



Campaign to Protect Rural England North Yorkshire Branch

North Yorkshire County Council
via email to area3.whitby@northyorks.gov.uk
17 May 2017

Dear Sirs

Consultation regarding Seggimire Lane

CPRE North Yorkshire (CPRE) urges NYCC to close Seggimire Lane to all non-essential motor vehicles to protect this ancient green lane. We strongly support a permanent TRO prohibiting all recreational, non essential vehicles using the lane at any time.

This medieval Green Lane was not designed for motor bikes/trail bikes or 4WD's to use for fun. The Campaign to Protect Rural England North Yorkshire is anxious to see a permanent TRO in this area. The landscape has high environmental value and is a habitat for wildlife. Damage to historic lanes is unacceptable. Our role is to protect and enhance the historic environment. We note that Seggimire Lane is an ancient 'trod' paved in part with old flagstones within the North York Moors National Park.

The purpose of the National Park according to the Sandford Principle is:

conservation of the natural environment and
access for the public.

Considering the economic and social well-being of the community is also a duty which was subsequently introduced and applies to more recently-created parks). The purposes were amended by the Environment Act 1995. They are now, firstly, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and, secondly, to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

The Sandford Principle is often misquoted as "conservation has priority over recreation"; however, importantly, it is better summarised as, "where those two purposes cannot be reconciled by skilful management, conservation should come first".

The use of ancient green lanes by motorised vehicles discourages walkers and horse riding and thus prevents enjoyment and appreciation of ancient and historic lanes such as Seggimire Lane.

A permanent TRO on Seggimire Lane would ensure that conservation has priority *and* enables recreation such as walking and horse riding. A TRO would **increase** opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of this area by the public.

We strongly urge North Yorkshire County Council impose a permanent traffic regulation order on Seggimire Lane based on: protection and enhancement of tranquillity, protection of historic assets and safety of all users allowing the majority the opportunity to enjoy the National Park.

In this economic climate, maintenance of such assets is a necessarily lower priority for councils. Use of such a lane by motorised vehicles for pleasure creates further cost for upkeep. We note from the reports that several of the ancient flags have been removed and “thrown to the verge”. It is logical that the use of motor vehicles for pleasure on this ancient lane be prohibited to prevent further damage and increase costs in up keep for the authorities.

In the Peak District National Park, self regulation has been proved totally unsuccessful. In 2013, the National Park and Derbyshire County Council were faced with extensive repair bills. One lane alone had £75,000 spent on repairs and a further £230,000 was needed the same year.

Please do not hesitate to contact CPRENY should you wish to discuss our comments further.

Yours Sincerely

Jules Marley
Chair

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