

The LARA Scheme of Wet Weather Voluntary Restraint.

For many years LARA has operated a system of agreed 'Voluntary Restraint' whereby users of byways (BOATs and unsealed unclassified roads) and the local authority come together, where circumstances make this appropriate, to provide a quick & cost-effective means of temporary traffic management. The Voluntary Restraint scheme relies on its being respected because it is applied only where there is a genuine need, with the agreement of all affected parties, and is removed as soon as the problem is sorted.

In recent years, weather patterns have changed such that waterlogging of unsealed routes has become more common, and lasts longer, with the consequence of increased vulnerability to surface damage from traffic (not only recreational motor traffic). LARA has considered this situation and has implemented a simplified version of the existing Voluntary Restraint scheme for use only in cases of temporary waterlogging of routes (flooding is just an extreme form of waterlogging).

This is not a substitute for adequate drainage and the provision of 'sun and wind' to a route, but is intended to apply where freak and temporary weather conditions have led to the particular problem, and where continued traffic impact is likely to make the problem last longer.

As with the Voluntary Restraint scheme, LARA will list all routes affected on this website, and will supply printed LARA signage for local encapsulation and erection by, or with the approval of, the highway authority. The request for Wet Weather Restraint on a route has to come to LARA from the highway authority, with sufficient background information on location, type of problem, and estimated duration of restraint.

Any Wet Weather Restraint will be time-limited to four weeks, but can be renewed, or converted into a full Voluntary Restraint, by agreement. The Wet Weather Voluntary Restraint scheme is based on trust and goodwill on all sides.

To register a route for the Wet Weather Voluntary Restraint scheme, please send details to LARA at: LARA, PO Box 142, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5YP

