

The 'Green Lanes' of Wiltshire

**A guide to those vehicular
rights of way which are
available to users
in Wiltshire.**



Introduction

Wiltshire has many kilometres of 'green lanes', or as they should be more correctly called 'vehicular rights of way'. The use of these by motorcycles and 4 x 4 vehicles has become a contentious issue in recent years because of the intrusion of vehicles into the rural scene, and also because of the damage excessive use and thoughtless behaviour can cause to paths in unsuitable weather.

Rather than try to prohibit or restrict use, and thus potentially cause problems of trespass, the County Council is trying to encourage drivers and riders to a) use only those paths where they are legally permitted and b) to do so responsibly.

Please follow the advice in this leaflet. If voluntary restraint does not succeed, then the County Council may have to take more formal action which could result in loss of access.

Plan your route

- 1) Use only those paths which have **public** vehicular rights. Many lanes look very attractive but may be footpaths or bridleways only. The map in this leaflet shows which ones are legally available and are recommended for use by drivers and riders. Please read this in conjunction with OS. 1:50,000 sheets No's 173, 174, 183, 184 which cover Wiltshire. For further advice contact the numbers shown in the leaflet.
- 2) Please bear in mind weather conditions. In wet weather, those paths in clay areas become very soft and irreparable damage can be caused. **PLEASE STAY OFF THESE.** Clay occurs mainly in the north of the County - see map.
- 3) Remember - you only have the right to 'pass on a journey'. You do **not** have the right to deliberately cause damage, to deliberately practice 'recovery' techniques, or to hold competitions. There is a considerable difference between 'fair wear and tear' caused by responsible use, and the severe damage caused by thoughtless use in bad conditions. If tracks become damaged in this way, the County Council may take steps to close paths.
- 4) Remember - all public rights of way are highways and are subject to the Road Traffic Acts. All vehicles and motorcycles must be taxed, tested, insured and suitable for road use.



Salisbury Plain

A good number of vehicular rights of way exist over the Army firing ranges on Salisbury Plain, and these are subject to their own bye-laws. When red flags are flying **do not enter the danger areas**. Always pay attention to the Army range notices and take care not to drive off the tracks and onto open ground.

For further advice contact: HQ Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA),
Westdown Camp,
Tilshead,
Nr Salisbury.

Maintenance

This leaflet is part of an initiative to encourage all users to enjoy the countryside. There is concern that vehicles damage unsurfaced paths by inconsiderate use. If you see examples of this, please report such actions – with registration numbers, to the Rights of Way Wardens. We want to keep the paths in a fit condition for all to enjoy and all can play a part in this. The County Council welcomes voluntary help for clearance works and repairing surfaces. If you would wish to help, please contact a Rights of Way Warden for your local area.

Roads used as Public Paths (RUPP's)

Wiltshire still has a number of RUPP's still to be reclassified as Byway, Bridleway and footpath. These are in the South of the County. Please remember vehicle users do not have an automatic right to drive on these. Indeed a great many may not have vehicular rights. Others may not be suitable and environmental damage may be caused which will lead the County Council to implement Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's)

It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle on a footpath or bridleway without lawful authority and the County Council and the Police will prosecute offenders.

