

Peak Horsepower Newsletter – Autumn 2016

Pennine Bridleway – mind the gap

The Pennine Bridleway, a 205-mile route passing through glorious countryside from the Peak District to the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria, is still marred by a 2.5-mile gap for horse-riders just north of Hayfield.

Work began on the national trail in 1999, often following disused railway lines, but there are none convenient here.

The gap was originally five miles, but some work has been done and the remaining 2.5 miles crosses some of the worst terrain the builders have encountered. Trees, bogs and uneven ground mean that an estimate of £1.5million cannot be an exaggeration.

Derbyshire County Council says no building will take place until 2017 and the problem of funding has still to be addressed.

The trail has been dogged by poor original workmanship over flat terrain which now has to be upgraded for 0.75miles and a further 0.75miles of sharp descent that crosses waterlogged areas, ditches, trees and land that has never been traversed.

This leads to High Lane Simmondley where a secure horse road crossing will be necessary. After High Lane there is short relief on an existing bridleway until the Pennine Bridleway has to branch off again into the wildness for one mile to pass under Dinting Railway arches. Then it's back uphill to join the existing Pennine Bridleway crossing on Glossop Road.

Again this section offers rough terrain with the added complication of land where ownership has not been established.

It's a very bleak picture for completion, especially when local bridleway groups can offer alternative routes that do not meet the same engineering problems.

But don't let the gap put you off...

Peak Horsepower members Wendy Neilson on Jack and Heather Cockerton on Maverick rode from the start of the Pennine Bridleway in Cumbria to home in the Peak District in May.

It took them 12 days to do this journey on the only National Bridleway in England. Wendy said: "It's a wonderful adventure and highly recommended."

...and you can hear all about it at the Peak Horsepower AGM

Peak Horsepower's Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday 15 November, 7.30pm, at The Wheatsheaf pub in Bakewell.

We are very pleased to have Heather Procter, trail manager of the Pennine Bridleway, coming to talk about the trail.

And members who have ridden it recently will be talking about their experiences and how it could get finished. You might be inspired to ride it!

Thank you to Dark Peak Bridleways Association

Sadly, the Dark Peak Bridleways Association (DPBA) has decided to formally disband. The group has been affiliated to Peak Horsepower and we are very sorry to see it end.

DPBA has worked for many years to promote access for horse riders and carriage drivers, and we all thank them. There will now be a social group in the area, contactable through their Facebook page (Dark Peak Bridleways Social Group).

Members of DPBA have had to resolve how best to use their remaining assets and we are extremely pleased that members voted to donate £1000 to Peak Horsepower. We are very honoured to be entrusted with the money, and will use it wisely. We look forward to thanking Dark Peak riders personally at our AGM when the cheque will be presented.

DPBA Chair Margaret Mellor said: "Regrettably we are not able to raise enough committee officers to continue in our present format.

"As we are already affiliated to Peak Horsepower we felt that you are best placed to benefit from our funds. Many of our members would like to join your group due to your extensive knowledge of our area. It is also hoped that you would consider using part of the money for maintenance or replacement of gates in the Peak District.

"We will remain an active social group both on Facebook and at our monthly meetings. We will forward any Bridleways issues we have to yourselves: we are not disappearing, just evolving."

Historic vehicle trials delay Washgate TRO

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has agreed in principle to put a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on Washgate, a route on the Staffordshire-Derbyshire border much damaged by off-road vehicles, but there is a delay in getting the TRO in place.

This is because the PDNPA has also decided it must consider whether or not to make an exemption for 'historic vehicle trials.' Two vehicle trials claim to regularly use Washgate. One of them has nearly 200 participants. The other has had over 100 participants. Although called 'historic' trials they are not for vintage vehicles. They are 'historic' only in the sense that they have been run for many years. Powerful modern motor bikes take part and damage the route.

There will now be a second public consultation asking whether the trials should be permitted to continue. This will delay imposition of the TRO.

