

Glover Review and BOATs

Background Julian Glover and the panel produced a report, which comprehensively reviewed our National Parks and AONBs. This included a review of green lanes and BOATs such as the one which runs up the south side of West Hill.

“Some country public rights of way and unsealed unclassified roads known as ‘green lanes’ allow for the legal recreational use of motor vehicles. Whilst many users make use of these rights in a responsible way, we have become increasingly aware of damage and disturbance caused by excessive use of off-road motor vehicles on some unsealed routes. This can result in impacts on local wildlife, the special qualities of an area e.g., tranquillity, and make the route less accessible for other users such as those on foot, bicycles, horseback, or in vehicles used by disabled people. In protected landscapes, these impacts could undermine the statutory purposes of the area.”

The review recommends more control of the use of these lanes.

Appendix F advises and requests authorities to respond to the Glover Report including comments about the use of BOATs for off-roading activities by 4x4 type vehicles.

If members wish I will respond to the review, on behalf of the council, where it refers to green lanes and equivalent byways. I will respond supporting control of the use of green lanes by motor vehicles.

Stephen Dru Drury