



THE TRAILS TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1094139

www.thetrailstrust.org.uk

The Charity that creates access to the countryside for all - on foot, bicycle or by horse

Patrons : The Lord Hylton, The Rt Hon the Lord Waldegrave of North Hill PC.
President : Angela Yeoman OBE DL

Report of the Trustees for the year ending March 2019

The TTT Board is very pleased to report that the Trust has continued with its work of protecting countryside recreational routes for all users and providing support to others locally and nationally.

National News

HAC UK

In 2018 TTT joined forces with a number of concerned individual equestrians and national bodies to form the Horse Access Campaign UK (HAC UK) - the vision being to create a single voice for horse access and to create a single powerful campaign lobby to demonstrate that horse riders and carriage drivers are not the minority they are perceived to be. All riders and carriage drivers concerned with the lack of access for horses are asked to join this national lobby campaign to support, encourage, educate and inspire all those working to create the network and to share information, updates, experiences, lobby and ask questions. HAC UK has 2855 social media (facebook) members from all over the country, is administered jointly between a number of national groups and is so far proving to be a great success.

Agriculture Bill

The provisions of the bill provide for new environmental subsidy schemes and will seek to deliver the Government's 25 year environmental plan - replacing the Common Agriculture policy, as the UK leaves the European Union. TTT has responded in depth to all the stages including to the scrutiny committee, thus far, making the case for a joined up safer route and minor road network open to all non-motorised users. Following the call from Defra (Department for Environment and Rural Affairs) for trial ideas, TTT has submitted a green infrastructure trial jointly with the Mendip Hills AONM unit. The trial, if the bid is successful, will test the willingness of landowners and land managers to provide permanent access where it is needed.

House of Lords - historic rights of way debate.

TTT lobbied Lord Greaves, who led the debate, and a number of other members of the House of Lords. TTT was consequently mentioned in the House, along with other national organisations. HOL members debated the importance of historic rights of way and the impact of the 2026 cut-off date, which will see the Definitive Map closed to further applications based on historic evidence. TTT's involvement led to a meeting with Lord Randall (advisor on the environment to the Prime Minister) at 10 Downing Street to discuss the issues surrounding the lack of joined up access and how this impacts particularly on horse riders and carriage drivers.

Sustrans

The cycling charity Sustrans has set up national and regional committees to resolve issues with the NCN (national cycle network) and to open it up to more user groups. TTT was pleased to be offered a seat on the Southern Committee and are very pleased to report that member Janice Bridger is representing TTT along with the British Horse Society and the Horse Access Campaign UK.

TTT Website

Trustees: Chairman – Keith Reynolds, Sally Whittaker, Jennifer Ham BHSI, MAE,
Sheila Petherbridge MIPROW, Amy Reynolds

Company Secretary: Amy Reynolds. Registered Company Address: Virginia Cottage, Upper Vobster, Radstock, BA3 3SA

TTT is a Company limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales No 3637593.



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Following TTT's policy of national involvement in access matters the website has been revamped to reflect this. A number of papers, that TTT hopes will help groups and individuals, seeking to create access through negotiation, is free to download. Go to www.thetrailstrust.org

Social Media: Facebook

The TTT facebook page continues to be well followed. Chairman Keith Reynolds is planning a different competition this year, so members should look out for that.

Recording local Mendip Dedicated routes

Somerset County Council Rights of Way Officers have indicated that they will process the public unrecorded bridleways dedicated between 2006 – 2009, onto the Definitive Map. They intend following the 2011 advice given by Defra to Natural England on using the express dedication method. Therefore we will be working through these routes and hope to avoid having to make applications:-

Murder Combe and Bedlam (Great Elm / Whatley), Mendip Farm (Stoke St Michael), Pen Hill (St Cuthbert Out), Bennetts Lane (Binegar), Shearmoor Wood (Leigh on Mendip), Shipham Hill (Shipham) and Tuttors Hill (Cheddar). Riders who use these routes are asked to ensure they have submitted a user declaration to TTT or MBBA as it is imperative to prove public acceptance of these routes. You can also post photos and comments of your use on Facebook on either the Mendip Bridleways and Byways or TTT page.

Permissive Routes in the Mendip area

TTT continues to work in partnership with Mendip Bridleways and Byways Association (MBBA) to secure the long term future of these routes in terms of maintenance and insurance. So far MBBA has taken on the Yoxter Ranges licence and the permissive routes in Priddy and Chewton Mendip (Waldegrave Estate and and Yeo valley routes).

Three bridleways in the Hemington and Kilmersdon area are next to be assessed and that should be done in summer 2019.

Funding

The funding climate has continued to be difficult. However TTT is very grateful that the project and administration officer position continued to be supported by another very welcome donation in 2018 by our kind benefactor Mr William Scott. However in 2019 this has come to a close. TTT is very grateful for Mr Scott's support over some difficult years. The trustees will be discussing how TTT now goes forward in the future.

Trustees

The Trustees that served the Trust for the 2018 – 2019 were Keith Reynolds , taking over the Chairmanship from William Reddaway, Sally Whittaker, Angela Yeoman OBE DL, Jennifer Ham, Sheila Petherbridge and Amy Reynolds taking over the Company Secretary and responsibility for the accounts from Rick Tobiasson Rachel Thompson MBE continues in the role of project officer. TTT is very sad to say goodbye to trustees William Reddaway and Rick Tobiasson, both of whom have served and supported TTT so well for many years, thank you both so much.

TTT would like to thank all those who continue to support the work of the Trust through membership, the collection of evidence or any other assistance.

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