

Green lane driving and trail riding

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

PENNINE WAY

To 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.

For specific route and up to date information visit:
www.northyorks.gov.uk
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/greenlanesdriving
www.trailwise.org.uk

Published by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

To find out more:

Visit www.yorkshiredales.org.uk
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YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

one of Britain's breathing spaces



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.

Green lane driving needs to be done responsibly and legally, and the police have prosecuted trail riders and 4x4 drivers where they are using non-road legal vehicles, or are in places they should not be. To avoid this happening to you, follow the advice in this leaflet.

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/greenlanesdriving



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



1. Use only motor vehicular rights of way

Byways open to all traffic have proven rights for motor vehicles and routes listed only as unsurfaced unclassified roads (UUR) have possible, but unproven, rights for motor vehicles. It is illegal to ride on footpaths and bridleways or across open land unless you have permission from the landowner.

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. Be aware of how the weather and seasons affect routes

Exercise restraint in the use of unsealed routes 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.

3. Travel at a quiet and unobtrusive pace

Travel slowly and in small groups (recommended maximum is six motorcycles or four 4x4s 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.

4. 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, 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 livestock, particularly where they have young with them.

5. Keep to the defined track

There is no public right to drive away from a road on to common land, moorland or fell. The Yorkshire Dales is an important habitat for many breeding birds and other wildlife, and many of these breeding birds nest on the ground and so are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. Cutting off corners can lead to severe erosion problems. There may also 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 – they are not playgrounds.

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

Byways and UURs are subject to the same laws as surfaced roads. That means you need insurance, road tax, MOT, valid driving licence, visible number plate, road legal tyres and exhaust.