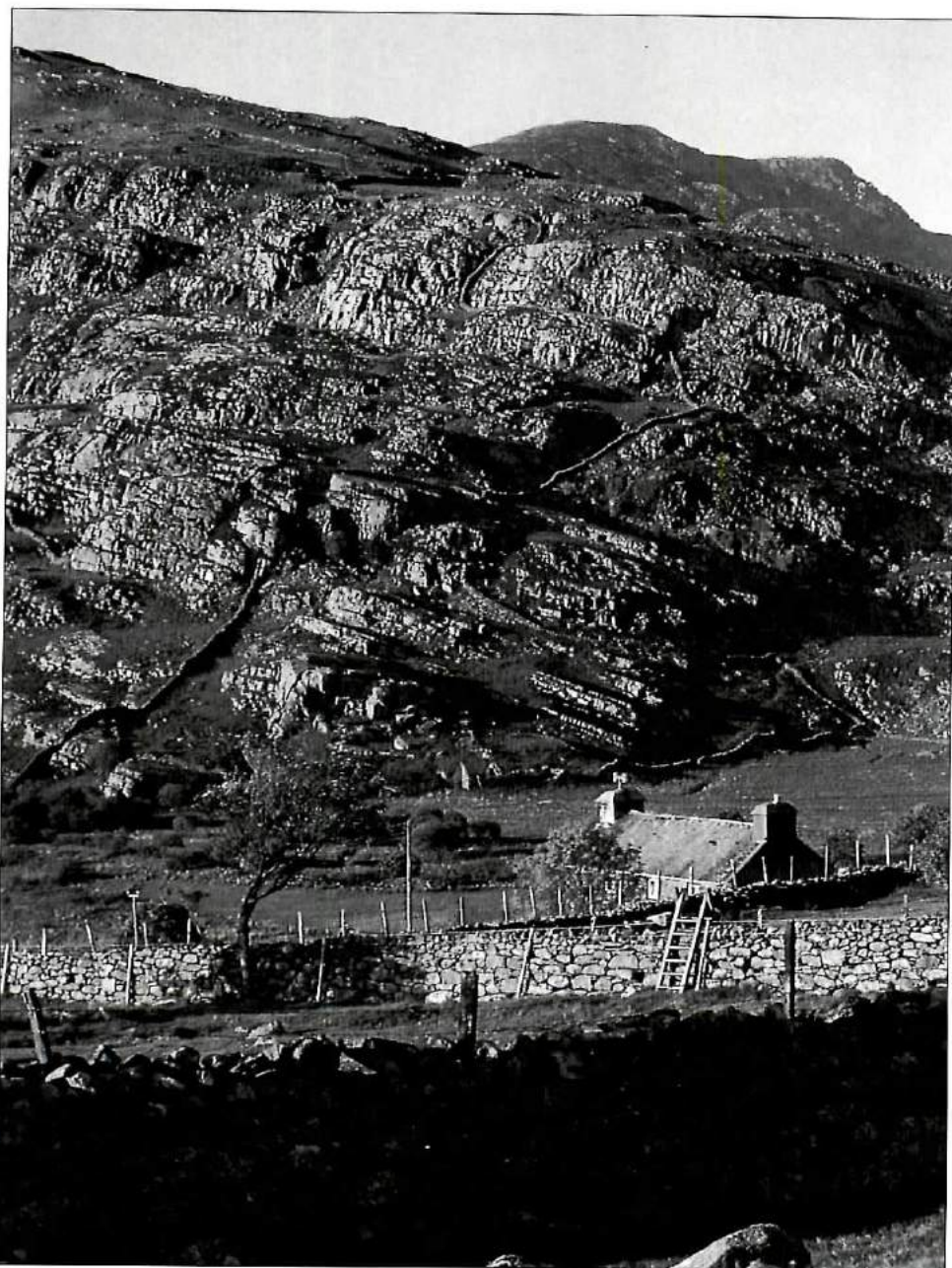


# COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION



Volume 5 Number 4 October 1997

ISSN 0968 - 459X



Published by the Countryside Recreation Network

## Access and Agri- environment schemes

Countryside  
Access

Tir Cymen

Northern Ireland  
Access Scheme

Agri-environment  
schemes in  
England

EC Objective 5b

*Exchanging and  
Spreading  
Information to  
develop best  
Policy and  
Practice in  
Countryside  
Recreation*



'Countryside Recreation' is provided free by the following agencies to promote good practice:



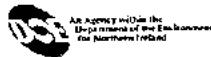
COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION



Department of the Environment Transport and Regions



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



Forestry Commission



Northern Ireland Tourist Board



BWRDD CROESO CYMRU WALES TOURIST BOARD

# Contents

## Editorial

3

**Countryside Access: a traditional asset but growing fast?**  
Professor Martin Whitby offers his own views

4

**EC Objective 5b: Stimulating Countryside Recreation through the European Agricultural Guidance Fund**

9

Roy Dart reviews the current situation with regards to the EAGGF

**Access in Northern Ireland and the NI Countryside Access Scheme**

12

Margaret Hood, Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland

**Farming the Walker**

15

Martyn Evans discusses the access provisions of Tir Cymen

**Errata**

18

Harry Kingham

**Obituary**

19

Sue Glyptis 1953 - 1997

**Permissive Access to Agricultural Land Provided through Agri-environmental Schemes:**

20

**The current position in England**

Richard Cooke & Fiona Gough evaluate the various schemes

**Training and Events Diary**

25



Photo: Countryside Commission for Wales

Cover: A Tir Cymen Scheme at Cwm Nantcol, North Wales.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of CRN member agencies.





## Countryside Recreation Network

CRN is a network which:

- is UK wide
- gives easy access to information on countryside and related recreation matters
- reaches organisations and individuals in the public, private and voluntary sectors
- networks thousands of interested people

The Network helps the work of agencies and individuals by:

- identifying and helping to meet the needs of CRN members for advice, information and research
- promoting co-operation between member agencies in formulating and executing research on countryside and related recreation issues
- encouraging and assisting the dissemination of countryside research and best practice on the ground.

Chair: Richard Broadhurst,  
Forestry Commission

Vice-chair: Glenn Millar,  
British Waterways

Countryside Recreation is free and is published four times a year. We welcome articles and letters from all readers. The copy date for the next issue is 24 October.

**Visit CRN on the Internet!**  
**See our home page on**  
**<http://sosig.ac.uk/crn/>**

For more information, please contact:

Edmund Blamey  
Network Manager  
Department of City & Regional Planning  
University of Wales Cardiff  
PO Box 906  
Tel/Fax: 01222 874970  
e-mail: [cplan-crn-1@cf.ac.uk](mailto:cplan-crn-1@cf.ac.uk)

# Editorial

Views on how access provision should be provided are diverse and occasionally controversial. Earlier in the year, a CRN workshop addressed issues involved with 'Access to Water'. This issue of 'Countryside Recreation' provides a more land based focus. Several articles deal with access schemes set up as a consequence of the European Community Agri-environment Regulation 2078/92. Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England all now have in place a series of provisions for access as part of their agri-environment schemes. Martyn Evans discusses the Welsh Tir Cymen scheme and Margaret Hood the Northern Ireland Access Scheme. One large problem with the latter has been the issue of excluding bulls over 10 months old. Representatives from the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) discuss the various access schemes that have been in operation in England since 1989. Roy Dart also of FRCA discusses the current situation as regards the ongoing EAGGF component of the EC Objective 5b Rural Development Programme.

Allowing more opportunity for people to gain access into areas of countryside is of crucial importance to people's quality of life and has a consequent bearing on perceptions of countryside and respect for the environment around us.

The annual CRN Conference in December this year will explore the theme of 'Making Access for All a Reality'. Why are some less able to get out into the countryside around them? What is being done to improve the situation? What should we be doing? Government, business and voluntary sector perspectives will be presented and there is an international flavour with a presentation from the US National Parks to start day two. All participants should leave with some clear ideas as to how to proceed in making access for all a reality.

On a more personal level how sad it is to write of the tragic death this summer of Sue Glyptis. Two of her closest colleagues, Allan Patmore and Mike Collins, have written a brief appreciation of the life of a much loved and revered academic, whose death leaves us saddened but whose life has greatly enriched all of us working in countryside recreation.

Edmund Blamey



# *Countryside Access: a traditional asset but growing fast?*

*Martin Whitby, Professor of Countryside Management,  
Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle*



*Photo: Mary Whitby*

*This elegant but functional stile at Owlpen, Gloucestershire offers a positive invitation to access.*

The notion of access led to well known confrontations between the wars and was subsequently built into the framework of the countryside in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. Access remains an objective of most countryside agencies, although often taking second priority after conservation. It is notable that other EU member states have much less interest in or concern about access and we might well ask why that is. These questions are explored here, setting the scene for the more specific articles on access which follow.

