

Drivers' Countryside Code of Conduct

1. Show consideration for others

Be courteous to all other users, and take care when passing horses, cyclists, walkers and any livestock. Be prepared to stop your engine if needed. Travel at a quiet and unobtrusive pace and only in small groups.

2. Keep to the defined track

and do not widen it in any way. Deviate only to pass immovable obstructions. Report obstructions to the highways authority.

3. Ensure that you and your vehicle are fully road-legal

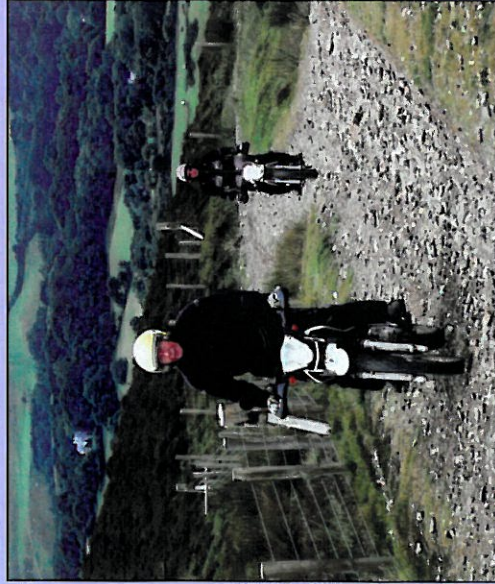
Green lanes do not mean you are 'off road'. You are subject to the same laws as surfaced roads. Obey all traffic and advisory signs.

4. Drive according to the ground conditions

Where ground is soft, ride or drive gently to avoid unnecessary damage.

5. Remember that wildlife faces many threats

and green lanes can be valuable habitats. Take special care in spring and early summer.



Towards a Sustainable Future

The motor vehicle brings great mobility and opportunity to most of us. However, increasing numbers of all-terrain vehicles bring particular problems. Concerns about pollution, noise, erosion and the needs of other trail users are issues to address. This code has been produced in the hope of reducing some of these concerns and ensuring the long term sustainability of driving vehicles on the Green Lanes. The Isle of Man is a special place that deserves the highest standards of environmental protection.

This Code is produced by the Green Lane User Group. It is also promoted by DOI, DEFA & DED and is supported by the IOM ACU Centre, the IOM Four Wheel Drive Club, Druidale Rally Club and the Manx Trials Club. Ltd.

Useful Contacts

Green Lane User Group

E-mail: glug@gov.im

Public Rights of Way Officer

The Highways Division
Department of Infrastructure, Sea Terminal Buildings, Douglas, IM1 2RF
Tel: 01624 686665 Fax: 01624 686905
E-mail: enquiries@highways.dot.gov.im
Website: www.gov.im/highways

Access & Recreation Officer

Forestry Amenity & Lands Division
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Hope Road, St Johns, IM4 3AS
Tel: 01624 801263 Fax: 01624 801060
E-mail: forestry@gov.im
Website: www.gov.im/defa

Forestry Warden

Tel: 695715

IOM Four Wheel Drive Club

Visit: www.4x4.im

Produced by the Isle of Man Government on behalf of the GLUG, with acknowledgment to the Lake District National Park Authority.



Isle of Man
Government
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Green Lane User Group

The Isle of Man Green Lane Code For Vehicle Users



Motor Vehicles in the Countryside

Using vehicles on un-surfaced roads is a popular pastime in the Isle of Man; which is perhaps not surprising, in view of the Island's strong motor sport history. Members of the Green Lane User Group (GLUG) believe that all users of the countryside can enjoy their pastime without upsetting others, and without destroying the green lanes themselves, so long as care and consideration is exercised.

This Green Lane Code of Conduct aims to promote responsible driving in order to ensure sustainable use of green lanes in the Isle of Man.

It is intended to make all drivers aware of the GLUG's approach to use of the routes and to encourage them to use the tracks responsibly.

Rights of Way and Restrictions

There are many miles of ancient "unmade roads" in the Isle of Man. They are rights of way through the countryside, not just for pedestrians but also for other classes of traffic, such as 4 x 4s, motorcycles, mountain bikes and horses. These unmade roads are known as "green lanes" but some of them are classified as "Greenway Roads" on which vehicles are restricted.

Certain routes may be subject to seasonal restrictions for mechanically propelled vehicles, particularly during the months of November through to March. This is to protect them from excessive erosion. Information on these closures is published in the local press or can be obtained from the Highways Division of the Department of Infrastructure (D.O.I.)



Green Lane Permit System

Four wheel drive vehicles are not permitted to use those green lanes which are Greenway Roads identified by the green traffic sign "GREENWAY ROAD - BAYR GLASS". Exemptions from this 500kg weight limit restriction exist for certain vehicles including agricultural vehicles and those issued with a short term "Greenways Permit". Further information on these permits can be obtained from the website of the Isle of Man Four Wheel Drive Club at www.iom4x4.com

Maps and Signs

Please do not assume that all maps give correct information on rights of way. Some maps may contain out of date detail, or have omissions. Also do not assume that every minor road or track is for public use unless it is signposted as such, or unless you are sure in the knowledge of its status.



The latest editions of the 1:25,000 Public Rights of Way and Outdoor Leisure Map or OS Landranger 1:50,000 series offer useful information and should assist you with planning your day out.



The Green Lane User Group (GLUG)

The GLUG meets bi-monthly to discuss green lane issues. Established in 2002, the group exists to represent the interests of the Island's green lane users. The group's membership comprises representatives from, off road motorcycling, 4WD, rallying, horse riding and mountain biking activities, as well as Government officers from D.O.I. and DEFA.

The group's main aims are:

- To represent the Island's green lane users by providing feedback on track condition and levels of usage.
 - To protect the existing network of green lanes so as to ensure their long term sustainability.
 - To foster appropriate and sustainable use of green lanes through user education and promotion of the Green Lane Code.
 - To assist in identifying priority maintenance work on the green lanes.
 - To encourage users, whenever possible, to participate in volunteer work parties on practical maintenance of the green lanes.
- The GLUG welcomes feedback from all green lane users;

The Forestry Warden

The Forestry Warden, a member of GLUG, offers help and advice to green lane users on general access to the uplands. For further information please contact (01624) 695715.