The battle of the boulders

Derby Lane, Monyash is a remote green lane and one of the few remaining in the Derbyshire Dales which allows a good long gallop. The landowner, Chatsworth, put boulders across the route a few years ago which stop 4x4s (but not motor bikes).

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is now under pressure from the off-rovers to make Chatsworth remove the boulders on the grounds that they are obstructing the highway.

It is all a bit silly as the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is due to make a decision in November about putting a Traffic Regulation Order on the route and the outcome of a public inquiry into a BOAT claim (Byway Open to All Traffic) is also imminent.

For the time being Chatsworth is holding out and DCC appears to have delayed taking legal action against them at least until the PDNPA makes its TRO decision and the result of the public inquiry is known.

It certainly seems crazy to make Chatsworth remove the boulders when, one way or the other, the route seems set to become illegal for motor vehicles.

Successful prosecution on Longstone Edge off-rovers

Two off-rovers have been successfully prosecuted for driving on the restricted byway along Longstone Edge.

They made the mistake of using the Restricted Byway in their Land Rovers during the Peak Horsepower Black Harry pleasure ride in October last year.

We had a gate steward on the Edge with pen and paper to hand so she was able to take down the registration numbers. A passing party of walkers also agreed to be witnesses.

It took almost a year for the case to get to court. One off-rover pleaded guilty at the last minute. The other was found guilty by the magistrates. The same two vehicles were also seen on Black Harry lane, which is a bridleway, during the pleasure ride. Many thanks to PC Simon Wolverson for pressing for prosecution.

Three important consultations for riders - please take part

1) Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at Stoney Middleton

Jacob's Ladder in Stoney Middleton is a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) heavily used by motor vehicles. It is a highly valued route for riders in the Stoney Middleton/Curbar/Calver area but now too dangerous for riders to use.

It is steep, has two blind bends, is very narrow and bounded on both sides by dry stone walls. 4x4s occupy the whole width of the track and there is nowhere to get out of the way of motor bikes.

It is so dangerous and unpleasant that local residents and horse riders have given up using it. Last year a resident was knocked down by a motor bike. The surface is very damaged.

The Parish Council has been pressing Derbyshire County Council (DCC) for a TRO for over 20 years. DCC is now doing a preliminary TRO consultation.

Please take part in the consultation and call for a TRO permanently excluding all types of motor vehicle as this has become one of the most dangerous routes in the Peak District. The consultation closes on 12 December. You can respond online at

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation_search/Consultation_search_index/proposal_to_introduce_a_traffic_regulation_order_at_stoney_middleton_byway.asp

2) **Repairs to Hurstclough Lane, Bamford**

Derbyshire County Council is consulting on its proposed repairs to Hurstclough Lane in Bamford. The lane has been very badly damaged by motor vehicles. The damage is so bad that the lane can no longer be used by horse riders and very is difficult for walkers.

The repairs will put in drainage, get rid of the ruts and resurface the track with road planings. This is the usual way in which DCC does repairs and it creates a good surface for horses.

Only a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) excluding motor vehicles will make the lane safe for riders, but the Peak District National Park Authority will not start work on a TRO until the route has been repaired. (When it once did a TRO consultation prior to repairs, it had to run the consultation all over again as the repairs meant the character of the route had changed mid-stream). The consultation closes on 28 November. You can respond online at

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation_search/Consultation_search_index/hurstclough_lane.asp

3) **Chapel Gate repairs**

Derbyshire County Council is doing a second consultation on repairs to the section of Chapel Gate which is currently impassable on horseback. This is an important route in the Chapel/Edale area and is part of the Kinder Loop long distance riding route created by Peak Horsepower.

It has been unusable with a horse for over a year since DCC interrupted its original repair plan following complaints from mountain bikers.

The proposed repairs will create a surface which horse riders can safely use and put in drainage. Please take part in the consultation and support the repairs. The consultation closes on 28 November. It is by email via

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation_search/Consultation_search_index/chapel-en-le-frith_byway.asp

Tansley Trotters do the South Peak Loop

We had some lovely feedback from Penny, Fleur, Caroline and Dave of the 'Tansley Trotters' who rode the South Peak Loop over four days in August.