A dictionary defines access as “..the state of being readily reached..” . In that sense, access to land requires that three conditions be met. First, people must want [demand] access; second the relevant land owners must be willing to grant access; and third people must have awareness of their rights of access. These three elements are not always present and their importance infuses the discussion below.

## **Demand for Access**

It is easy to attribute the notion of National Parks to Wordsworth who, in his Guide to the Lakes, suggested:

*“the author will be joined by persons of pure taste throughout the whole island, who, by their visits (often repeated) to the Lakes in the North of England, testify that they deem the district a sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy”*  
William Wordsworth, 1835.

How can we interpret this? “a sort of national property”... may be seen as a definition of public goods - a term which was coined much later by economists [see below]. Wordsworth’s countryside is closely linked with an idea which is well embedded in much of our management of it - it is only to be available to those with “an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy” so, he implies, we do not need to worry about the rest. This comparatively exclusive approach to the



countryside is an important snare when we try to develop ways of managing access.

John Clare takes the access story back even further in his poems expressing his opposition to enclosure. For example:-

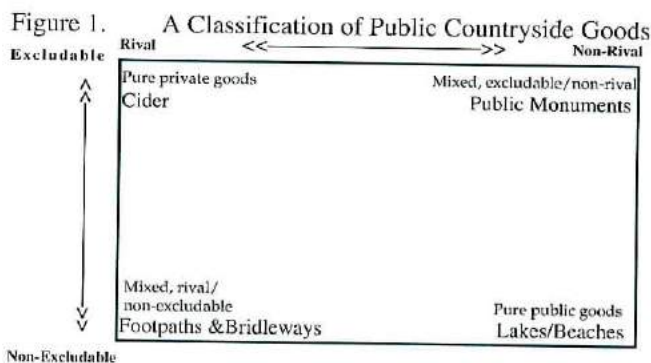
*"These paths are stopt - the rude philistines thrall  
Is laid upon them and destroyed them all  
Each little tyrant with his little sign  
Shows where man claims earth grows no more divine  
on paths to freedom and to childhood dear  
A board sticks up to notice 'no road here'"*  
(quoted in Wallace, 1993)

CRN's own surveys (Coalter, 1997) show that the majority of visitors to the countryside are from the higher social groups [the As, Bs and Cs] which suggests that there may be a filter at work here. To the extent that provision of access is funded from taxation this might be a matter for concern. However, Curry (1994) reminds us that perhaps the other classes [C2s and DEs] are less interested in the 'raw' countryside and might prefer to visit more entertaining sites i.e. Alton Towers. If that is their choice there is less reason for concern, although it may suggest more attention to promotion of publicly provided countryside goods amongst those who do not habitually use them.

There are filters at work (Emmet, 1971) which influence who is likely to reach the countryside for recreation. Car-ownership is the obvious constraint but there are others - for example possession of the necessary knowledge to enjoy what it offers, awareness of where one may go, the availability of leisure time and the designation of land to particular uses through the planning system. Despite filters, there were, according to Coalter (1995) some 1.5 billion day visits to the countryside in 1994, or approximately 25 per head of total population - more if we recognise that some people never visit.

### Public goods

Public goods have long been of interest to economists because of the way in which they are demanded. The problem is outlined in Figure 1 which describes four polar types of public good at each corner of what is in effect a two-way spectrum. Pure private goods are both rival and excludable and can therefore be allocated through markets.



Source: derived from Whitby, 1990

Where goods are non-rival, one person's consumption does not affect that of another, so clearly this will only apply to large predominantly empty beaches or lakes. Thus the physical quantity of a public good demanded stays the same no matter how many people try to gain access to it [in economic terms, demand curves for individuals must be summed vertically to obtain an aggregate demand curve] and this makes measurement of demand particularly difficult. Where they are non-excludable there is a possibility of congestion which is widely believed to be a serious and growing problem.

In the absence of good evidence on the time trend of recreational participation despite regular surveys the House of Commons Environment Committee (1995) has recently concluded (emphatically) that there is no rising trend, although the number and diversity of different forms of recreation, and the specialisation and participation in focused activities are growing. This leaves an undoubted problem on bank holiday weekends when the sun shines: but otherwise the game has moved on from the obsession with crowding in the countryside which grew up from the 1960's, when Michael Dower's Fourth Wave (Dower, 1964) was seen as the threat to then recently created National Parks and the countryside generally.

Another complex aspect of public goods in the countryside is that they are frequently produced as joint products (often unintended) with other (possibly private) goods. In other words their producers are likely to be paid for producing the private goods though not necessarily for the public goods. Farmers are paid for growing crops and livestock products but not, generally, for

providing access on traditional rights of way. So what will they do if they are not paid to produce public goods? The argument that some farmers offer is that they will stop producing them because "they cannot afford to continue". Where that genuinely is the case, society may have to choose whether it wants to pay farmers to continue to do what they always have done or whether to accept some change in their behaviour and do without the public goods farmers have traditionally produced. The question of how much to pay is a difficult one, especially given the existence of joint costs.

Clare and Wordsworth may be seen as early heralds of the countryside/access phenomenon in Britain but, nearly two centuries later, the world has moved on. We now have a countryside consisting of a mixture of public goods, partly secured through land use designations and partly through traditional rights, and private goods supplied through markets (sporting and tourist activities for example). The rest of the paper reviews the policies in place to secure access, apart from those provided through the European Agri-Environment Regulation, 2078/92. These are discussed in following articles.

Any review of UK access policy must begin from a recognition of the current stock of *de jure* access. Ideally it might include *de facto* access too, though there are no data on that aspect of access availability. Woods (1995) provides a thorough review for 1994 in which he assesses the length of various public routes in England and Wales as follows:-

Public footpaths	176,000 kms
Public Bridleways	44,000 kms
Public Byways	3,800 kms
Roads used as Footpaths	7,100 kms

In addition to that there are 3,834 town and village greens, more than 300 country parks and one fifth of the area of common grazing [110, 000 hectares] to which access is freely available. There is also some access to state forests and other public land.

Further, there are two other types of access provision. First, there are access areas made available through the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act [Gibbs and Whitby, 1975]. Under Section V of the Act local authorities may secure access by negotiating an agreement

with interested parties, an Order may be made by the Minister or access may be secured by compulsory public purchase. These means are infrequently used but have been important in particular situations. The House of Commons Environment Committee (1995) reports about 48 such agreements in the National Parks which compares with 50 found by Gibbs and Whitby in 1974 in open countryside. The same legislation provides for purchase of areas of land and, in 1974, this had been used on 47 areas. The average size of agreement area was 600 hectares; some six times the average area purchased.

Second, there are arrangements which relate to Inheritance Tax Relief. Where landscape is designated as "Heritage Landscape" it qualifies for exemption from this tax when the estate passes to the next generation, in return for this the owner is expected to provide for public access to the area. The cost of such arrangements, in terms of tax revenue forgone, is reported to Parliament from time to time and totalled £65m over the period 1984-5 to 1995-6. There were 157 recipients of that relief although the number of cases and amounts varied substantially from year to year [Hansard, 1997]. The area of such land in England and Wales was most recently reported to be 58,000 hectares. Although small in total area, these two additions to the menu of access arrangements are important in their difference from the management agreements and traditional access rights which comprise most of the available access.

In addition to the menu of arrangements for access in the UK described above, there are also EU policies [Inc.. Regulation 2078/92] now beginning to operate in the UK which also serve to increase the area available for access [see Woods, 1995 for a recent review]. The advent of EU regulations makes it apposite to ask how access is provided in other member states. The answer would appear to be mainly through traditional rights. The Scandinavians have particularly well-rooted traditions of freedom of access to open land and many other member states, both southern and northern, have similar arrangements. For this reason, in addition to the demand for access in the UK, it is not surprising to find that the interest in the access provision clause of EU Regulation 2078/92 is entirely confined to the UK. Such a statement is not easily established, but from the Birdlife International





Photo: Forest Life Picture Library

*Couple walking in Glenmore Forest along a sunlight path. Glenmore Forest Park, Scotland.*

[1996] study of EU Regulation 2078/92, the only country reported to have made use of the access provision is the UK. It seems that this is an expression not only of demand - people are keen to have access to open country - but also of the supply of access.

A major difference between the UK and other EU member states was in the process of enclosure in modernising agriculture. In the Parliamentary enclosures, which proceeded from the 17th to the 19th centuries, the acts of enclosure usually swept away most of the traditional scope for access [Dahlman, 1980]. This left the post-enclosure countryside which is now highly prized but from which the majority of traditional rights of access have been removed by enclosures and subsequent development. It may, of course, be argued that those rights of access were linked with an agricultural system which has also disappeared, however it is clear that traditional rights of access have legal support even if their nature and extent still requires clarification.

