



Last year the then Minister, Alun Michael, instructed all local authorities who had some control over the Ridgeway to impose a seasonal TRO, banning all motor vehicles during the winter months. Wiltshire went about this task with its mind in neutral whereby the TRO included any RUPP or BOAT crossing points. No heed, it appears, has been paid to alternative routes and the increase in vehicular use these might see as a result of closing a large area to the trail rider.

West Berkshire have been far more reasonable and have taken account of the network as a whole. The end result will be that the Ridgeway has its TRO and the rest of the network shares the load with, hopefully, a more sustainable outcome.

It is interesting to note that much of the Ridgeway is flanked by open access land, thus enabling the walker to pass along the route of the Ridgeway *OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE NATIONAL TRAIL*. They do not even have to share that access with equestrians or cyclists.