

When can I access SPTA?

SPTA is an extensively used training area. Military training can limit public access and is scheduled throughout the year. For up to date access information check online at www.gov.uk/government/collections/firing-notice or contact 01980 674763

Locally red flags (day) or lamps (night) warn where live firing is in progress and in conjunction with the Byelaws, indicate where access is prohibited.

Considerations

The Salisbury Plain Military Lands Byelaws were written in 1981; a period when green laning was in its infancy. Now a popular and more accessible recreational activity, the impact on both the military and PROW network is increasing.

Although the MOD makes considerable investment into the road network on the Plain, just like PROW, some will be harder wearing than others.

Military roads first and foremost provide an essential network allowing the military to traverse the Plain. We urge green laners to approach the use of the Plain in a respectful and sustainable manner, following the good practice guidelines set out in this leaflet to minimise their impacts. This will ensure SPTA can function as an important military training area whilst remaining an enjoyable location to experience green laning.

Useful information

To report suspicious or dangerous activity please call the SPTA HQ Ops Room on 01980 674951
Email: DTEOpsRoomSouthWest@landmarc.mod.uk

MOD Firing times — 01980 674763
www.gov.uk/government/collections/firing-notice

SPTA Byelaws
www.gov.uk/ministry-of-defence-byelaws

SPTA Newsletter
www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter

Wiltshire PROW
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recreation-rights-of-way

Countryside Code
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

Endorsements

Green Lane Association (www.glass-uk.org/)

Treadlightly (www.treadlightly-uk.org/)

Trail Riders Fellowship (www.trf.org.uk/)

Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire & Swindon Countryside Access Forum

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Email DIOTS-ACCESS@mod.gov.uk



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SPTA

Salisbury Plain
Training Area

Green Laning Good Practice Guide 2020



Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) is the largest military training area in the United Kingdom. At 94,000 acres it is the same size as the Isle of Wight and covers over a tenth of the county of Wiltshire. SPTA has an extensive network of public highways and is nationally recognised for its green laning opportunities.

Where can you drive/ride?

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Motor vehicular use is limited to byways open to all traffic (BOAT), and unclassified and classified roads. Public footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways are not for use by motorised vehicles. A map of the Wiltshire PROW network can be found online (see overleaf).

SPTA Byelaws allow you to drive / ride road legal vehicles on Ministry of Defence (MOD) roads made up for vehicular use where access is not excluded or restricted by sign, barrier or other means.

MOD permissive roads can be and are closed at any time.

You must not leave PROW or MOD roads in your vehicle. Please be aware commercial events utilising MOD roads requires a licence obtainable from SPTA Headquarters (see overleaf).

Good Practice Guidelines

- Use only BOAT, unclassified and classified roads and permissive MOD roads.
- Give way to military vehicles and personnel. Comply with any directions given to you by military personnel / MOD staff and be prepared to take an alternative route if required.
- Give way to walkers, horse riders and cyclists and be prepared to stop your engine to let them pass.
- Ensure that you and your vehicle are fully road legal. Vehicular access on SPTA PROW and MOD roads is subject to the same regulations that apply to all public roads.
- Keep to the defined track. Areas of SPTA are used for live firing and to leave defined MOD roads or PROW could be extremely dangerous. If the route is not obvious contact Wiltshire Council.
- Travel at a quiet and unobtrusive pace. When travelling in groups keep to a small number: four cars or six bikes maximum. Larger groups should split up and use alternative routes rather than using the same trails to avoid causing excessive damage.

- A speed limit of 30 mph is operated on MOD roads and it is strongly recommended that this is limited to 20 mph when travelling on PROW.
- Pay attention to "The Four Ws":
 - Weather – do not travel on PROW during or following periods of extreme wet weather as they risk being damaged beyond a point of natural recovery. Remember that not all routes are appropriate for vehicle use at all times.
 - Weight – Do not use PROW that may be seriously damaged by the wheel pressure of your vehicle.
 - Width – Do not use PROW that are too narrow for your vehicle. Avoid damage to trees, hedgerows and boundaries.
 - Winches – The use of winches on PROW or MOD roads is inappropriate and should not be required.
- Follow the Countryside Code.
- Remember that wildlife faces many threats and PROW can be valuable habitats. Take special care in spring and early summer.