### Awareness of Access

The complex of mechanisms seeking to provide access will be literally useless if the public does not know where access is available. This has been a serious source of complaint against the Inheritance tax concessions [see above] and interestingly, was referred to in one of the recommendations of the Agriculture Committee (1997) report on Regulation 2078/92. The Committee proposed that the names of farmers making contracts with Government under the Regulation should be made public: a suggestion accepted by the Government in its response to the report.

I would argue that there is much less ambiguity about the growing importance of access to the countryside. This "good" belongs [I assert] to the family of goods economists label "income elastic". This simply means that, as incomes grow, a more than proportionate amount is spent on them. That contrasts, for example, with raw food which is income *inelastic* and which attracts no increase in expenditure as we become richer. Such increase in food expenditure as there is, is associated with more value-added in food processing, manufacture and distribution, not with more expenditure on unprocessed food. This contrast is the more notable because both "goods" are produced from land. If one is more income elastic than the other its value will grow comparatively rapidly. This should be good news for those with a long term interest in the countryside because it should mean that more resources will be demanded for it. It is unfortunate that this has to be asserted rather than proved, because there is so far only fragmentary evidence to support the case.

## Conclusion

To conclude: a remarkable array of public and private, formal and informal mechanisms operate to provide access to the countryside in the UK. These include formal contracts with farmers, traditional rights of way and land owned by the state, some of it for the explicit purpose of access provision. The difficult question of whether the network provided is sufficient can only be roughly judged from the extent to which congestion is seen as a problem at particular sites or illegal access is claimed on 'private land'. Apart from particular combinations of weather and leisure time, congestion seems comparatively rare in the UK though many will have at least anecdotal evidence to the contrary. A definitive answer to the question of whether we have provided enough access still awaits further developments in countryside user-surveys. Whatever they may now tell us there is a strong case for the assertion that the access question will become more, not less, important as we become wealthier.

## References

- Agriculture Committee of the House of Commons, 1997, *Environmentally Sensitive Areas and other schemes under the Agri-environment Regulation, Volumes I and II*, House of Commons.
- Birdlife International European Task Force, 1996, *Nature and Conservation Benefits of plans under the Agri-environment Regulation (EEC 2078/92)*, Birdlife International.
- Coalter, F., 1996, *UK Day Visits Survey 1994: a report published by the Countryside Recreation Network*,
- Curry, N., 1994, *Countryside Recreation, Access and Land Use Planning*, E. & F. Spon, London.
- Dahlman, C., 1980, *The Open Fields and Beyond*, Cambridge University Press,
- Dower, M., 1965, The Fourth Wave: the challenge of leisure, *The Architects Journal*, 123 - 191.
- Emmett, I., 1971, The Social Filter in the Leisure Field, *Recreation News Supplement*, 4 (July): 7-8.
- Environment, Committee of the House, of and Commons, 1995, *The Impact of Leisure Activities on the Environment*, HMSO HC 246-I.
- Gibbs, R. S. and Whitby, M. C., 1975, *Local Authority Expenditure on Access Land*, Monograph 6, Agricultural Adjustment Unit, Department of Agricultural Economics.
- Hansard, 1997, Treasury written answer, 29th January p 234..
- Wallace, A. D., 1993, *Walking, Literature and English Culture*, Clarendon, Oxford.
- Whitby, M. C. (ed.), 1996, *The European Environment and CAP Reform: Policies and Prospects for Conservation*, CAB International, Wallingford.
- Woods, A., 1995, Access Agreements, *Rights of Way Law Review*, 43 - 48.
- Wordsworth, W., 1835, *A Guide Through the Lakes in the North of England with a Description of the Scenery &c for the use of Tourists and Residents*, Hudson and Nicholson, Kendal.

Professor Martin Whitby can be contacted at the:

Centre for the Rural Economy  
Department of Agricultural  
Economics and Food Marketing  
University of Newcastle  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU

Tel: 0191 222 6000



# *EC Objective 5b: Stimulating Countryside Recreation Through The European Agricultural Guidance And Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).*

*Roy Dart, Farming and Rural Conservation Agency*



*5b Designated Area, Cornwall.*

*Photo: Kevin Bishop*

December 1996 marked the mid-term point in the roll out of the six-year life of the EC Objective 5b rural development programmes designed to stimulate the economies of disadvantaged and remote rural areas. It also marked the beginning of the interim evaluations recently completed by external consultants of the six English programmes. Now is therefore an opportune moment to reflect on the English experience, from a countryside recreation perspective, and consider what is being achieved, the lessons learned and the opportunities that exist for local partnerships to use to good effect the resources available through the programme.

## **Objective 5b Designated Areas and significance of countryside recreation**

Areas in England benefiting from EC Objective 5b funds include the South West Periphery (Cornwall and much of Devon and North West Somerset), the Marches, parts of Anglia (Norfolk and Suffolk), rural Lincolnshire, Midlands

Uplands (Peak District) and the Northern Uplands. In most of these areas countryside recreation and farm tourism are important and growing features of the economy. They have therefore featured strongly in a number of projects submitted for funding through the EAGGF component of the programme.

## **The EAGGF component and its implications**

The incorporation of an EAGGF component and its associated matching contribution from the public sector (Total approx. £72.4 million EAGGF for the 6 year period) has undoubtedly helped to focus the minds of countryside agencies, non-Government organisations (NGOs) and farmers on how these funds can be made accessible to enable farm-based activity to make a wider contribution to the economy of the areas concerned.

To obtain Objective 5b funding it has often meant a change in approach for both agencies and farmers alike. As an economic regeneration



program, for NGOs and rural agencies, often approaching their project development from an environmental enhancement perspective, the challenges have involved:

- **incorporating farm-based activity** in their programmes of activity and winning the involvement of farmers
- identifying **sustainable economic benefits and employment creation** arising from the project in quantifiable terms
- **demonstrating additionality** for the public funds, i.e. ensuring the proposed activity is new, not already funded from an existing source and represents only the minimum level of grant that is necessary for the project to succeed.
- ensuring a **secure funding package** is in place.

For farmers the undoubted challenge has been the move away from applying for grant to a prescribed format and rules. The funding of projects is discretionary and the process competitive. It involves submitting a project proposal and accompanying business plan in partnership with others, which explains the proposed new farm-based activity and identifies wider benefits to the community and rural economy detailing employment generation or the securing of jobs demonstrably at risk. It should also indicate how environmental issues will be addressed to the benefit of the wider public and demonstrate additionality, notably the minimum grant required.

### Where are we now?

Despite the various challenges the programme has presented to applicants advancing projects for funding, the good news is that those evaluating the programme, at mid-term stage, have concluded that the EAGGF projects approved to date are delivering their objectives, impacts and wider benefits required. These were originally detailed in the Single Programming Documents (SPDs) which were drawn up for each area and which form the basis for support available. In part the evaluators consider this has been achieved because of the robust appraisal process

that MAFF has in place. They also anticipate, despite the slow start, all the available funds being taken up, because the pace of the programme has picked up as all parties, i.e. both applicants and the secretariat now understand the process better.

The overall committed spend for the EAGGF programme was just over 40% of the funds available at the end of July. This means that an opportunity still exists to fund well worked proposals from local partnerships that meet SPD objectives. The approved projects listed below, involving countryside recreation and tourism, illustrate the range of applicants and activities that are already receiving assistance. Each has been approved within the context of the specific SPD and the funds available to the particular area and measure, e.g. farm tourism or environmental enhancement. Thus a project which has been successful in one area may not be successful in another.

**Holincote Estate** - a project submitted by the National Trust leading to the generation of income for both tenants and the Trust from increased tourism and day visitors to the estate. This will result from upgrading the holiday accommodation, visitor facilities including visitor centre and provision of recreation in the form of walking, cycling etc. and improved interpretation. The project also involves improving the general amenity of the estate both from an environmental and landscape point of view.

**Marches Countryside Attractions** - a project submitted by a group of farmers in association with local authorities to upgrade their enterprise to standards set by the group including making provision for the disabled and joint marketing to raise the profile of the Marches as a tourist destination.

**Lincolnshire Farm Tourism** - a project submitted by Lincolnshire Tourism Partnership, including local authorities, in association with the Regional Tourist Board, Lincolnshire TEC and RDC, designed to encourage farmers to develop farm based tourist accommodation enterprises of high quality and to market them and associated activity on a collaborative basis involving the local marketing consortia, Lincolnshire Farming Families and Lincolnshire Farm Attractions.



**River Esk Regeneration** - a project advanced by the North York Moors National Park and involving a partnership including the Environmental Agency, fishing clubs and farmers. It is designed to raise the income flowing into the area as a result of the improved recreation value arising from enhanced access, water quality and increased value of fishing, arising from improvements to the management of the river bed, its surrounds and fish stocks. Infrastructure improvements are being supported to avoid disturbance to the river bank and pollution arising from livestock farming.



