

## 5. Keep to the defined track

There is no public right to drive away from a road on to common land, moorland or fell. Cutting off corners can lead to severe erosion problems.

There may be features close to a track, such as old mine workings and spoil heaps, which look interesting. These are often important for the plant communities they contain or their historical features. Mine spoil supports a unique range of plants which are able to tolerate the high levels of toxic metals, including rare species such as the white flowers of spring sandwort.

## 6. Be aware of how the weather and seasons affect routes

Exercise restraint in the use of unsurfaced routes during the winter months and at other times of the year after heavy rainfall, as this is when damage to vegetation and soft surfaces is most likely. Softer areas are not just more vulnerable to damage but are also often very important habitats such as blanket bog and wet flushes.

## 7. Help protect wildlife

The Yorkshire Dales is an important habitat for many breeding birds and other wildlife. Take particular care in spring and early summer. Many of these breeding birds nest on the ground and so are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. This includes lapwing, curlew, skylark, red grouse and oyster catchers. On the moorland areas the upland heath habitat also supports rare breeding birds including merlin, black grouse and golden plover.



# Trail Riding in the Yorkshire Dales

For up to date information visit:  
[www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/  
green\\_lane\\_management](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/green_lane_management)

0870 1 666333

Remember if you can't ride legally and responsibly, then don't ride at all



This leaflet can be supplied in large print or CD-Rom formats on request. Please contact the Communications Officer on 0870 1 666333.

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# Help protect this area and your sport

The Yorkshire Dales is an attractive and exciting place for outdoor recreation. It is also an internationally important landscape that contains the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These are both special places designated for their scenic qualities, wildlife and the opportunities they afford for quiet recreation.

The use of motor vehicles on the unsurfaced routes and 'green lanes' of the Yorkshire Dales is a source of great concern for residents and visitors alike because of the potential damage to the environment, as well as noise and conflict with other users.

Trail riding needs to be done responsibly and legally, and the police have prosecuted trail riders where they are using non-road legal bikes, or are in places they should not be. This has resulted in a number of motorbikes being confiscated, fixed penalty notices, and cautions. To avoid this happening to you, follow the advice in this leaflet.



## 1. Use only motor vehicular rights of way

Byways open to all traffic have proven rights for motor vehicles and unsurfaced unclassified county roads (UCR) may have rights for motor vehicles. It is illegal to ride on footpaths and bridleways or across open land unless you have permission from the landowner. If in doubt, check with the National Park Authority or county council. The use of some routes has been suspended by Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). You must obey the signs at the start of these routes showing the limitations on use.



## 2. Make sure that you and your vehicle are fully road-legal

Byways and unsurfaced UCRs are subject to the same laws as surfaced roads. That means road tax, MOT, insurance, licence, visible number plate, road legal tyres and exhaust, a helmet and being of the minimum age are required.

## 3. Respect the life of the countryside

Be courteous to other users and landowners. Take great care when passing horses, cyclists and walkers, and be prepared to stop your engine if needed. Travelling at speed past people, doing wheelies, making noise or scarring the route surface is only likely to lead to restrictions. Leave gates as you find them, and take special care near sheep and livestock, particularly where they have young with them.



## 4. Travel at a quiet and unobtrusive pace

Travel slowly and in small groups (recommended maximum is six motorcycles per group). Split larger parties up and either use a different route or allow a good interval to elapse before following. Remember that others are seeking peace and tranquillity, and a sense of wildness away from motor traffic. Make sure you have enough time to get back before dark because noise and lights are more likely to disturb wildlife and residents at night.

