on the Trails Adviser's voice mail (see contact details below) and by letter 48 hours before the open day. It is important to stress however that the ultimate responsibility to check if the permit is valid lies with the permit holder.
- 2. 4x4 vehicles will not be allowed to use the route from December through to March each year. This is to safeguard the most vulnerable sections of the Pass from disturbance and is based on detailed monitoring of route condition before and after permit days during the 18-month Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3. A maximum of 12 4x4s (i.e. in groups of two, three or four vehicles) and 18 motorcycles (i.e. in groups of two, three four, five or six vehicles) will be allowed to use the route on each open day.
- 4. The permit will allow one pass of the route in one direction only. The gates will be unlocked from 09:00 am to 16:00 pm. There will be no staggered start times but 4x4 users should be aware that the latest a vehicle can start the drive of the Pass will be one hour before the gate is due to be locked. NPA staff will be on hand to unlock and lock gates and to monitor how the permit system is operating.

- 5. One permit will cover all the vehicles in a club or organisations' application, subject to the limits of four 4x4s and six motorcycles. The minimum number of vehicles in any application is two because of problems of self-recovery. This also applies to motorcycles.
- 6. Each club, organisation, company or individual will be allowed two permits over the 12 months. If demand is low and not all permits or numbers are filled, this could be increased.
- 7. The application form below can be e-mailed directly to Dave Robinson or printed and sent by post. It should also be available at the following Tourist Information Centres:

Brockhole, Ambleside, Waterhead, Windermere, Bowness Bay, Kendal, Pooley Bridge, Glenridding, Grasmere, Keswick.

All application forms, wherever they are obtained, should be sent to Dave Robinson at the address below. All details requested should be filled in. If they are not, your permit may not be sent. A permit will be sent to you with the relevant open day date and other supporting information.

- 8. This system has been developed and agreed by the Gatescarth Pass Working Group. It consists of NPA officers and representatives from motorcycle and 4x4 groups, Cumbria Bridleways Society and Friends of the Lake District. Any changes to this system will be recommended by the Group and will go to the Authority's implementation Committee for approval.
- 9. Contact Dave Robinson at LDNPA, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7RL; telephone 01539 792649; email dave.robinson@lake-district.gov.uk

PARKAMOOR

The U5051 Parkamoor will be open during December 2004. We have had a relatively dry November and the route has continued to dry 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 staying dry. The section across to Seven Wells remains the muddiest despite drainage work earlier in the year.

Dave Robinson, Trails Adviser, Lake District National Park Authority

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED TRO OLD COACH ROAD, EAST SUSSEX

The proposal is a TRO, on a byway which has already been "improved" in most of the places where it used to get muddy. It runs parallel to the main east-west road the A27, at the foot of the south downs, also parallel to the South Downs LDP which is of bridleway status along the top of the downs. The improvements have spoiled the route for horse riders as it is now hard surfaced so they can only walk or trot. You could probably get a modern coach along most of it now, so it is hardly the challenge that it used to be on a motorbike, and those who do use it are probably tempted to ride it fast (and therefore probably loud as well). It follows that support for this TRO is likely to be strong, so we minority users must make strong opposition.

Points I can see worth making are:

- There is already a parallel route with status which excludes MPVs the SDW LDP so why disenfranchise this historic old coach road?
- It remains a road, even after a TRO, contrary to the declaration on ESCC's website that it is an "offroad" route
- Motorcyclists and 4x4 drivers are minority users of countryside facilities and minority rights are to be respected not brushed aside by other users who are more numerous and already have access to most of the country's green routes

• A better solution to the objective of Tourism without Traffic is to designate many of the small tarmac surfaced roads in the area "Quiet Roads" where motorised traffic is

permitted but only for access.

The cutoff date is 20th December. That may be past by the time this is with Trail readers, but every response helps our cause so please get your letter of protest off today. We don't want to lose this historic lane to Traffic WIthout TearS or whatever they call themselves. Write to: Jan Russell, Transport Strategy, Transport & Environment, County Hall, St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Susex BN7 1UE. Email: janet.russell@eastsussexcc.gov.uk.