They said the Loop was 'fantastic' with breathtaking views and places they had never seen before and that 'the whole 70 miles was a joy to ride' If you want to find out about the ride, there are maps, a written guide and details of B&Bs and horse accommodation on the Peak Horsepower website at www.peakhorsepower.co.uk/south-peak-loop/4591186779

Access4riders bridleway clearances

This summer the Access4riders group has done masses of clearing on three bridleways, putting in around 114 man hours in total.

- Cartledge Lane, Holmesfield to Highlightley Lane, Barlow (over a mile long) has taken four outings, totalling around 85 man hours. There are still four elements that need a chainsaw and I am waiting for a guy with appropriate certificates to be free to do this for us. The photo shows the after picture. We forgot to take a before photo, but the only way through this part was squashed against the wall due to all the holly trees on the left hanging so low down over the path even pedestrians had to duck and dive.
- Gateland Lane, Barlow was another path. This took about 22 man hours. This is the after picture. Prior to the cutback, you couldn't even see the entrance!
- Sid Lane, Millthorpe. This only needed about seven man hours on a very short but exceedingly overgrown stretch.

Access4riders forthcoming events

- 9 Nov 2016, Wednesday 7.45pm: Vet Talk – winter issues (colic, skin, COPD, Cushings/Equine Metabolic Syndrome) The Tickled Trout, Barlow S18 7SL
- 2 Dec 2016, Friday Xmas Social
- 18 Jan 2017, Wednesday AGM
- 5 Feb 2017, Sunday Equestrian Table Top Sale
- 3 Sep 2017, Sunday Pleasure Ride Eastern Moors

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Access4riders>

Become a first aider with BHS training

Everyone involved with horses needs to know how to administer first aid, and every professional needs a recognised up-to-date first aid qualification (a prerequisite for being included on the register of instructors).

BHS first aid courses provide a basic overview and focus on injuries most likely to be sustained while handling and riding horses. The course is aimed at anyone involved with horses and will also teach you what to do if you are first on the scene of an accident.

Accredited professional coaches can book a course free of charge.

The BHS Two-Day Initial First Aid Course

This two-day course is for anyone who has had no first aid training, or whose qualification has lapsed. On completion you receive an ID card and/or certificate of achievement valid for two years. For official volunteers with the BHS, the cost is £70.

After completing this, every two years you will then need:

The BHS One-Day Refresher First Aid Course

This is for everyone who needs to update their first aid qualification. This is required every two years and is necessary for registered instructors, unless they hold an up-to-date Health and Safety Executive (HSE) first aid at work certificate.

Anyone applying for a place on a one-day refresher course has to provide evidence of previous attendance at a first aid at work or BHS first aid course. If this has lapsed, they will need to attend a two day BHS first aid initial course.

For more information: <http://www.bhs.org.uk/education/training-courses/find-training-courses/courses/first-aid> or contact the BHS team on 02476 840565.

Talks on new forest trail around Matlock

Madbag (Matlock and District Bridleways Access Group) is involved in positive discussions with the Forestry Commission concerning the linking of forests in the Matlock area to create a trail for mainly off-road riding.

The scheme would include a parking area for horse trailers and boxes. If successful the trail would be a stepping stone to allowing bridleways in the surrounding areas to link in and thereby open up potential for improved safer routes in the wider vicinity.

There is much work to be done but the proposed ideology has the approval of the Derbyshire County Council.

Can you help with bridleway claim at public inquiry?

**Public Inquiry into upgrade from Footpath to Bridleway
Ashover Parish: Footpath 50 Marsh Green
13-14 December
Ashover Village Hall**

The rights of way on this very important link path connecting Ashover to Uppertown, Vernon Lane and the Matlock Forest were called into question in 2008 when a new landowner moved to Marsh Green and began to confront horse riders using the track.

As many as 35 user evidence forms were collated by local residents giving an impressive continuous and unchallenged use by equestrians for the 20 year period starting from 1988.

