

Moreton Pinkney Parish Council and Northamptonshire police are presently working in partnership with the Rights of Way team at South Northants (now West) Council and the Trail Riders Fellowship to ensure public rights of way remain open around Moreton Pinkney and are safe for the enjoyment of all lawful users, this includes byways.

The approach is to Engage, Explain and Enforce and where suitable we will be working with the Trail Riders Fellowship to achieve this. To assist, the police ask if all incidents of misuse of by ways can be reported; time, date and location information.

### **How can you help?**

Please could we ask that you do not approach anybody using the Byways illegally, but if you are witness to illegal use please contact the police through <https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/> or if people are at risk of harm ring 999.

### **What is unlawful use?**

Byways are roads and therefore subject to the Road Traffic Act, anyone using a vehicle on them must hold a valid licence, insurance, number plate, tax and MOT (where applicable). Between 1st October and the 30th April, most Byways in Northamptonshire are restricted, the only vehicles permitted by the public are motorcycles, quads are not motorcycles.

During the current National lockdown for Covid-19, only essential travel is permitted. Motorcycles can be used for essential travel, but not for recreational riding at this time. Motorised use of byways is generally not essential travel and it is not classed as exercise. When the rules change to permit leaving home for recreational purposes, it is probable motorised travel on byways will be permitted. Should a Covid-19 breach be noted, the best option is to call there and then on 101 if safe to do so.

PC Chris Bird would add that if serious damage is being caused to property this would also warrant a 999 call. Serious damage to property may include vehicles driving over land they should not be on, churning up crops, or causing significant damage to grazing land; vehicles causing livestock / animals to be spooked. We may not always be in a position to respond, indeed the call may not make it through the triage for a response, however every call helps paint a true picture of what is occurring and the community tension. I can then utilise this when bidding for resources, especially Op Neutrino, the police off road bikers. The Trail Riders Fellowship have a code of conduct, this is a good bench mark of what lawful motorised use of the Byways should look like <https://trail.trf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TRF-Code-of-Conduct-2018.pdf>

