

VIEWPOINT - information on issues of concern

USING POWERED VEHICLES ON THE REDWAY

The use of vehicles on a Redway is covered by the 1980 Highways Act and they are open to use by the public for pedal cycles or those on foot only. So no driving your ass, sheep, swine, cattle or, and please take note, no riding mules or HORSES either - not even a police horse is allowed. Any use of a 'mechanically propelled vehicle' is not permitted on a redway.

Exemptions are made for; emergency service, maintenance and cleaning vehicles and gas, water or electricity repairs.

The law says that a mechanically propelled vehicle is defined as a vehicle constructed so that it can be propelled mechanically. Some vehicles fall outside this definition – lawnmowers for instance, electric disabled vehicles and electrically assisted pedal cycles, as long as they are ridden by persons over 14 years old. The exemptions are specified in the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and the Road

Traffic Act 1988.

So an electrically assisted bicycle can ridden on the redway, by the over 14's, provided it has pedals by which it may be separately propelled and the motor output is no more than 220 watts and the benefit from electrical assistance is only up to 15 miles per hour.

Other mechanically propelled vehicles such as a golf buggy, motor bike, powered scooters, petrol or electric, mini motor bikes and quad bikes are definitely NOT permitted on a redway. But you could take your lawn mower for a stroll along the redway - provided you push it and do not sit on it!

WHAT ABOUT ELECTRIC BUGGIES?

Electric disabled buggies are growing in popularity. Their use on roads and footpaths and a redway is covered in law by the Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988 and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. To qualify to use one you have to be suffering from some physical defect or physical disability. You do not qualify if you are just lazy, bone-idle or can't be fagged to walk to the pub.

First of all there are two mechanically propelled types, referred to as Classes 2 and 3. Class 2 should be incapable of travelling at more than 4 mph and Class 3 can go more than 4 mph but no more than a maximum of 8 mph. Both must carry only one person and if you have the 8 mph Formula 1 version it must have a horn and rear view mirror fitted and working.

If you use either version on the carriageway of any road it must have lights in compliance with the Road Vehicles Regulations Act 1984. So to use any electric disabled buggy on a footpath or redway it must not be driven at more than 4 mph and it has to be fitted with a speed indicator device. One final point Class 3 buggies can not be driven by anyone under 14 years of age.

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