

## **Off-roading - the facts**

Off-roading causes alarm and distress to residents and visitors ...

Riders and members of the public could be injured by off-road vehicles riding across public footpaths, byways, playing fields or common land.

It also damages the countryside and wildlife...

Off-road riding causes ruts in the land, making it hazardous for walkers and destroying wildlife habitats. It also disturbs sheep from their natural grazing areas. Walkers and other users of common land have also previously been harassed by illegal off-roaders.

### **Riders are breaking the law if:**

- They drive a mechanically propelled vehicle on a road or other public place without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for others.
- They have been driving or riding on common land, land which is part of a road, a footpath, bridleway or byway contrary to Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act.
- They have been driving or riding in a manner that has been causing or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public.

### **Penalties**

Riders could receive a Section 59 notice. This is a warning telling the rider that if they are caught again within a 12 month period, their vehicle will be seized and the owner will need to pay for its recovery and a daily charge for storage. After seven days, the vehicle could be destroyed. They could also be arrested and taken to court, and could risk losing their driving licence.