

Richard Leafe
Lake District National Park Authority
Murley Moss
Kendal
LA9 7RL

Cumbria TRF Group
c/o 38 Collin Road
Kendal
LA9 5LH

23.09.09

cc by email, Colton Parish Council, Cumbria Countryside Access MPV Sub Group

Dear Mr Leafe,

Cumbria TRF Group have been informed of the communication to you from Colton Parish Council. This was copied by Colton PC to Steve Pighills, who represents Cumbria TRF Group on the CCA MPV Sub Group, of which he is Chairman. He is also our Rights of Way Officer.

To take the letter's second point first, Cumbria TRF are pleased and encouraged by the request for a pilot cooperative scheme to repair routes in the Parish. Cumbria TRF has a long history of working with, and cooperating with, LDNPA on repair schemes on routes used by MPVs, and engaging other MPV users to participate also.

Like the MPV Sub Group, we have become frustrated by the seeming inability for such work to be undertaken on UCRs, where Cumbria CC Highways are the responsible body; they claim "no available budget", and have no mechanism for working with volunteers.

We would greatly appreciate anything you can do to help facilitate the scheme proposed by Colton, and would be eager to participate as volunteers, which we know is also the case for other MPV user groups such as the Green Lanes Association and North Lakes 4x4 Club.

Whilst we feel that Lakeland levels of rainfall and absence of maintenance are the real culprits for deterioration of these routes we recognise that, as users, we have a duty to put something back.

Regarding the first point in Colton's letter, Cumbria TRF resist a TRO on the High Nibthwaite to Parkamoor UCR5051 on the basis that it would not really be a temporary one as there is little prospect of the level of repair suggested ever taking place. If smaller levels of repair can be achieved, and a settling period is required, then we would of course support a TRO applied in a similar way to those which have been used on Gatesgarth.

We think that water is the principle culprit on the Parkamoor route and that removing MPVs' rights to use it will not change things materially.

What is urgent to tackle on this route is an area towards the top of the steep sections where some misguided motorcyclists have been cutting a hairpin corner (maybe in the same way that walkers have done on high fell zig zag paths since time immemorial) and causing serious damage to the land close by. David Robinson did organize work in this area some years ago, and we would now propose that we undertake, with Tony Hill's supervision, to repair the current off track damage, and stop it's re-occurring by incorporating some clear, but environmentally and aesthetically acceptable edge-of-line deliniation. Since the work would be off track it should not impinge upon Highways responsibility.

We hope that you find this letter to be constructive and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Harris (Secretary, Cumbria TRF Group)