Photo: North York Moors National Park

*River Esk*

## Opportunities

The above suggests that to date the focus has been on improving the recreational value of an area through environmental enhancement and increasing the tourism income to an area through improved infrastructure and more effective marketing. Other opportunities also exist, e.g.:

- to increase the range and quality of sporting activity using farm-based resources through projects led and co-ordinated by a sports governing body;
- to increase consumer awareness of the opportunities available in a region by co-ordinating the marketing of farm-based recreational activity;
- to increase the use of regional speciality foods in hotels, restaurants of major attractions and their shops to help reinforce the identify of the regional tourism product.

## Progressing your project idea

If you or the agency for which you work believes that you can bring economic benefit to an area eligible for Objective 5b through farm-based recreation activity you are advised to discuss your proposals in the first instance with the EAGGF facilitators funded by the Objective 5b programme and appointed to assist applicants in each of the designated areas. Those interested in this should contact Roy Dart on 01902 743711 who can provide you with the names and telephone numbers of regional EAGGF facilitators. For non farm based activity contact should be made with the appropriate Government Office.

You are likely to find that the presentation of your case will be made easier if you have a clear vision and understanding of what economic benefits your project will deliver and why. You can then consider the cost of the proposed activity in relation to the benefits it is designed to provide and ensure a satisfactory return on the investment is achieved. Too often applicants appear to focus on the activity to be delivered rather than the end products [i.e. such as volume of visitors / participants, value of sales generated in associated businesses, area of space required and number of jobs etc.] they intend to produce. This leads to project proposals that appear to have unclear objectives and as such often indicate a poor return on the investment asked for.

However, it can be seen from the projects already funded, if developed in a positive business-like manner countryside recreation projects can yield many benefits to the community.

*Roy Dart is a Senior Rural Enterprise Consultant at FRCA.*

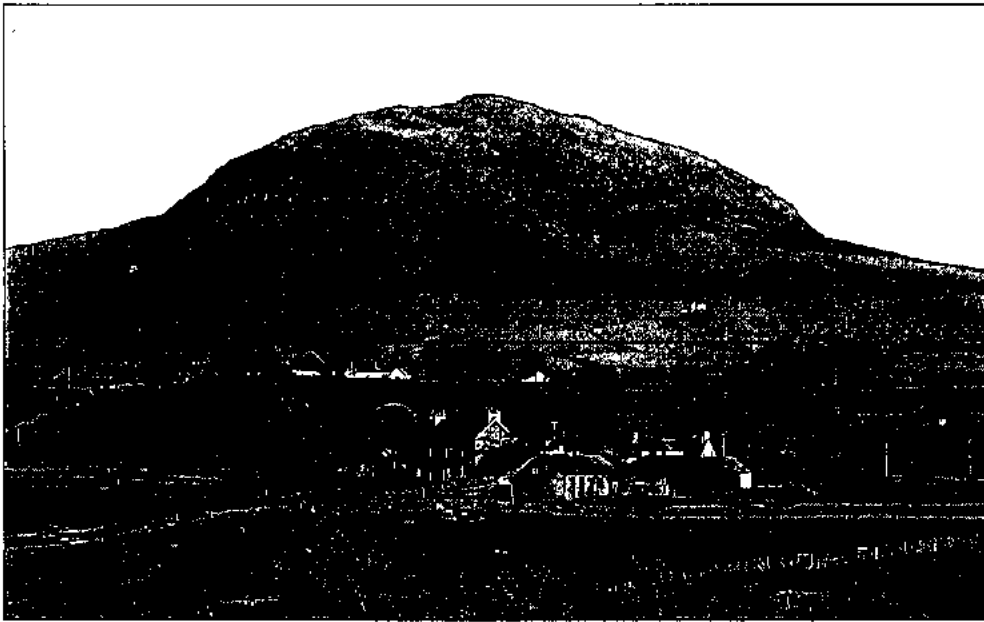
*Enquiries should be addressed to:  
Government Buildings  
Woodthorne  
Wergs Road  
Wolverhampton  
WV6 8TQ*

*Tel: 01902 743711*

# *Access in Northern Ireland and the NI Countryside Access Scheme*

*Margaret Hood,*

*Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland*



*Photo: Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland*

*The first scheme to be signed up under the NI Countryside Access Scheme is at Slemish, near Broughshane, County Antrim. This gives access across the top of Slemish and around the western side.*

The primary responsibility for managing and securing public access in Northern Ireland rests with district councils. This responsibility derives from the *Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983*. The councils are required to identify, assert, protect and manage public rights of way. They can create, close or divert public paths either through agreement or by making an 'order'. They can also provide access to open country, provide or create associated facilities, and enter into access agreements often leading to what are known as 'permissive paths'. The Department of the Environment also has specific functions under the Access Order, namely:

- a quasi-judicial role in determining the outcome of orders, made by district councils under the legislation, to which either the landowners concerned or other parties have objected;

- consultative powers with respect to proposed long distance routes, temporary path changes and certain aspects of access to open country;
- executive and empowering roles to confirm or make bye-laws, confirm long distance routes and acquire land in certain instances, and
- provision of financial assistance to the relevant bodies.

In 1993, following discussions between the Department of the Environment, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland (each of whom had concerns about the nature and state of informal access provision), an Access Study was prepared. The Study concluded that overall, strategic



responsibility for countryside access lay with the Department of the Environment and recommended that the Department should:

adopt a high profile, promotional stance;  
define a national policy and strategy;  
secure enhanced funding;  
determine or endorse local access strategies;  
encourage liaison between, and co-ordinate action by, the many public bodies, voluntary organisations and other interested parties.

The study also recommended that the Department of Agriculture for N. Ireland (DANI) should consider the introduction of a scheme to encourage farmers to provide permissive path access. EC Regulation 2078/92, (the Agri-environment Regulation) made provision for the introduction of such an incentive scheme to encourage farmers to allow public access over their land. The Countryside Access Scheme was subsequently developed by DANI, in close liaison with DOE (NI) and also District Councils. It came into operation on 1 July 1996.

Under the scheme DANI provides annual payments to farmers for the provision, management and maintenance of new permissive access routes. Established rights of way or routes which are capable of being asserted are not eligible for aid under the scheme. DOE (NI) provides funding for any limited capital works needed to make the route functional - such items include stiles and waymarkers.

There are number of pre-requisites for the scheme. In order to be eligible, the route must be included in a District Council strategic access plan which has been approved by DOE (NI). The route must not be a public right of way and it must not be over 'common land'. Routes which are eligible for payment may be along or over agricultural use laneways, enclosed agricultural land, woodland, open hill (where de facto access does not exist). Existing permissive paths may also be eligible for payment. Management payments to farmers who enter into 10 year agreements, are based on management costs, income foregone, and an incentive element.

The payments are:-

- route running through agricultural land (based on area of field).
- £150 for first 0.5 hectare
- £50 for each additional 0.5 hectare (or part thereof).

The above payments are subject to the following ceilings:

<u>Length of Path</u>	<u>Payment</u>
< 0.5 km	- £250
0.5 - 1km	- £350
> 1km	- £450

Payment is also made for farm laneways. This provision has been made available because in N. Ireland the situation exists of several farmers having access rights along a shared laneway. Financial incentives were considered necessary since some strategic access routes would involve access along a shared farm lane before fields could be entered. The payment reflects shared maintenance and public liability costs.

Payments are

- £100 per 0.25 hectare area (length and breadth) (except where the agreement also includes payment for both laneway and agricultural land in which case the payment is £85 per 0.25 hectare area).

Once a strategic plan has been approved District Council officers may then enter into initial negotiations with farmers along a route. When agreement in principle has been obtained from land owners an application may then be submitted involving both DANI and DOE grant aid. (A 'value for money' assessment is made in considering and drawing up agreements). DANI local officers will be involved in negotiations with farmers during joint visits by DANI and District Council staff. A variety of issues will be discussed including health and safety aspects of the route; any impact to farming practice; and agreement on conditions of use. The application will then be submitted to the DOE.

Conditions which the farmer must comply with are set out on the next page and permissions come from the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.



The farmer must:

- make the public access route available to the public without charge.
- maintain free and safe passage over the public access route.
- not erect new fences, plant trees, apply pesticides or undertake land improvements on or adjacent to the public access route.
- keep the public access route and fields crossed by it substantially free of litter or other refuse.
- exclude all bulls over 10 months of age from the public access route and from any field crossed by such public access route.
- provide and maintain adequate means of entry and facilities necessary to the effective use of the public access route.
- not permit any of the following activities on the public access route or on fields crossed by it: camping, caravans, organised games or sports, use of motor vehicles (except for motor vehicles used for agricultural operations on the land), or any other activity likely to have a detrimental effect upon the environment.
- not permit the riding of horses or cycles on the public access route, except to the extent given in a written permission.
- not close the public access route to the public other than for a number of days specified in accordance with the prior permission. At least two weeks before any day on which the public access route is to be closed to the public under this paragraph, the farmer shall cause to be erected at any entry point to that route appropriate signs giving notice of that closure.
- effect public liability insurance cover of at least £1 million and shall maintain it for the duration of the agreement and must provide such evidence.
- On or adjacent to the public access route the farmer must retain the existing field boundaries and no hedge, bank, ditch, dyke or wall or any part thereof shall be removed, except with the prior written permission of the Department and must maintain such hedges.

