

Although you may think that you are just enjoying your hobby you may not be aware of how your riding affects others. You will be breaking the law and are likely to be causing distress to residents by riding on roads, pavements and on public land.

By following the guidelines in this leaflet the residents and Greater Manchester Police will get off your back and will be more supportive of your hobby. **THINK ABOUT IT!**

## For Parents...

If your child is under 18 and is stopped by the police for illegal riding, they may be fined and have points put on their future driving licence.

Before agreeing to let your child ride an off-road vehicle it is important to consider the high risk of injury that may be involved. In 2002 there were an estimated 29,399 accidents involving riders of off-road vehicles which were recorded at accident and emergency rooms across the UK. This is a 41% increase on the number of accidents in 2001.

If you are to allow your child to ride such vehicles follow the guidelines in this leaflet and check with the Auto-cycle Union for appropriate riding tracks and what protective gear they need to wear.

If you would like more information on how to ride legally please contact the Auto-cycle Union who are the governing body for the sport. They will be able to provide you with details of regional venues and latest news:

Auto-cycle Union Ltd  
ACU House, Wood Street  
Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2YX

**Tel: 01788 566 400**

**Email: [admin@acu.org.uk](mailto:admin@acu.org.uk)**

**Web: [www.acu.org.uk](http://www.acu.org.uk)**



# INTERESTED IN OFF-ROADING?

**What you NEED to know!**



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

## The Facts



If you ride your off-road motor vehicle around Greater Manchester the chances are that you are breaking the law. Where are you riding it? Are you allowed to ride there? How are you transporting the vehicle to the riding place?

Riders who follow the guidelines in this leaflet have nothing to fear. However, Greater Manchester Police are catching people who do not.

Under a recent operation in 2005:

- 12 people were arrested
- 27 bikes were seized
- 150 warnings were given
- 82 fixed penalty notices were issued

Off-Road Vehicles include: Moto Cross, trial and enduro bikes; quadbikes; electric scooters; buzzboards and gopeds; and any other mechanically propelled vehicle which is used off-road and should not be used on public roads and pavements or in public spaces.

## Remember...

If you want to ride, make sure you follow these guidelines to ensure you ride legally:

- You Must Not: Ride on public land, parks, pavements and pathways
- You Must Not: Ride unlicensed bikes on public roads
- You Must: Always use a van or trailer to transport the off-road vehicle to the legitimate riding area

**There are few legitimate riding areas in Greater Manchester**



## Police powers

If you do not follow the guidelines you will be breaking the law. When the police catch up with you, you run the risk of:

- Your bike being seized
- Receipt of a heavy fine
- If you are able to reclaim your bike after seizure, expect a charge of more than £100
- Points on your driving licence
- Disqualification / Imprisonment
- An Anti-Social Behaviour Order
- An unlimited civil claim
- Serious injury to yourself and others



## Buying a bike?

Always check when buying a bike that there is a visible identification number on the frame and an engine number. The seller will be able to point these out and provide a proof of purchase. The bike manufacturer will be able to describe what the number should look like on their product. Contact them for more details. The number may have been defaced on a stolen bike, so always check!

If you want to buy a bike be prepared for some costs: Quad and motocross bikes start from around £700 new and £450 second hand to buy; Protective clothing can cost between £100-£300 with a helmet an additional £90-£250; You will also need a trailer to transport the bike to the riding site. If you do not own one they can cost £250-£500 or



more, with an extra £60 plus fitting cost for a tow bar if your car does not currently have one. **These costs could total between £950 and £1,800.**

Based on our study of 80 tracks around the UK the average daily cost to ride is £14.50 for a child and £15.50 for an adult. Some tracks have additional membership schemes of £20 a year on top.