
4x4 issues are probed

THE issue of 4x4 vehicles using 'green lanes' in the heart of Cumbria is currently being examined, the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) has confirmed.

Concerns have long been expressed over the effect of 4x4s and motorcycles on such unsealed routes with two in particular, at Tilberthwaite and High Oxen Fell in the Langdale area, under increasing scrutiny after claims both are now badly damaged.

And this week the National Trust issued a statement saying in its view, such use "causes harm to the recognised Special Qualities of the National Park.

"We believe that the use of recreational 4x4s and motorbikes around Tilberthwaite and High Oxen Fell is unacceptable," said the statement.

The trust goes on to say it will now recommend the application of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to the LDNPA, which would effectively exclude rec-

reational motor vehicles from these green lanes.

A spokesperson for the LDNPA said it was aware of the issues and was gathering evidence for a report which will be scrutinised by the organisation's Rights of Way Committee in October.

The LDNPA pointed out that current Defra guidance stressed that the application of TROs was a 'last resort' and other management options should initially be investigated.