The scheme has been slow to take off and only one agreement has so far been entered into. A number of factors may be responsible. The concept of preparing strategic access plans is new to district councils in N. Ireland - some of which did not until recently employ dedicated countryside officers. As a result district councils have been slow to make progress in preparing Access Strategies. Since this is a prime pre-requisite of the Scheme, progress has not been made in identifying target farmers and securing agreements.

The issue of excluding bulls over 10 months of age from a public access route is perceived as a problem which will be difficult to overcome in practice since so many of the farmers who might enter land into the scheme would find it difficult to comply with this condition. DANI is considering with DOE (NI) how this issue might be addressed.

DANI and DOE (NI) are hopeful that the initial problems being encountered can be overcome and are confident that the scheme will in time provide increased opportunities for the public in N. Ireland to enjoy access to their beautiful countryside.

*Margaret Hood works in the  
Environmental Policy Division,  
Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland*

*Enquiries should be made to:*

*DANI,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownwards Road,  
Belfast.  
BT4 3SB.*

*Tel: 01232 524395*



# *Farming the Walker*

*Martyn Evans, Countryside Council for Wales, discusses access provisions in Tir Cymen.*



*Walkers enjoying Tir Cymen access near Swansea.*

*Photo: Countryside Council for Wales*

Try this for size. Teer Kummen. And again but this time with feeling and rolling your 'r's. Teer Kummen. This is roughly how you pronounce Tir Cymen, the Countryside Council For Wales' very own agri - environment scheme. So now you can say it, what does it mean? 'Well crafted landscape' is the official translation and my experience is that this is far more accurate than the misplaced 'tidy farm' imagined by some early commentators.

Now in its fifth year as an experimental scheme, piloted in the three former districts of Meirionnydd, Dinefwr and Swansea, the objective of Tir Cymen is :

*to combine, on a whole farm basis, good farming practice with the conservation of existing semi - natural habitats and where possible, habitat improvement and expansion, landscape conservation and the protection of archaeological features while promoting opportunities for the public to enjoy the countryside and coast.*

Got it? Oh, yes, the scheme also operates a basic conservation code for the whole farm. Ten year Tir Cymen agreements are conditional on the farmer maintaining existing public rights of way (PRoW) free from obstruction and allowing public access on foot to all areas of unenclosed moorland and upland grassland. The farmer receives no payment for either of these requirements. This is often referred to as 'cross - compliance', but is probably better described as 'compliance'. Farmers also have the option of providing public access on new permissive paths, including paths for people with disabilities, permissive bridlepaths or areas within enclosed land, in return for annual management payments under their agreements. Walkers' dogs have to be kept on a lead, except on public rights of way where the law requires them merely to be under close control. Maps showing Tir Cymen access are available at local Tourist Information Centres, libraries and other outlets and signs, while many have been erected on permissive paths and include site interpretation.

A study of Tir Cymen access provision, by the Centre for Environmental Interpretation (CEI), showed that in the first three years of the scheme :

- there were reports of improvements in the rights of way network on Tir Cymen farms - by the end of the third year more than 700km of public rights of way were covered by the maintenance requirements of the condition of the 10 year agreement;
- the public had freedom of access for quiet enjoyment on foot to more than 27,000 hectares of open hill land (most of it in Meirionnydd). By the fifth year, this had increased to more than 35,000 hectares;
- about 43 kilometres of permissive paths had been established, mostly of 1 kilometre or less, but this included few bridlepaths or paths for people with disabilities. By year 5 there were 55 kilometres of permissive paths.

The study commented that Tir Cymen officers have an excellent relationship with farmers and that farmers' attitudes towards access have become more accepting, something the scheme itself may well have contributed to.

CEI made a number of recommendations including the preparation, at local access forum level, of appropriate publicity for all access opportunities, including Tir Cymen. Many of these recommendations, together with the views of CCW, were taken forward in a recent announcement by the Welsh Office, following consultation<sup>2</sup>, on the future of agri - environment measures in Wales. Launching a single new whole farm, all - Wales scheme at the Royal Welsh Show this July, the Secretary of State Ron Davies MP said that the scheme, to be available in 1998, would extend the Tir Cymen access conditions to coastal land such as maritime grassland, dunes and foreshore.

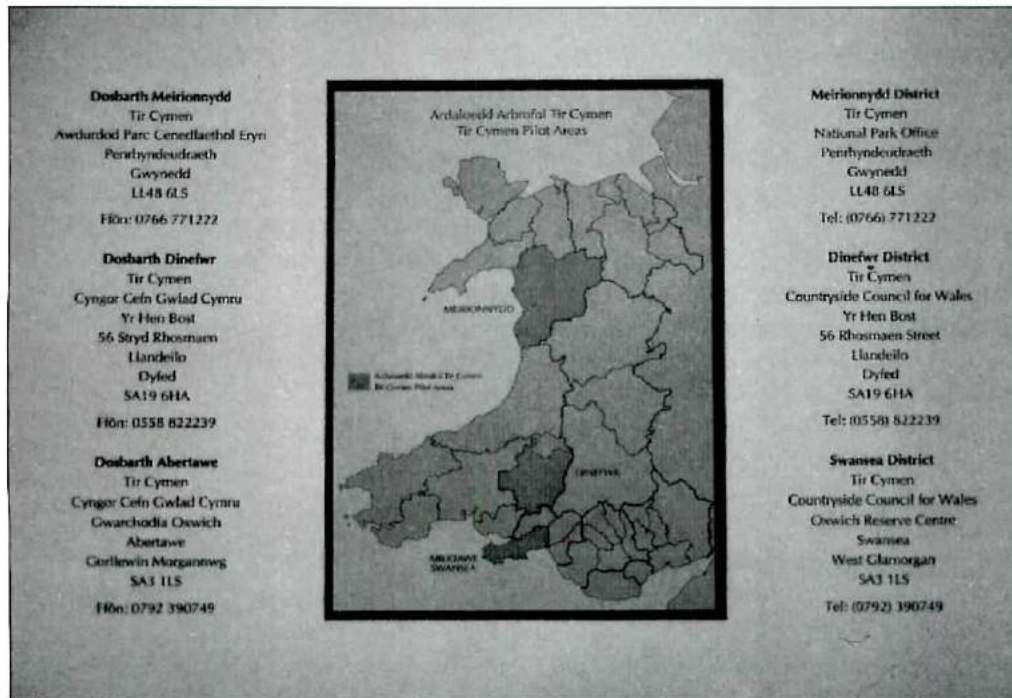


Photo: Countryside Council for Wales

Tir Cymen Pilot Areas.



Sounds like a perfect scheme, so what's the problem? Well, that's not for me to say or I'd be doing the Ramblers out of a job. But it's no great secret that steaming up in the outside lane are the Government's proposals for access due to be published for consultation this Autumn. Given their pre-election pledge, it is logical that Paddy Tipping MP recently introduced a Private Members Bill to "enable members of the public to resort on foot to open country in England and Wales for their recreation and connected purposes" and this will be given a second reading in February 1998. Clearly the challenge is to design the new agri-environment scheme in Wales to make it compatible with anticipated access legislation, so that if this happens, farmers providing access to unenclosed moorland, heath land and grassland would simply be required to comply with the new law. Other access provisions of the scheme may not be affected.

What other pearls of wisdom can I offer from the Tir Cymen experience? Well, two kilometres or so of permissive bridlepaths in five years of Tir Cymen is a poor show, despite the levels of annual payments being, at £200 per km, twice that for permissive footpaths. Staff running the scheme say that most farmers appear simply not to want horse riders on their land. Suggestions on how this can be overcome would be welcomed.

Although no attempt has been made to estimate the numbers using Tir Cymen access, the feeling is that they are low, mainly because the promotion of opportunities has been slow in coming about. This is being improved, in line with the central environmental objectives of the scheme. However, the greatest prize is still beyond reach - showing Tir Cymen access on Ordnance Survey maps. A recent survey by the OS through purchasers of the revised 'Landranger' 124 sheet showed that 80% bought the map because of the access information it contained. It is a shame therefore that the time-limited nature of Tir Cymen access is still the main reason why OS maps cannot show Tir Cymen access.

