

MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

CONSTITUTION (amended Oct 10th 2012)

1. Group Name

The name of our Group is MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP, hereinafter referred to as 'the Group'.

The Group will be affiliated to the British Horse Society (BHS).

2. Administration

The Group and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the Committee. (see section detailed below).

3. Aims of the Group

The Group's aims are:

- 2.1 To improve and expand the tracks and trails network (bridleways, byways, unsurfaced roads and other off-road routes open to horse riders) to enable horses to be ridden off road in safety.
- 2.2 To develop new links and create additional multi-use routes to benefit horse riding.
- 2.3 To promote safer conditions for horse riders on roads.
- 2.4 To promote use of local riding routes and facilities to promote sustainable tourism. This may include the publication of maps and guides.
- 2.5 To establish good relations with local authorities, landowners and other user groups, such as walkers, cyclists, disabled, trail riders and carriage drivers, in order to achieve the above.
- 2.6 To provide assistance in maintaining existing tracks and trails.

4. Area

The approximate area the Group covers is defined (though not exclusively) as:

- Northern boundary - the A40
- Western boundary - the River Severn
- Southern boundary - the Gloucestershire County Boundary
- Eastern boundary - the Gloucestershire County Boundary

Any areas adjacent to or outside the above boundaries will be included where necessary in order to benefit from any of the overall aims of the group.

5. Powers of the Group

In aiming to achieve the Group's aims the Committee will have the following powers (while conforming to the relevant requirements of the law):

- 4.1 to raise funds.
- 4.2 to pursue and receive contributions, grants or donations.

- 4.3 to buy, lease or negotiate property or items required.
- 4.4 to dispose of any properties or items owned, leased or acquired.
- 4.5 to liaise and co-operate and enter into agreements with other groups, organisations, authorities etc.
- 4.6 to do all other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Group's aims.
- 4.7 to employ such persons as the Committee deems necessary.
- 4.8 to enter into any contracts the Committee deems necessary.

6. Membership

Membership of the Group is open to any individuals who are interested in furthering the aims of the Group, subject to the agreement of the Committee and payment of the appropriate membership fee when charged.

7. The Committee

7.1 The Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members who are elected at the Annual General Meeting to hold office until the next AGM. All the members of the Committee shall stand down from office at each AGM, but may be re-elected or re-appointed.

7.2 Committee members are free to resign at any point. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members who must be submitted for election at the next AGM.

7.3 It is at the discretion of the Committee that any Committee member who fails to attend at least three consecutive Committee meetings without good cause, may have their membership of the Committee withdrawn.

7.4 All persons elected to serve on the Committee shall make a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the interest of the Group and to support its aims.

7.5 All persons elected to serve on the Committee shall make a declaration of possible conflict of interest.

7.6 A quorum will be four Committee members.

7.7 The Committee will produce a Working Practices Handbook which may be updated as necessary provided that it is consistent with the Group's aims and that it is consistent with current legislation.

8. General Meetings of the Group

8.1 The Group Secretary or other such appointed person shall endeavour to make an accurate record of the proceedings at each meeting.

8.2 Matters will be determined by the majority decision of members attending the meeting.

9. Annual General Meeting

9.1 An Annual General Meeting will be held each year at an interval not greater than fifteen months.

9.2 Changes to the Constitution can be made by majority vote at the AGM provided that the proposed changes have been circulated to the members not less than four weeks before the meeting.

10. Extraordinary General Meeting

The Committee will call an Extraordinary General Meeting, with at least two weeks' notice, on written request of not less than 25% of the membership stating the reasons and the motions to be put to the meeting.

11. The Group's Accounts

11.1 All types of funds raised or acquired by the Group will be paid into a bank account under the name of MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP.

11.2 All funds are to be used only in furthering the aims of the Group.

11.3 All withdrawals from the Group account are to be signed by not less than two agreed signatories.

11.4 The Committee will be responsible for financial management and the appointment of an independent examiner for the yearly financial accounts.

12. Dissolution of the Group

In the event that the Committee decides that the Group should cease to continue, for whatever reason, then any assets remaining after the payment of any debts or liabilities shall be given or transferred to any other such organisation, group or charitable institution that has the same or similar aims and objectives of the Group as the members of the Group's Committee may determine.

This constitution was adopted on:

Signed by:(Chair)

Countersigned by: (Secretary)

