

Notes from Ridgeway Delivery Group Zoom meeting 13th September 2021

1. Managing vehicles on the Trail

Discussion on Poacher Blocks recognised that landowners required effective barriers to illegal use by motorised vehicles. However, there was real nervousness in their use on the Trail. There is the danger of walkers tripping and possibly injury from the solid and sharp edges of the concrete. Interestingly this hazard is one of the key reasons that the Kent Gap is now not recommended. It seems people don't look where they put their feet these days.

For equestrians the issues are similar, plus the reluctance of some horses not wishing to cross the concrete. For the carriage driver, the concrete poses an unwelcome 'bump' in the surface as well as the height of the central blocks. The BHS is very much against them on a public Right of Way used by ridden or driven horses.

2. Ridgeway Driving Leaflet

The final version was discussed and approved. It is aimed at the motorised user and provides best practice. Printed copies will be used by the police to hand out. However the general consensus was that whilst having a leaflet was better than nothing, it is unlikely to have a great impact as the irresponsible won't read it. The Ridgeway Delivery Group will distribute it to trail rider organisations etc. PDFs for electronic distribution is favoured as the leaflet can then be attached to electronic communications across several social media platforms. One thought was the leaflet itself should be bigger than the folded A4 version.

3. Ridgeway Riding Route and Wendover HS2 re-surfacing issues.

The discussion was in praise of the work being done and moved to signage to mitigate against poor behaviour on the steep hill and blind bend, particularly by speeding cyclists and their lack of consideration of other users. A number of signs were reviewed and a number chosen to take forward.