The Hyde Park rally purported to reflect a growing polarization between town and country. It could help therefore that CEI also report a willingness among land managers to receive payments encouraging them to provide access for educational purposes. The potential mutual benefits of encouraging a greater understanding

among the public, especially young people, of life on the farm are obvious and CCW will be hoping to progress this. CEI quote one Tir Cymen farmer:

"A better understanding of the countryside by townspeople; we rely on public goodwill".

Another feature to be improved is the small number of opportunities created for people with disabilities. Hilly terrain on Tir Cymen farms is the main problem but we are discussing with local groups how provision can be improved, particularly to match this to local demand.

Attention is now being focused on maximising the access gains made in Tir Cymen by improving the flow of information to highway and National Park authorities. This enables CCW grant aided (PRoW) improvement programs to link with Tir Cymen farms (where PRoW's are free from obstruction). Communication with user groups by Tir Cymen and highway and National Park authorities is essential to ensure the proper planning and delivery of this work.

Altogether then, a fairly promising springboard for the new scheme. The Welsh Office has already asked CCW, The Farming and Rural Conservation Agency, Welsh Office Agricultural Department and other interests to get their heads together to thrash out its detail, in short order. Next year looks interesting already.

## References

<sup>1</sup> 'An evaluation of the access provisions of the Tir Cymen scheme'. Centre For Environmental Interpretation, Manchester Metropolitan University for Countryside Council for Wales, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> 'Agri-environment schemes in Wales - consultation paper'. Welsh Office, March 1997.

*Martyn Evans is Senior Recreation and Access Officer at CCW. He can be contacted at:*

*The Countryside Council for Wales,  
Plas Penrhos,  
Ffordd Penrhos,  
Bangor,  
Gwynedd.  
LL57 2LQ*

*Tel: 01248 385647*



## Errata

*Amendment to an article by Harry Kingham.  
'Rights of Way: Path Densities and Networks'.  
Vol 5, No2, April 1997, p8-9,  
Countryside Recreation Network News.*

In the article average path density was calculated for rural areas by dividing a usual figure for the length of country paths (190,000 kms) by the estimated non-urban area of England (110,000 sq. km.). This gives an average path density of 1.7.

Later, it seemed to me that the figure was unduly high, and to test it I carried out a map survey on a 2% structured sample of rural land in England. This measures directly a path density for non-urban areas of 1.26 (SE = .02.). So my original figure was much too high, and the figure of 1.26 is the correct standard to use.

There were two sources of error in the original calculation. Firstly, the definition of non-urban land (after Bibby and Shepherd) was unsuitable in this context. If non-urban land is defined simply as that area excluding settlements of over 1000 people, the figure is probably nearer 120,000 sq.kms. And secondly, the length of "countryside" paths has been overstated in the past, and although no exact figure is available, using my definition of non-urban land it is around 15,000 kms. I apologise for any difficulties my original note may have caused.

*Harry Kingham  
17 Nightingale Avenue  
Cambridge  
CB1 4SG*



Photo: Kevin Bishop

Editor's note:

If you have comments to make on these articles, the newsletter itself, or about topical countryside issues then please send your letters to the Network Manager, Department of City & Regional Planning, University of Wales Cardiff, Cardiff. CF1 3YN.  
Fax: 01222 874970. e-mail: [cplan-crn-1@cf.ac.uk](mailto:cplan-crn-1@cf.ac.uk)



# Obituary

## *Sue Glyptis 1953 - 1997*



Some 400 colleagues and friends packed Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough to express sympathy for the grief of George and Audrey, and the family at Sue's sudden death after a fall and associated brain injuries; but they came too to celebrate the gifts and contributions that Sue had packed into such a short time.

In terms of academic progression, Sue left Exmouth School to study Geography at UCW Aberystwyth, from which she took a 2.1 to Hull in 1974 to do her ground breaking PhD on Countryside visitors' site use and leisure lifestyles, under her mentor and friend Allan Patmore. Then she moved to work for Mike Collins, later a colleague at Loughborough, as a research manager at the Sports Council, both on sports and countryside projects, and for the panel with the Economic and Social Research Council.

In 1981 she took a lectureship at Loughborough University and began her prodigious output of 3 books and over 70 articles and reports, from one who said she found writing hard work! In 1987 she became a Senior Lecturer and in 1990 gained the first chair in Recreation Management, the first chair at Loughborough to be held by a woman. Her work continued in fields related to recreation- lifestyle, countryside, unemployment, and the inner city, including her standard texts on Leisure and Unemployment (1991) and Countryside Recreation (1993).

She was never aggressive, and typically she said "I was never actively ambitious, I just wanted to do the best job I could in my particular field." To the quiet Professor invitations flooded in, in the UK, in Europe, in the USA, in Australia - "if you want a good job doing, ask Sue".

But besides the role of professor, those who knew her will remember far more the person of infinite caring. She could not do enough for her students and they loved her unselfishness. Generous to a fault, she loved finding the right gift for family and friends. Just two glimpses, unsolicited, must speak for them all. A member of her Department wrote "she helped many people in different ways, always giving and never wanting to receive. She was a tremendous help to my daughter, who, in her final year at (another) University was having major problems with her dissertation. Sue came to her rescue, put her on the right track and she was awarded a 2:1 degree"; and a University caretaker said "we have all lost a good friend."

Publicly often serious, privately Sue loved quiet laughter, had a dry irreverent wit and wonderful turn of phrase, often displayed in the large store of postcards she sent back from holidays and trips.

So many of her circle ached when this highly talented, loving person found herself breaking, in a bleakness and loneliness that untroubled folks cannot comprehend. Despite the skills of medicine, and the care and understanding of Ministers, family, friends and colleagues, Sue had to retire earlier in 1997 on grounds of ill-health; though the tragic fall which brought her death was a brutal and unexpected shock. But through it all, her faith stood secure, and in that inner mind that so few really penetrated, she longed for a new liberation, and the peace she now has. We praise God for the gifts, and the achievements of her life, and for the richness of the memories she has left us all.

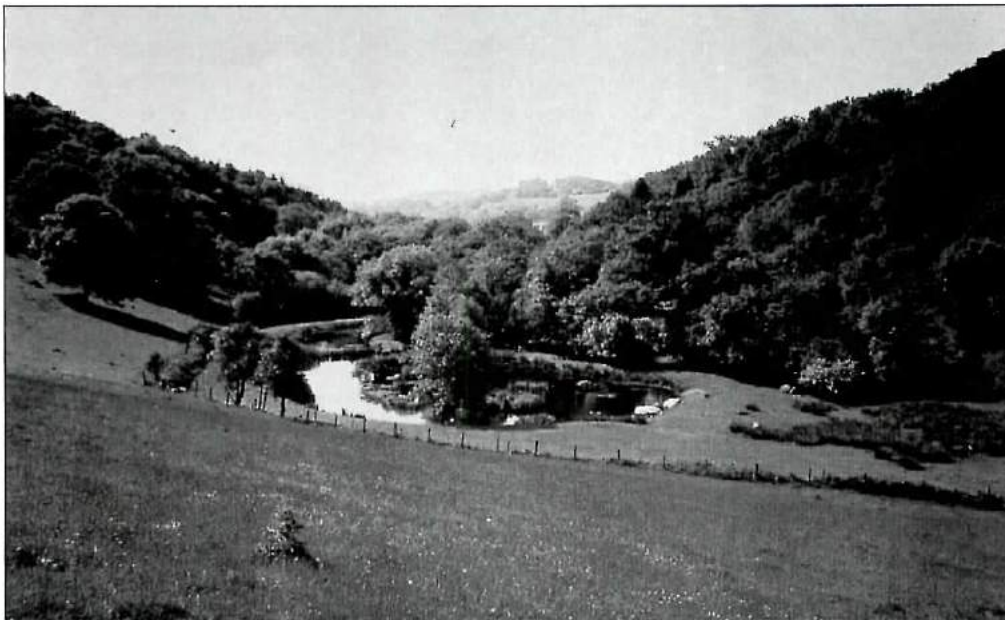
J Allan Patmore  
Michael F Collins

If anyone would like to make a memorial gift, it was Sue's wish to support the Cancer Research Fund, and donations should be sent to Jean Godwin at the Dept. of Physical Education, Sports Science and Recreation Management, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU. Her colleagues are discussing a suitable enduring memorial to Sue and her contribution to Recreation Management, to be announced.



# *Permissive Access to Agricultural Land Provided Through Agri-Environment Schemes: The current position in England*

*Richard Cooke & Fiona Gough*  
*Farming and Rural Conservation Agency*



*A Countryside Stewardship site at Higher Combe, Newton Abbot, Devon which features a permissive path giving access to an open area of farmland where new ponds have been created to add interest.*

*Photo: FRCA*

This country is blessed with an extensive network of public rights of way including footpaths, bridleways, green lanes, Byways Open to all Traffic (BOATS), Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPS) etc. We also have a tradition of village greens and public recreation areas around villages and within towns and cities. Most of these evolved for functional purposes allowing people to move about the countryside from one place to another. We also have a degree of tolerated 'permissive' access to some open upland moorland. In National Parks this has been formalised in some places through the means of access agreement payments to landowners.