Patrick Wallace

BOOK REVIEW

A Century of Motorcycling in Cornwall Compiled by Roger Fogg ISBN No: 0-9549005-0-2

Published by: Blue Hills Publishing RRP £11.99

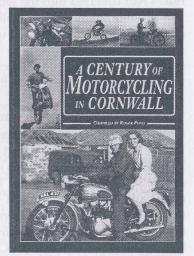
You don't have to be Cornish to enjoy this remarkable collection of photographs spanning the 20th Century. Author and compiler Roger Fogg (a founder member of the Cornwall TRF Group) recognises that there is more to motorcycling than sporting heroes and the most highly prized machinery and has put together this collection of photographs to give a flavour of the many machines, activities, personalities, heroes and follies associated with motorcycling.

The book contains over 300 images (with brief but informative text) from across the Century appealing not just to those transfixed by the

machines, but to those interested in people, buildings and day to day life (so you can safely buy one for the missus for Christmas then...). Starting with the raising and salute of the Cornish Flag the book moves through the years; from a 1903 Matchless to the late BMW works rider Cornishman John Deacon – Britain's most successful Dakar competitor and ten times British Enduro champion.

I haven't met anyone yet who hasn't thoroughly enjoyed this book – and especially for those of you who like the feel of waxed cotton next to the skin– it's a must!

Sally Madgwick



Widow-makers, zig-zags and rif-raf - a trail ride in Monmouthshire,

Sunday 25th July 2004

Long ago but route refreshed by the User Evidence form

Seven fellows Led by Mark Holland (KTM 400 LC4 EGS-E), John Williams (newish KTM, he's getting rid of his DRZ), Alan Whittington (KTM with blue plastics: "something different", TRF member and owns and is the guide for Cotswold Trailrides), Paul Smith (CCM 400), Simon Roberts (Honda XR400), Martin Hatfield (KTM 400 or 450), and Mark Reid (Honda CRM250). Vic Lodge could not make it because he had work to do for his MoT.

Tree fellers Landranger map 171 (161 later). Started Devauden, Chepstow. Series of varied lanes with good views - Devauden - Golden Hill - Earlswood. Near Shirenewton the County Road from Lower Argoed since my last visit had even more large wind-blown trees lying over the lane. Previously, horseriders had diverted into the wood but would be stuck until motorcyclists made a way around the most recent fellings. We ducked under some trees but later found a low one. While a couple of us found a way around (as we are legally allowed) in the wood, others pulled the dead ivy off from under the tree and made enough space to go underneath. After Gray Hill on the RUPP we passed three casual walkers. In the whole county there are no correct signs on vehicular rights of way - what do these people think?

We'll keep a welcome on the hillside After enjoying the County Road through Wentwood Forest we were welcomed at the first house (at Caer Licyn) by a woman. I expect many of us could have written her script using: "you're not allowed here", "it's only a footpath and bridleway", "motorbikes aren't allowed in the woods", and "I've asked the Parish Council". Surprisingly she didn't add the old chestnut: "I've got a letter in their house from ...". A man used to come out from here and rave at people, I asked if he was still here. She didn't say. I asked how long she'd lived there - "40 years". To which I replied: "It's a County Road listed by the County Council Highways department and with vehicular rights, are you going to shout at people for another 40 years?" She repeated her complete outburst about four times, and each time I told her the status of the highway. We discussed how often motorcyclists use this lane and she grudgingly admitted it was a few times a year. She slipped in the one: "what happens if my grandchildren are playing here?" I explained we only go slowly, she has neglected the divider between the road and garden, and that perhaps the children should be careful when playing in the road. She claimed that others go faster than us - how often have we heard this one? I suggested she confirm status

with the County Council highways department and we made a graceful exit. I shall ask what she's done if I see her again, and if nothing I will ask the Police to caution her. We purchased food from the garage in Caerleon and ate it in the lane below Llanhennock. Interesting to hear about Alan's trail rides and to catch up with John's news.

Councils giving us a bad name In the lane south of Gatlas the stream had over ten years eroded the surface. What started as a high but driveable step gained an adverse camber, and the bank beside the stream had also narrowed. On previous trail rides we had manhandled our motorcycles up the step and gingerly inched along the section of narrow bank. Many other users had taken to easy-riding the lane in the opposite direction. We arrived to find a long section of the lane has been wrecked by the Council. The council's 'repairs' look awful - why can't they be more sympathetic? Do they consult with or involve any users? They spend far too much money on a small problem and then bandy around that they've "spent, say, a 1/4 of the whole rights of way budget repairing one vehicular right of way". Some of their motives are political - caving in to bullying from people with property-value interests. Other motives are for an easy life - it is easier to spend the budget on a few large projects rather than numerous small ones.

