

FRIENDS OF THE PEAK DISTRICT CPRE SOUTH YORKSHIRE

OFF-ROADING POLICY

Background

The tranquillity and quiet enjoyment of our countryside, including the Peak District National Park, is under threat by the inappropriate use of some rights of way by off-road motorised vehicles including 4x4s, motorbikes and quad bikes. Despite welcome changes in rights of way (RoW) law within the CRoW Act (2000) and NERC Act (2006), off-road vehicles continue to use routes (both legally and illegally) which, due to their location and condition, cannot sustain such use. The enjoyment of other users is being adversely affected by off-road vehicles, through the disturbance of their quiet enjoyment and the adverse physical condition of these routes. In addition there can be also be serious impacts on biodiversity, soil erosion and land management practices, including farming.

Guiding Principle

Within the Peak District National Park, its statutory purposes form the basis for our action on off-roading. These seek to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of national parks, and promote public enjoyment of their special qualities. In accordance with the Sandford Principle, where conflicts between conservation and recreation, we will promote actions that conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Outside the National Park within the High Peak, North East Derbyshire and the South Yorkshire boroughs, the branch will apply the same policy aims, as set out below.

Our aims are:

- To improve the condition of the most sensitive legally used routes and reduce the disturbance to other users;
- To preserve the majority of routes for 'quiet enjoyment' by foot, horse or bike, depending on the status of the right of way.
- To promote controls and remedial action appropriate to the sensitivities of the route, the damage caused and disturbance to other users;
- To stop illegal or unsustainable activities on the most sensitive routes.
- To encourage greater public awareness of the issues; and
- To increase community action through partnerships and co-operation.

Appropriate action

FPD will encourage consensus through partnership working. However, where consensus does not result in outcomes that deliver the National Park's overriding conservation purpose, FPD will encourage alternative actions. This may include serving Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) tailored to manage the type of usage, the damage to the route and the disturbance to other users.

Illegal activities

FPD will promote the reporting of illegal usage of rights of way by off-road vehicles. Information on how to report illegal activity safely will be provided within publications and electronic media. FPD will encourage the police and landowners to prosecute those caught using rights of way illegally or causing illegal damage off the highway.

Partnerships and co-operation

Working within partnerships is critical to achieving these aims and objectives. Where consistent with FPD's policy, FPD will assist local community groups, parish councils and user groups to help resolve conflicts.

FPD will maintain a dialogue with all user groups, including those involved in off-roading, and those responsible for managing these routes and the National Park environment.

Adopted April 2010