

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

(VARIOUS GREEN LANES IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES) (PROHIBITION OF MECHANICALLY PROPELLED VEHICLES)

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS 2008 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (as amended)

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR BARTH BRIDGE TO GARSDALE

The proposal is to make an Order that will have the effect of prohibiting use by recreational mechanically propelled vehicles (motor vehicles), seven days a week, 24 hours a day, along the route running from close to Barth Bridge in Dentdale through to Garsdale, a distance of approximately 2.6km (with an additional 1.5km spur route). The Order would be for purposes of the prevention of damage to the road, and conserving the natural beauty of the area through which the route passes.

The prevention of damage to the road: this route is largely a vegetation surface, over peat, much is sphagnum bog habitat which has naturally poor drainage, and retains water at any time of year. Increased use by motor vehicles would lead to significant and serious damage, particularly if this use was in wet conditions. The relatively low level of use by motorcycles, recorded at the present time, is already causing obvious damage to the fragile surface vegetation. While an engineered solution could be found to enable the route to sustain use by recreational motor vehicles this would, in itself, significantly alter the landscape and ecological character of the route, and so this would be detrimental to the natural beauty of the route.

The natural beauty of the area the route runs through would be conserved by this Order; the landscape, natural and cultural heritage features are outstanding, and include habitat of national importance. The presence of recreational motor vehicles would detract from the experience of these features.

This is a cross fell route between Dentdale and Garsdale and is scenically spectacular; offering dramatic views of Coombe Scar, Great Coum and The Howgills. Much of the route is over undisturbed blanket bog vegetation, which is an important biodiversity habitat. Over much of its length the route is largely trackless adding to the feeling of wildness and landscape beauty of the area.

Cultural heritage features in the immediate vicinity of the route include an extensive quarrying and lime burning complex.

Further information about the amenity and natural beauty along the route can be found in the background report Barth Bridge to Garsdale Foot - Assessment report on the use of recreational motor vehicles – January 2008.