Long stretch enjoyed at its best We enjoyed the about 5-mile series of lanes via Sluvad Farm to end at Little Mill near Pontypool. This was done earlier in the day, on this occasion soon after a refreshing lunch, at Simon's suggestion on previous rides. The lane requires relatively high physical and mental effort and I agree it is better enjoyed when you're not tired. Some say the best lane they've enjoyed. For a stretch this enclosed lane runs beside one of the many golf courses in Monmouthshire, and is the only place you'll ever see litter. Golf balls I can excuse but not drinks cans.

Useless signs sending horse-riders to their deaths At the beginning of the RUPP above Pentre-poid near Pontypool I observed a brand new bridleway sign. In Gloucestershire most RUPPs are illegally signposted as 'Public Path' (despite the legal definition quite clearly stating: ".... other than public paths"). In the last few years they have phased in a few 'Road Used as Public Path' signs. However, in Monmouthshire they illegally signpost RUPPs with 'footpath' or 'bridleway' signs according to their original designation as 'CR-F' or 'CR-B' respectively. These designations originated in a guidance booklet compiled by the Government and the Open Spaces Society; they were never intended to be used on the Definitive Map. CR-F means 'cart or carriage road used mainly as a footpath / on foot'. CR-B is similar but for horses. When Monmouthshire started their Definitive Map in the early 1950s, there was still petrol rationing, and most cars were still up on bricks. It's not surprising that the green routes were mainly used by non-motor users! Further, at this time of austerity there would not be much recreational horse riding. 'RUPP' does not

appear on their Definitive Map. The un-knowledgeable majority of horse-riders believe and follow the Highway Authority's signs and are often forced onto dangerous tarmac roads because about half of the RUPPs are signposted as 'footpath'.

Zig-zags We went up the zig-zags at Aberbeeg and continued on the proper route via the gates, surrounded by sheep. Lovely! While the zig-zags are unique and the views good, the gates are probably illegal and are a nuisance. I don't mind the farmer having some, but there seem to be twice as many as needed. However, the load is spread with a group. On the mountain, the track has shallow and narrow twin-track wheel marks requiring a lot of concentration to negotiate. Inexplicably, for such a hitherto distinct track, it peters out and one needs to go 400 metres at right angles on a single-track to then meet the beginning of a twin-track continuing parallel to the first. Over onto map 161, looking down to Nantyglo and Blaina 300 metres over a bank so steep one would not contemplate walking up or down. On tarmac through Blaenavon, the home of the Big Pit 'working' mine museum. Some of the others were surprised how many of the 'grassy tumps' we saw were actually slag heaps.

Nice farmer and rif-raf We went up the RUPP at Cwmavon. The stones have been laid a bit - it used to be a 'widow-maker' with loose rocks the size of footballs followed closely by a rock step. John said that in Cumbria he'd ridden among rocks the size of televisions! We met the farmer above here, breaking from greasing his tractor to see who we were. We've met this very pleasant man a few times in the past. We chatted about the currently proposed legislation affecting vehicular rights of way partly brought on by the actions of an irresponsible few; and about landowners' problems with the majority of walkers thinking they can have 'open access' everywhere. His main concern today was the local "rif-raf" who are not skilled enough to ride up the 'widow-maker' part leading to the mountain and ride instead on the forest road / his farm access. They are not careful near other users and he is concerned at his liability. They visit the pub over the mountain then sometimes come back his way, leaving the three stock gates open. He said the Police take limited interest. He is quite able to distinguish 'us' from 'them'. Then onwards on a variety of attractive lanes, and to Usk on the A472. Back onto map 171, enjoyed two lanes and back to our origin at about 5:30.

Met/saw on lanes: walkers 3, +3 near car parks in Wentwood, horserider 0, cyclist 0, horse-drawn carriage 0, unpleasant house resident 1, very pleasant farmer 1.

38 lanes in seven hours, adequate breaks to chat and enjoy the close and far scenery, good weather and good company with like-minded people led to a good day. Simon even sent his thanks by text later.

Mark Holland, Gloucester Group.

law 'to stop anymore BOATs', and his out-of-the-blue advice note 18 on vehicular rights on former RuPPs. One could not 'prove' this, of course, but on the balance of probabilities...

