

Lyme mountain biking consultation update

"Firstly I would like to thank those of you who attended the consultation event on May 3rd. I feel it was a good starting point for improving cyclist access in future....

Around 50 interested parties attended the first consultation about cycle access at Lyme. The evening was also attended by Graham Clark (Outdoor Activities Development Officer), Chris Dunkerley (Lead Ranger), & Deborah Maxwell (General Manager). Over the course of 90 minutes a wide variety of issues were discussed; these were tackled by Graham & Chris and a brief synopsis of the discussion is outlined below:

The current access arrangements were outlined to the room, explaining about the estate and some of the background behind various parts of the park. Currently cyclists have access as shown on [this map](#). The staff are aware that cycling happens on other parts of the estate, partly through a lack of knowledge about the current access, and partly by choice. The existing visitor dynamic was discussed and the main user groups mentioned. Targeting 'easy win' areas initially to demonstrate it working before moving to more contentious areas preferable. Questions and suggestions were invited from the floor:

- Existing access improvements were discussed at other sites. Whinlatter – where all 'non-technical' trails were opened for all. This led to reduced confrontation and issues with the multiple user groups.
- The lack of signage was highlighted – both showing where visitors can and can't go. Signage on the estate is currently being looked at and improved cycling signage is being included in this. Potential for targeted fundraising for signage.
- Improve the cycling offer – including other benefits to try to reduce traffic into and within the estate.
- Could access to certain parts of the park be seasonal/time restricted? This is an area we can certainly look at.
- Extended opening for one evening per week during the shorter (Winter) opening times.
- Volunteers to create working parties to help build/maintain trails.

The following areas are identified on [this map](#):

1. The state of the bridge just outside the property's east gate – as this is outside the property boundary this is not something we can fix. There is a pedestrian bridge in place next to the existing vehicle bridge, and as this is officially a footpath, I feel it is unlikely that the vehicular bridge will have any more work done on it.
2. Access on Cage Hill, including up to the Cage itself. Ideas put forward included a piece of 'singletrack' for cyclists to use to keep them away from the main walkers route. And a route that would allow cyclists access to the top of the hill from the main entrance/admissions hut, to near the hall.
3. Hase Bank singletrack. The creation of singletrack through the wood – this is currently without paths and so conflict with other users would be negligible.
4. Knightslow Woods. Incorporating the existing wild trails into a dedicated route within the wood. It was pointed out that this wood is used extensively by dog

walkers; especially when grazing is occurring on Drinkwater. This is then an area where the dogs can be allowed to run off the lead.

5. Open up access on the Bowstones track. Allow cycle access up and down the track from Knightslow wood to Bowstones gate. It was suggested that a singletrack route be built alongside the existing track for descending. Installation of gates or barriers towards the bottom of the existing track to slow faster riders.
6. Return, downhill trail from Bowstones gate (cycle only) via Cluse Hey to West Gate. Another idea was the building of a piece of singletrack from Bowstones gate across the moor, along the southern side of Cluse Hey, finishing onto West Park Drive near the West Gate.

Each of these parts of trail will be looked into separately.

Thanks once again, and I am sure we can work together to improve cycling at Lyme”

Graham Clark, Outdoor Activities Development Officer