Derbyshire County Council Public Rights of Way Legal Team is now contacting those contributors for witness statements. Unfortunately, because of complications in the legal process, an eight-year time lapse has resulted in one elderly witness being deceased and others moving out of the area.

In 2013 the landowner erected three gates and an unguarded cattle grid with narrow pedestrian access, without Highways Authority permission, to deter horse riders.

If this track is lost as a bridleway, equestrians and cyclists have to either ride along ½ mile of the busy and twisting B6036 or 300 metres of the A632 to get to the safest crossing point at Kelstedge.

If you rode this path in the past, especially between 1988-2008, and would like to make a witness statement and/or attend the Public Inquiry please contact me on:

kjhaywood@btinternet.com

More details: <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/uploads/order-and-notice-41156.pdf>

Chatsworth latches on to rider-friendly gates

Latches have now been fitted to all gates on the bridleway which traverses the Chatsworth Estate, enabling riders to open and close the gates whilst mounted.

Initially there had been a problem where some of the gates had dropped but this has now been remedied. Parking of trailers and horseboxes is available at Calton Lees car park for £5 per vehicle.

Alport pleasure ride raises £300

On Sunday 21st August, 41 riders enjoyed Peak Horsepower's pleasure ride around the lanes and bridleways near Youlgreave, Elton and Middleton. There was special permission to ride down beautiful Bradford Dale making it a glorious route.

Despite a deluge the day before, it was mostly dry on the day of the ride and everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to all the riders enjoying themselves, Peak Horsepower was able to make donations of £150 each to the British Horse Society's Welfare Fund and the Peak District National Park's Access Fund.

Many thanks to Charlotte and Charlie Gilbert for letting us use their field.

Time for a cuppa at Parsley Hay?

A hitching rail has been installed at Parsley Hay; so you can now enjoy riding the Tissington and High Peak trails and stop to enjoy the facilities while your horse is safely tied up at the rail, waiting quietly for you (hopefully!)

We'd like to thank the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).

Emma Stone, the PDNPA's trails manager said: "This facility has been requested by a number of riders so I hope to see it being put to regular use. We are always listening to feedback from users and try to improve facilities wherever possible."

Send feedback to emma.stone@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Please also let Peak Horsepower have any feedback on the rail, and don't forget to have a piece of baler twine handy to tether your horse.

BHS - free leaflets and advice

This year the BHS (British Horse Society) have updated all their access and bridleway leaflets ensuring that the information is current. The leaflets are free to download and available at <http://www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/free-leaflets-and-advice>

Always dial 101

Please remember to report to police any dangerous incidents you see involving motorbikes, quads and 4x4 vehicles, or if you see them using bridleways or restricted byways. Taking a motor vehicle onto a bridleway or restricted byway is illegal. Just dial 101. Always ask for an incident number – without one your complaint doesn't make it into the statistics.

Peak Horsepower committee

Peak Horsepower now has more than 350 members, and all are invited to the Annual Meeting when a new committee will be elected for the forthcoming year.

The meeting is on 15th November at the Wheatsheaf pub, Bakewell, 7.30pm.

Current committee members are:

Wendy Neilson (*Chair*)

Sue Dunk (*Treasurer*)

Sue Mayer (*Secretary*)

Charlotte Gilbert

Christine Harding

Karen Haywood (*MADBAG*)

Patricia Stubbs (*Green Lanes*)

Diane Tranter

Ally Turner

Felicity Edmeston

Claire Brooks (*Access4riders*)

Kath Stoney (*Hope Valley Riding Club*)

Louisa Wilson (*SPEED*)

Peter Cooper (*SPEED*)

Steve Rhodes (*SPEED*)

Margaret Slater (*MADBAG*)

Angela Santos Rosa (*Chapel & District Riding Club*)

Representatives of all the riding clubs and groups affiliated to Peak Horsepower receive agendas and minutes and can also attend committee meetings.

Links to useful publications:

[Pedal Peak II Newsletters](#)

[Local Access Forum Newsletter](#)

[Waymark magazine \(Institute of Public Rights of Way\)](#)

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Twitter: @Peak_horsepower

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