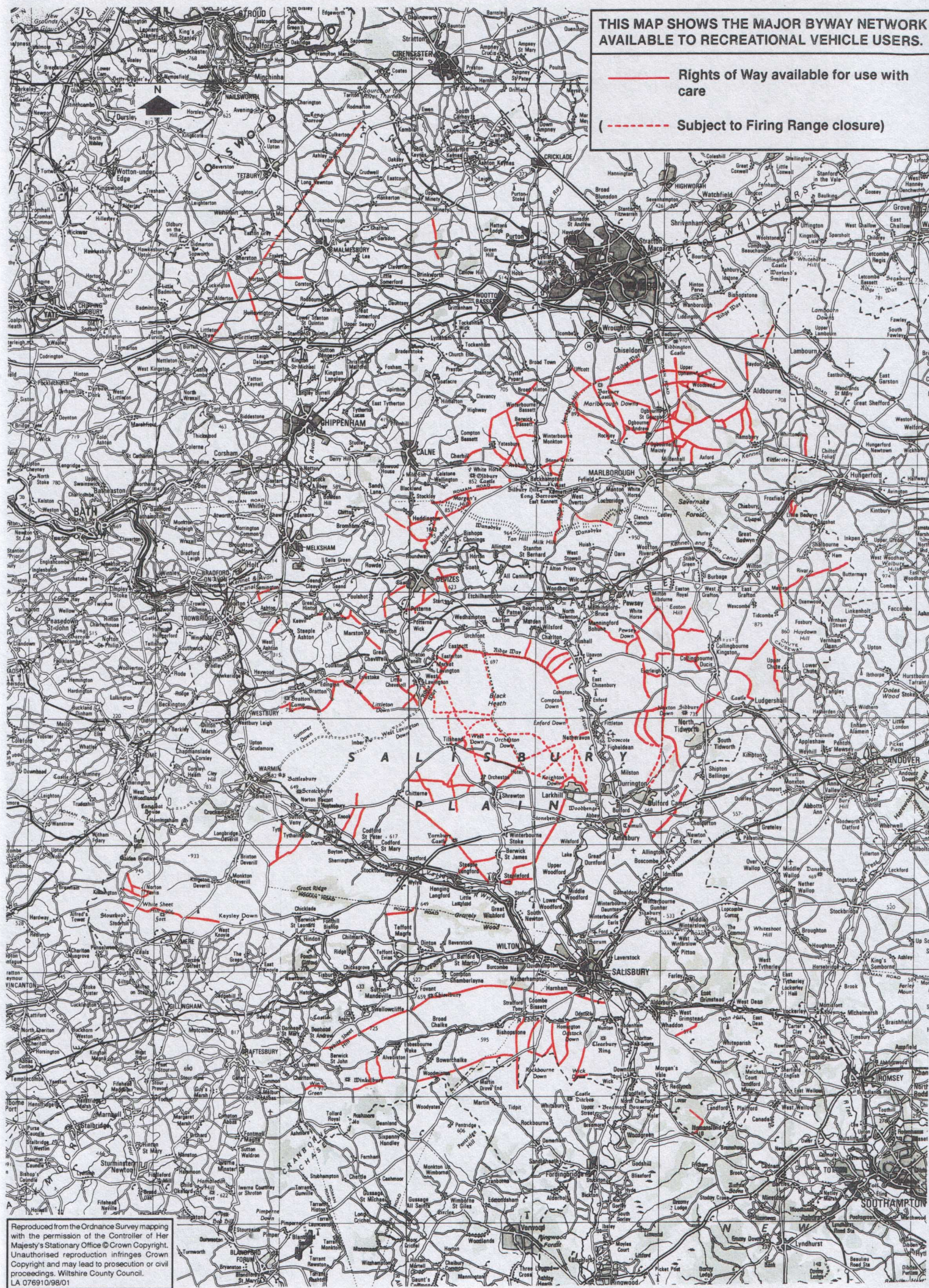
Weather Emergency

Wiltshire is a rural county with a relatively small population. Considerable disruption can be caused by severe weather conditions such as deep snow. At such times the County Council may need volunteer drivers of 4x4 vehicles to provide transport for highway supervisors. If you live in the County, own a 4x4 and would be willing to help out, we would like to hear from you.

Interested? – Contact: Highways Maintenance Section,
Environmental Services Department,
County Hall,
Trowbridge,
Tel. (01225) 713376

THIS MAP SHOWS THE MAJOR BYWAY NETWORK AVAILABLE TO RECREATIONAL VEHICLE USERS.

- Rights of Way available for use with care
- (- - -) Subject to Firing Range closure



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Driving

- 1) Never go alone! You may need help if you breakdown/get stuck.
- 2) Please - no more than 4 vehicles or 6 motorcycles to a group.
- 3) Drive slowly and considerately. Please stop and turn off engines when meeting horses.
- 4) Keep to the 'used' parts of the track to avoid causing extra wear on a path surface and damaging vegetation.
- 5) Do not drive beyond your capabilities, or those of your vehicle.
(Consider taking a course at a training school to brush up your skills).
- 6) Watch out for, and respect, temporary voluntary restraints.
- 7) Please respect other users of these paths, eg walkers.
- 8) Pay attention to '*the Four Ws*' ~ **Weather**: Do not travel on green roads when they risk being damaged beyond a point of natural recovery when the weather improves. **Weight**: Do not use roads which may be seriously damaged by the wheel pressure of your vehicle. (L.A.R.A. does not support use of vehicles over 3.5 tons on green roads.) **Width**: Do not use roads which are too narrow for your vehicle. Avoid damage to trees, hedges and boundaries. **Winches**: Use only when unavoidable. Always avoid damage to trees, walls, and surface while recovering.

HAVE FUN, ENJOY WILTSHIRE'S COUNTRYSIDE, AND BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

Contacts

General Advice : Rights of Way Section, Environmental Services Department, County Hall, Trowbridge. (01225) - 713349, or 713345.

Maintenance/ : **Northern Area**
Obstructions COLIN LOVELOCK
Area Highway Office,
Marlborough Road,
Wootton Bassett, SN4 7EP.
Tel: Swindon (01793) 853660

Western Area
JIM GOODING
Area Highway Office,
Lancaster Road,
Melksham, SN12 6DH.
Tel: Melksham (01225) 702649

Southern Area
NICK COWEN
Area Highway Office,
The Avenue,
Wilton, SP2 0BT.
Tel: Salisbury (01722) 743517

Eastern Area
ESTHER DALY
Area Highway Office,
Salisbury Road,
Marlborough, SN8 4AE
Tel: Marlborough (01672) 516220



Wiltshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

THE COUNTY COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL. PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY PROBLEMS OR DIFFICULTIES.