

YORKSHIRE DALES.

The long TRF struggle to get Byways in the national park continues.

This has been on going now ever since I became the first TRF National Rights of Way Officer in 1975 and is still far from complete. The fight will go long after I have hung up my Barbour jacket for the last time and put my worn out Honda Pantheon "trail" scooter into a rest home! This gentle whisper quiet machine seems to cry out for help("I am not a trail bike") every time I cruelly take it over Grasshills Causeway, in Teesdale, at 2200 ft the highest green lane in England which is real challenge on 12" road tyres !

STOCKDALE LANE runs from grid 835630 two miles east of Settle. One spur joins Gorbeck Lane now confirmed as Byway status. Another spur ends near Malham at 892640. Both good long trails.

The YDNP are consulting the TRF and everyone else including all our enemies before they proceed to deal with the TRF valid claim for Byway. Have we got any more evidence they ask ?

They already have tons of it. Its shown on nine OS maps and seventeen other old maps dating from 1771 all as a double line indicating a proper road width and not a footpath or bridleway which the objectors claim it is. However the user evidence by motor cycle is a bit thin and this is where you can help.

If you have ever used Stockdale Lane write to Bev Parker at YDNP, Grassington, N Yorks BD23 5LB by Oct 25th or as soon as possible and let me know also. Ideally we need 20 years up to 2006. I used it from 1968 to 1989.

Any period of use is useful. ie 20 years from 1960 to 1980 or 1980 to 2000 but it must be at least once a year with no breaks. No decision has been made if the YDNP will support or oppose the application.

LONG LANE near Horton in Ribblesdale is now confirmed as a Byway as all objections have been withdrawn.

This can be regarded as a TRF success story. Long Lane starts at Moorhead Lane at 817697.

There is no legal access into Helwith Bridge and the B6479 which is the subject of a further claim.

Theres no rest !

MOORHEAD LANE also known as the Ribble Way is another valid TRF Byway claim and a public inquiry was held in Settle on 29 August. The Secretary of States decision is awaited.

The surprising success of getting Gorbeck Lane and Long Lane as full Byway status(no TROs !) gives the hard working TRF team from the Cumbria group, real hope of further success with Stockdale Lane and Moorhead Lane.

I am trying to find out from YDNP just how long the Temporary TRO on CAM ROAD (from the Hawes/Ingleton road) in order to carry out repairs, is to be in place. I am well aware of how important this vital route especially for those who live in Lancashire and Cumbria.

I was asked by a YDNP Ranger if the TRF had any rights or exemption to closure on the old road from the top of Park Rash nr Kettlewell running over Whernside to Scar House Resvr in Nidderdale. It is a public bridleway. Four riders had recently been stopped by police and issued with Section 59, Police Reform Act 2002 warning notices.

I said I know of no vehicular rights per NERC 2006 Section 67. This way is not a TRF valid claim. It was used in the old days.

The evidence was insufficient to make a Byway claim or use lawfully under Common Law up to May 2006. This should act as a warning. National Park Rangers are on the look out for

riders riding illegally. There is no defence. If you get another Section 59 your £4000 bike is confiscated and you pay £105 to get it back and face prosecution in addition. Its not worth the risk.

NORTH YORKS MOORS NATIONAL PARK.

The UCR over Pockley Moor north of Helmsley which was subject to a Temporary TRO for repairs and was lifted in 2007 now has a permanent TRO in place due to further damage this summer by 4x4s and morons on motor cycles

.Hope of this ever being lifted is now remote like Pockstones Moor near Pateley Bridge. The moral is dont give them any ammunition to close them in the first place.

I am frequently asked by northern members if the TRF can lift those permanent TROs now in place.

Quite frankly there is very little than can be done . The horse has bolted.

I think it is better to concentrate our time on keeping open existing rights of way and fighting to safegard well used lanes as Byway. The enemy is determined to stop us. Yet in most of the north east, South Yorkshire, Cumbria outside the national park, East Yorkshire and North Yorkshire outside the two national parks, there are no TROs at all on green lanes.

The authorities are tolerant there because there is no pressure from other users, hence hassle free riding.

SCOOTERS.

Distinguished TBM journalist Mark Williams of the Mid Wales TRF has joined the dubious ranks of scooter riding on green lanes. Thats two of us !

He is going to get some stick ! Anyway I admire him. Its a better image in the countryside than an aggressive looking KTM 450, and wins friends everywhere with whisper quiet motors.

Even farmers comment favourably and say you cannot possibly be one of those pesky trail riders on a scooter !

If there is anyone else in the TRF out there who takes a scooter of whatever size or capacity down a green lane, do get in touch to swap stories and who knows ? We could even start a TRF scooter section !

I am even willing to lead runs in the Dales;easy lanes of course ! There are some limitations !

BRIAN THOMPSON

NORTHERN ROW ADVISOR 24TH SEPT 2007