Nick Crane celebrates the great map makers and the ancient highways they surveyed and plotted. Our government is stealing *our* history by denying them. Why? Is it New Labour's doctrinal hatred of anything traditional, or just a further way of taking from the equestrian and trail rider to give yet more to the walkers and landowners?

You don't need a weatherman to see which way the wind blows. And one might add, you don't need a road map to see which way the road now goes.

Leader column, Byway and Bridleway, 2004/9/69



UCRS AND DEF MAP

Can I add to Dave Tilburys "All our lanes are UCRs so CROW will not effect us" article in last TRAIL? While entirely accurate this is a complicated subject and it seems some members are still confused and have asked me to explain further. It depends which county you live in. No county is the same. This is not a criticism of Dave's article, just an elaboration. So here goes in "simple mans language" (Is that really possible?)

The Definitive Map is quite separate from the County Road Map. The Definitive Map shows Public Footpath, Public Bridleway, RUPP, Restricted Byway, and Byway Open to All Traffic.

Only a Byway has conclusive vehicular rights, which is why we are so keen to have more. The County Road Map or List of Streets as it should be known, shows UCRs. These are shown as "ORPA" on up to date OS Maps, and are normally accepted as having vehiclar rights.

County Roads are different legislation from those ways shown on the Definitive Map.

Different county hall departments that deal with them. In the words of the County Solictor for Northumberland County Council on 9 Nov 2004 "The inclusion of an unclassified county road on the list of streets is an indication that it carriers vehicular rights". That is what the latest TRF UCR Status Report confirms.

UCRs did NOT come on to the Def Map as a result of claims by members of the public (with a few exceptions by Mike Rowley in Staffs and Alan Kind in Northumberland). They have a longer history back to 1929 and before. UCRs are part of the network of roads or highways most of which are metalled and classified A, B, C, D or Unclassifed and come under the Ministry of Transport. While the Definitive Map comes under the jurisdiction of DEFRA and the Minister for Rural Affairs Alan Michael.

Clear so far? (Err not really?). Why can a green lane have both UCR status and Definitive map status? Called joint or dual status highways. In other words they carry TWO legal definitions for the SAME lane i.e. UCR and Public Footpath. UCR and Public Bridleway. UCR and RUPP or UCR and Byway (as in Northumberland).

It should not have happened like this but in some counties like Derbyshire and North Yorkshire it did. We are stuck with it. Ideally the UCR status should prevail as an all purpose highway. But due to the CROW Act and the Road Traffic Act the lower status of FP or BR will prevail hence we must as a priority claim these as Byway. As the joint UCR status is at least very good evidence of vehicular rights, then this should not need much more evidence to satisfy vehicular rights to the council.

In 18 months time it seems that all dual status routes (but not dual Byway/UCR of course), will become illegal unless there is a claim outstanding.

The idea as Dave Tilbury so rightly says is that at long last the Def Map really will after 55 years be conclusive. Everyone will know that if the sign says Public

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Bridleway they will not find trail riders riding along it saying it should be a Byway, hence the hassle. And the police will be able to prosecute, free from a TRF challenge.

So we are being put on a fast track system of ONE year in which to claim about 3000 Byways or perish. (Normal users get 24 years). Life is so unfair. Ask the hunting people. So it is not really OUR fault we are in the salad!

Most county councils chose to ignore their Section 53 HA80 duty to make Byways regardless of a claim from the TRF. Eg just a pathetic 14 miles of Byway throughout the Yorkshire Dales National Park. They opted for an easier life making footpaths and bridleways and doing diversions for the benefit of the farmers. I should know. I do hope this has been useful.

Brian Thompson, MIPROW

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AXE VALE Malcolm Preece, Tel: 01275 844757 2nd Mon, 8pm, The Star PH at Star on A38.

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.

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 Wheatsheaf Public House, Hatfield Peveral.

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 2nd Thurs, 8pm, The Old Guinea, Ridge, Near Potters Bar.

HIGH PEAK & POTTERIES

Graham Till, Tel: 01782 776338 or 01782 833222 (work) 1st Tues, 8.30pm, The New Inn, Leek Road, Longsdon. (A52, 1.5 miles West of Leek).

ISLE OF WIGHT Andy Hawkins, Tel: 01983 617232 1st Wed, 8pm, The Eight Bells Inn, Carisbrooke, Newport,

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

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

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

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,

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,

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.

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