DATE 08 March 2024

Your Reference:

Our Reference: TPMG/SDT

Subject: Cancellation of Surveys on Tilberthwaite Unsealed Road

Dear Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group member

As you know it had been agreed by the Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group that a series of face to face Attitudinal Surveys were to be carried out over the spring and summer months to augment the electronic vehicle counts on the route. The investment in time, effort and money in these surveys is to give as factually accurate and unbiased data as possible regarding the use of the road and the feelings of the users in relation to sharing it with others.

This data was to be used by the Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group (TPMG) to inform discussion and suggestions regarding the future management of the route and was to be a model for the Authority for other unsealed roads with the ultimate aim of giving a realistic overall use of the unsealed roads throughout the park.

Many of you had volunteered your time to work with staff from the National Park, National Trust and other stakeholder group representatives to carry out these professionally designed surveys. This meant we would be able to gather the data in a cost efficient manner, stakeholders had an opportunity to demonstrate their support for working collectively and constructively together and gain a knowledge and understanding first hand of the feelings and aspirations of a cross selection of users of the route thereby promoting understanding of challenges and opportunities for the future management of the Tilberthwaite routes and the wider network.

Frustratingly, the actions of an individual or individuals unknown on behalf of the Lake District Green Lanes Alliance (LDGLA) mean that we can no longer rely on the results of the surveys as being random, unbiased and therefore factually representative of the users of the route.

The actions involved placing certain information and appeals on the following websites;

[New Tilberthwaite Survey | savethelakedistrict](https://www.savethelakedistrict.com/new-tilberthwaite-survey)

[Petition update · Another survey on the Tilberthwaite track · Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/to-the-ceo-of-the-lake-district-national-park-authority-protect-the-lake-district-s-world-heritage-status-by-banning-4x4s/u/32274943)

We do not know if other actions have also been undertaken or planned. From the information published, should the called for actions be responded to, the survey results would have been skewed and unrepresentative . The Authority has concluded it has no option but to cancel the survey works as planned.

I appreciate that many of you will perhaps feel a breach of trust has been committed, but I hope you will remain committed to the collaborative working that we have all worked hard at establishing, and that if you are approached for comment on the cancellation of surveys as planned you will make clear the reasons why. We will be placing this information on the Tilberthwaite pages of our website so you may wish to direct any enquiries in relation to this to that site.

The LDNPA remains committed to gather the information required, as agreed by the TPMG, but this needs to be done differently and more expensively. Ultimately this requires the redirecting of additional valuable resources away from other work in the park to conserve and enhance the landscape and manage and promote its enjoyment.

We will carry out the necessary surveys but to a different pattern than originally planned. However, we will engage an independent consultant to do this to prevent a repeat of the damaging actions undertaken. The survey findings will be collated and interpreted by the consultant and will in due course be made available to the Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group.

We are saddened by having to take this course of action. However without dispassionate and unbiased data available to all to develop confidence in the facts, to build trust and understanding for the basis of honest and open debate and garner agreement and support for proposed management arrangements, there would be little hope of addressing this issue in a timely and constructive manner.

Thank you once again to those of you have offered your time and support freely, we hope to be able to harness that positivity soon. If, as a member of the TPMG, you have any questions on this matter please address them in the first instance to Sara Spicer, but any general enquiries from members of the public will be directed to our website pages as we are not in a position to answer significant numbers of individual enquiries.

Yours sincerely

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