

The Drivers' Countryside Code of Conduct.

1. Use only vehicular rights of way - not all green roads have rights for motor vehicles.
2. Keep to the defined track. Detour only to pass immovable obstructions. Report obstructions, (including low branches) to the highway authority. If the route is not obvious on the ground, ask locally, or check the details held at highway authority offices,
3. Travel at a quiet and unobtrusive pace and when travelling in groups, keep to a small number.
4. Ensure that your vehicle and yourself are fully road-legal. Green roads are subject to the same laws as surfaced roads. There is no public right to drive on common land, moorland, sand dunes, or beach.
5. 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 applied by your vehicle.
Width: Do not use roads that are too narrow for your vehicle. Avoid damage to trees, hedgerows and boundaries.
Winches: The use of winches on green roads is inappropriate and should not be required.
6. Respect the life of the countryside. Be courteous to other road users, including walkers and take great care when passing horses. Be prepared to stop your engine if needed. Always leave gates as you find them and take care near livestock.
7. Remember that wildlife faces many threats, and green roads can be valuable habitats. Take special care in spring and early summer.

Rights of Way

You have a legal right to use Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) and most Unclassified Roads (UCRs). All Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs) have become Restricted Byways (RBs) following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoWA).] Locally, a few RBs may have retained their motor vehicular rights, but check with the appropriate authority before driving.

Some vehicular rights of way may also have been closed to mechanically propelled vehicles by Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). Where lawful signs are in place, it is an offence to disregard them.

Do not assume that Ordnance Survey maps give correct information on rights of way. Many maps contain out of date information, especially with regard to RUPPs. Other routes with public rights will also be missing.

Recent OS maps may indicate UCRs as 'Other routes with public access' but do not assume that these or any other minor road or track has vehicular rights: better to check status than risk prosecution.

Voluntary Restraint

In addition to the ALRC Code of Conduct, LARA operates a scheme of 'voluntary restraint' as an alternative to more formal measures to help to solve problems on green roads. Information about the scheme are on the LARA website www.laragb.org. Recreational motor vehicle users are asked to abide by the spirit of 'voluntary restraint'.