



Surrey Hills National Landscape

Joint Advisory Committee for the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
5th March 2025

PROCEDURAL MATTERS – PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 1. Public Question submitted by Gareth Jex, Surrey 4X4 Tours and Training and Green Laners Association (Glass) Surrey representative**

Dear Chair

On behalf of the responsible off-road community and members of the Surrey Countryside Access Forum, I am writing to draw your attention to the activities of a small minority of users who do countless damage to the Hindhead Commons, Devils Punchbowl and the surrounding Surrey Hills countryside.

There is plenty of video evidence of the damage that has been informed to Surrey Police with number plates visible off-piste plus detective work has identified number plates of their vans at car parks where activities are started.

Here is an example of one of the many videos published online: [Enduro Surrey Hills Legal Byways Part 2](#) . Most video evidence is daytime, but we understand that they visit at night. This evidence dates back almost 11 months and continues. Within the videos are also clips of illegal trespassing on Frensham Common.

When clear evidence like this exists, we believe it is vital that action is taken and broadly publicised to deter others.

Please can the Surrey Hills Board take some higher-level intervention that will lead to definitive Police action being taken?

Reply:

Dear Gareth

Many thanks for your question. We do acknowledge the terrible damage that can be done by motorised vehicles in the countryside when acting illegally and unchecked and appreciate the support of the community in collecting evidence about illegal activity such as this.

The video is really alarming, especially as the text beneath the clip encourages other riders to come to the Surrey Hills for the same activity. Your detective work in identifying the groups causing the damage and even having the audacity to promote this activity as 'Legal' is commendable when it clearly contravenes Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. We

agree completely that this kind of illegal activity is unacceptable in the Surrey Hills National Landscape.

On behalf of the Surrey Hills Board, I will write to Surrey Police to ask them to investigate this matter, and to take appropriate action. Not least, this video and others like it should be removed from Youtube as soon as possible.

Your sincerely

Kathy Atkinson
Independent Chair, Surrey Hills National Landscape Board
3 March 2025