



15th July 2021

To whom it may concern,

In the matter of Inquiry by the Department of Infrastructure S. 117 of the Highways Act 1986, The Donkey Track, Andreas

Our attention has been drawn to the public inquiry notice into the Donkey Track (U72) in Regaby.

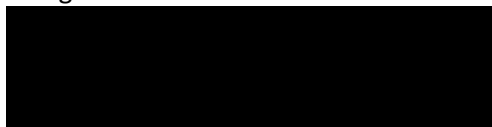
Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) would submit that the impact on wildlife and habitat both relating to the track and the surrounding area should be a prime consideration in determining what, if any, use is appropriate. It would appear from the information currently available that the environmental consequences of any development of the track have not been adequately considered.

MWT understands that there are different interests and claims involved in this issue as reported in Isle of Man Today: *“The DoI has been working with the Green Lane Users Group on a scheme to open up the Donkey Track in Andreas for use by walkers, horse riders and mountain bikes - and potentially any motorised vehicle up to 500kg. But landowner Ballaseyr Stud insists there is no record of the unclassified U72 Donkey Track having ever been a public highway maintained at the public expense. The track does, however, appear on the office highway record map of 1986 when responsibility for it passed to the department. Ballaseyr believes its appearance on that map is a mistake.”*

However, it seems clear to MWT that in the context of the biodiversity and climate change crises we all face what is a significant change of use to the track may have long term implications and so should be approached with care and informed debate. It would also appear that this effective change of use (by all accounts virtually unused for many years with little intervention) could be regarded as a precedent for similar works and if so, this is a matter of wider public concern, and the public should be fully engaged/informed.

Please record our concerns and we would be happy to enter into a wider discussion if useful.

Regards.



Leigh Morris
Chief Executive Officer