In recent decades a leisure orientated demand has arisen. The number and extent of Public Rights of Way (PRoW's) and greens varies considerably through the country based on previous need rather than current demand. The existing network of public access has, in places,

been found to be insufficient or inappropriate to meet current needs.

The first Government scheme to pay landowners to provide more public access on enclosed countryside was the Countryside Premium Scheme (1989), run by the Countryside Commission. This made payments to landowners in certain eastern counties for allowing the public to walk and recreate on set-aside land. It concentrated on areas around villages where the demand for public open space was highest.

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CS) was set up in 1991 to discover whether conservation of landscape, wildlife and historical features and provision of access could coexist with profitable farming. Permissive access on these sites also provided an opportunity for the public to have access to appreciate the conservation management being undertaken on the site.

There was some doubt as to whether



landowners would be willing to welcome the public onto their land but immediately a number of applicants offered their sites for use by the public in exchange for scheme payments. Targets were set for the percentage of agreements to contain permissive access. These were exceeded, and from being unsure whether anyone would accept this element of the scheme, criteria were developed in 1992 to guide the selection and acceptance of applications, so that only the best and most relevant were included. There are now over 1200 Countryside Stewardship agreements containing permissive access, which the public are encouraged to visit.

Following the success of the Countryside Premium Scheme and the access element of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme the Government established the Countryside Access Scheme (CAS) in 1994 as a successor to the Premium Scheme. This enabled land under 5 year set-aside, to receive additional payments for allowing open access by the public. There is now also an access tier for use within Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Both schemes closely follow the Stewardship model.

Payments for permissive access therefore appear in three of England's "agri-environment" schemes set up as part of a package of measures to meet the requirements of EC Regulation 2078/92. They are all administered by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) with the advice and support of Project Officers from the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) [Note: Countryside Stewardship transferred to MAFF in 1996].

### Site Selection

Not all Countryside Stewardship or Environmentally Sensitive Area sites are necessarily suitable for the creation of further public access and demand for access may not exist in all areas. To ensure public benefit and value for money is achieved from access payments it is necessary to be selective when paying for permissive access. Many sites will already have adequate existing access through PROWs. Two types of permissive access are possible, linear routes providing walks in their own right or linking existing rights of way, and open access where a whole field or series of fields is made available to be roamed over at will.

MAFF establishes the demand for the different

types of access through consultation with local partners e.g. at annual Countryside Stewardship liaison meetings, and by consulting the local Highways Authority on all access applications. Some sites are inherently unsuitable for certain types of access, e.g. wetland sites and bridleways do not sit happily together! The FRCA Project Officers (who carry out the site assessments on behalf of MAFF) frequently find that they have to reject or modify an application for payments for permissive access because the site is unsuitable or incompatible with the proposed use.

Sites can be categorised as follows:

- Sites suitable for use by local people for short walks, exercising dogs or for informal games such as kite flying or picnicking. Such sites are likely to be in areas where there is an inadequate or infrequent supply of footpaths or where there is limited space in the vicinity for children to play and exercise. Often new access is created by linking existing public rights of way in order to create circular walks, or by providing a small area of open access close to a village.
- Sites with a particular attraction that are appropriate for people to visit or to stop when passing. Attractions may be in the form of historic remains, a particularly fine view or a riverside walk. These vary from local sites as it is usually necessary to provide parking spaces.
- Sites used by visitors to the area, particularly in popular tourist areas. These may adjoin a coastpath or a well used route in a tourist area. They will often join or link to long distance footpaths. The intention, usually, is to relieve erosion on popular paths by providing an alternative route to give access to a particular view or archaeological area, or to link to nearby villages. Open access sites may be appropriate providing areas for exploration, allowing the public to ramble at will rather than being confined to a narrow corridor. They will often provide access to a feature of interest such as archaeological remains, water features or fine views which were previously unavailable.



- Sites catering for specialist use. There might be an inherent feature that is of interest to specialists such as particular wildlife species or site of historic importance. Alternatively they might provide for specialist use such as permissive bridleways for horse riders or graded paths for wheel chair access. Again demand needs to be established and suitability carefully assessed.
- Sites providing education access. These receive separate payments to encourage the land manager to make the site available for study. The agreement holder is required to develop links with schools and to provide information about the site for teachers to use. Educational access payments are only available through the CS scheme.

Normally payments for access to sites is only provided on land that is under agreement to be managed to conserve and enhance it's environmental value. Very exceptionally, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme can pay for access to land without the accompanying landscape or wildlife conservation measures. This will only occur where there is a high and proven demand for a particular new route or open access area, such as a missing link between PRowS. Public benefit must obviously be higher in such cases and the route or area will need to be supported by the local Highways Authority.

**Site Management**

Sites have to be managed and maintained by the land manager. Mapboards indicating the extent of the access are placed at the main points of entry and exit and waymarks are provided through the site to indicate the route. These plus the stiles, gates etc. that are erected, are checked at an early stage by the FRCA Project Officer, thereafter they have to be maintained, and replaced as necessary, by the agreement holder.

The attitude of the land manager to increased use by the public is therefore critical. The presence of dogs can often be a problem when livestock is present. It has to be remembered that these sites are on working farmland. The usual solution is to request that dogs are kept on leads when livestock are present. Equally some sites are very sensitive to the presence of people particularly if they are on a prime bird breeding

site. In such cases it is possible to close the access during the critical month or months. Sporting interests also have to be considered and, in some cases, sites can be closed on shooting days if adequate notice has been given.

**Payment Levels**

Initially the Countryside Stewardship Scheme only paid for access to areas of land - "open access". It was soon realised that, in many cases, the requirement is for a route rather than an area and this option was introduced in the second year of the scheme. The initial system of paying a fixed amount per area or length resulted in low payments on small sites but comparatively large payments on larger sites. It was found however that the public use was greater on smaller sites and the pressure on landowners that much greater. Payment levels were therefore re-structured to provide a base payment for every suitable site with a fixed rate per area or length on top of that. This provided small sites with a greater payment, pro-rata, than larger sites.

The Countryside Access Scheme makes payment on a per hectare basis, either for open access or for 10 metre wide linear routes. This scheme is only available on land that is in guaranteed 5 year set aside. The ESA Scheme makes payments for linear routes 10 metres wide, also paid for on a per hectare basis. The access element is available to anyone in an ESA agreement. The current rates of payment for all three schemes are shown over the page:

**COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP**

Open access: Base Payment	£150/year
Plus open access area payment	£35/ha/year
Linear access base payment	£150/year
Plus:	
Footpaths	£0.15/m/year
Access for horse riding and cycling	£0.30/m/year
Paths for people with disabilities	£0.30/m/year
Access for Educational Visits	£500/year



**ESAs**

Linear Routes (10m wide)	£170/ha/year (or £0.17/m/year)
--------------------------	-----------------------------------

**COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS SCHEME**

Open access	£45/ha/year
Linear routes (10m wide)	£90/ha/year (or £0.09/m/year)

In addition to the area and linear payments, capital grants are available towards the cost of installation of the site infrastructure such as stiles, gates and hard standing for car parking or surfacing for wheel chair access. Site mapboards and waymarks are provided free of charge by MAFF.

It is essential that the sites are known to the public. They are established using taxpayers money for the benefit of the public and this will only be achieved if the public are aware of the sites and make use of them. Each site is provided with map boards at the main entry and exit points and copies of these boards are sent, by the agreement holder, to the Parish Council.

All sites (from all three schemes) are entered onto a database from which annual registers are generated. The registers and a promotional leaflet - 'Conservation Walks' - are widely circulated to places such as Public Libraries, Tourist Information Centres, Highways Authorities and anyone who has requested a copy. They are also sent to the Ramblers Association and the Open Spaces Society. The database is regularly updated and is accessible via the Internet - on <http://www.countrywalks.org.uk>. Articles have also regularly appeared in walking journals. Some local Authorities have produced leaflets of walks available in their area and Stewardship sites are often included in these. MAFF encourages more local authorities to follow this example.

Production of the mapboards is inevitably time-consuming as they cannot be designed until the Agreement has been entered into but it is the intention that all sites should be "boarded" and on the database within 6 months of the site being established.

**Current Area Under Agreement**

The total areas of open access and length of linear route currently available under each of the schemes.

Scheme	Number of agreements & total area or length
--------	---

**Countryside Stewardship**

Open access	787 / 13,334 ha
Footpath	410 / 443 km
Bridleway	55 / 102 km
Disabled	23 / 13 km
Educational Access	445 / N/A

**ESAs**

Linear routes	49 / 60 km
---------------	------------

**Countryside Access Scheme**

Open access (containing a mix of open and linear access)	126 / 1540 ha
Linear access	see above / 85 km

Note figures as at August 1997  
(agreements signed up to and including 1996).

**The Future**

The question of the Government paying landowners to allow the public onto their land has inevitably aroused some debate. Some advocate that the public should have a right to roam on open land without charge or payment and have criticised the Government for making payments. Others advocate the voluntary approach as the best way to achieve an increase in the amount and quality and management of public access to the countryside. The Government's manifesto included a commitment to provide greater freedom for people to explore

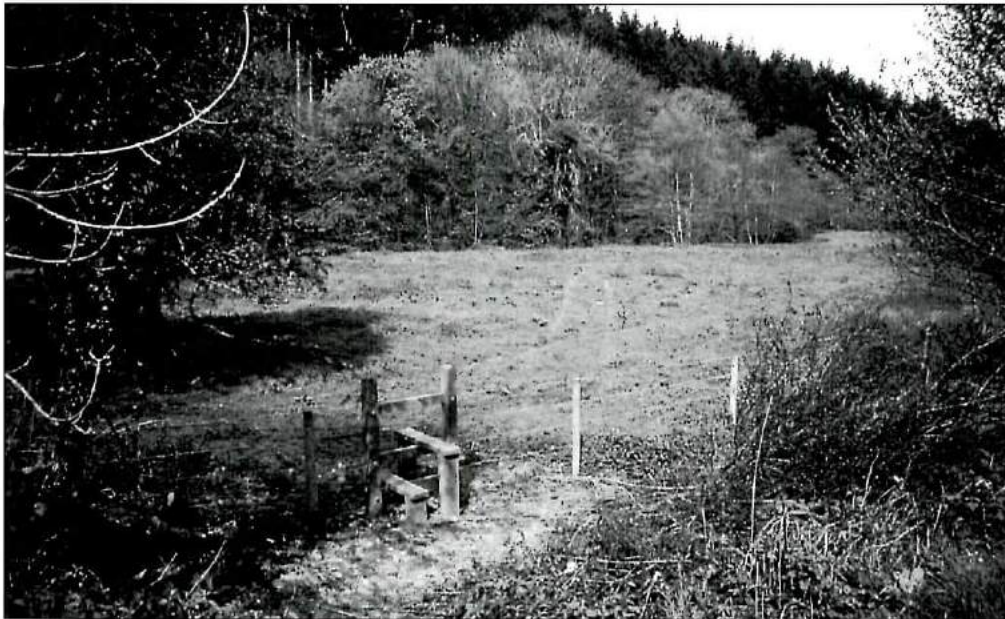


Photo: Kevin Bishop

*Countryside Stewardship site.*

open countryside, accompanied by the assurance that the Government would not permit any public abuse of a right to greater access. The Government is currently preparing a public consultation document to take this commitment forward in England and Wales. It is likely that the present system of making payments will continue on enclosed agricultural land. The CAS will be subject to the 5 yearly scheme review in 1998, and the access element of all the agri environment schemes is subject to an external monitoring contract, due to report in 1998, which will inform future development and management of these options.

*Richard Cooke is Countryside Stewardship  
Co-ordinator and Access Adviser  
FRCA Western Region  
Staplake Mount  
Starcross  
EX6 8PU*

*Tel: 01626 890249*

*Fiona Gough is Countryside Stewardship  
Co-ordinator, FRCA Northern Region  
She can currently be contacted at:  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3SR*

*Tel: 0171 2383000*



# Annual CRN Conference 1997

## 'Making Access for All a Reality'

3rd - 4th December

Stakis Hotel, Sheffield

*Cost: £260 for 2 days / £95 for 1 day  
including dinner and a free copy of the  
BT Countryside for All  
' Good Practice Guide to Disabled  
Peoples Access in the Countryside'*

Almost 20 years since the 1978 conference, 'Countryside for All?', we need to review what progress has been made, swap notes on current practice, and determine what we should do next.

### Highlights of the programme include:

#### Eminent speakers:

- *Andrew Smith, Minister for Employment, Welfare to Work & Equal Opportunities*
- *Ian Ash, Director of Corporate Relations, British Telecom*
- *Alan Mattingly, Director, Ramblers Association*
- *The Rt Reverend Alan Chesters, Bishop of Blackburn.*
- *Clive Davis, Director, Cleveland Community Forest*
- *Stephen Harrison, Southwark Borough Council*
- *Dr Carolyn Harrison, Department of Geography, University College London*
- *Dave Park, Chief, Office of Accessibility, US National Park Service*

#### Participation through:

- The chance to attend 2 out of approximately 16 workshops led by people who are paving the way ahead in making access to the countryside a reality for more people;
- A three stage mapping exercise in which we will identify the barriers, reach for solutions and carry away ideas for action, to help make access for all a reality.

#### Fringe Events

- The chance to discuss in small groups, or one to one, with providers and people who help make things happen, picking up on conference themes or addressing questions raised;
- An evening performance to look at things from a different point of view.

#### Extending your network

- The chance to meet like minded souls and extend your personal contacts.

#### Who should attend?

Everyone who seeks greater equality of provision for access should play a part in this conference, whether user or provider, planner or practitioner, academic or manager, from the public, private and voluntary sectors, from perspectives of recreation or social services.

People from all backgrounds and abilities are welcome. No one should feel unable to attend and every effort will be made to meet each delegate's special requirements. Assistance may be available for car parking, public transport, accommodation, dietary or other conference needs.

*For further details contact either  
Edmund Blamey (Network Manager)  
or Siân Griffiths (Network Assistant).*

*Tel / Fax: (01222 874 970)  
e-mail: cplan-crn-1@cf.ac.uk*

# Countryside Recreation Training and Events

## October

Monday, 6 October

### *Making Ends Meet*

A workshop aiming to provide delegates with an insight into the opportunities and pitfalls of securing external funding (e.g. from Government schemes, the National Lottery & European Social & Structural funds).

(CRN)

Venue: James Gracie Centre, Birmingham

Contact: 01222 874970

6 - 7 October

### *Planning and designing visitor friendly outdoor panels*

Haywards Heath, Sussex

Cost: £240

Tel: 01482 887537

7 October

### *Law in the Countryside: handling incidents involving wildlife issues*

(CMA)

Neil Diment/

John Veverka Associates

Ashton Court Estate Visitor Centre, Bristol

Cost: £35 CMA Members: £25

13 - 15 October

### *Developing Cycling & Walking Routes*

(CEI/Countryside Commission)

Losehill Hall

Cost: £385 Subsidised: £192.50

Tel: 01433 620373

15 - 17 October

### *Guided Walks Workshop, Parts 1 & 2*

Neil Diment/ CEI Associates  
Seaford, Sussex

Cost: 3 Days: £390 Subsidised £195

Either Part: £195 Subsidised £97.50

15 October

### *Law in the Countryside: handling incidents, people and property*

(CMA)

Risley Moss Visitor Centre,  
Warrington

(CMA)

Cost: £35 CMA Members: £20

19 - 24 October

### *Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: a European Conference*

(Losehill Hall)

Cost: £520

Tel: 01433 620373

20 - 24 October

### *Environmental Interpretation*

(Plas Tan y Blwch)

Cost: £528 Subsidised: £264

Tel: 01766 590324

21 October

### *Strategic Planning for Parks and Open Spaces*

(ILAM)

Pershore & Hindlip College,  
Worcestershire

Cost: Member £35 + £6.13 VAT

Non-member £45 + £7.88 VAT

Retired/Student member £10 +  
£1.75 VAT

Tel: 01491 874854

25 - 26 October

### *Made in the Hills*

An Open Studio event in the  
Blackdown Hills

Arts Weekend

Tel: 01404 881733

28 October

### *The Regeneration and Use of Urban Parks and Greenspace*

(CMA)

Houldsworth Park, Stockport

Cost: £35 CMA Members: £22.50

28 - 31 October

### *Management Skills for Countryside Staff (Part 1)*

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Cost: £728 (incl. Part 2)

Tel: 01766 590324

28 - 31 October

### *Wildlife Enhancement in Historic Gardens and Parklands*

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Cost: £400 Subsidised: £200

Tel: 01766 590324



# Countryside Recreation Training and Events

## November

3 - 7 November

*Forests for All? Sustainable  
Management of Multiple-use  
Woodlands*

(Losehill Hall)

Cost: £470

Tel: 01433 620373

4 November

*Funding from Europe  
(CEI England & Wales)*

To be confirmed

Cost: £110 Subsidised: £55

Tel: 0161 2471067

6 - 8 November

*Public Rights of Way Survey and  
Management*

(Plas Tan y Blwch)

Cost: £165

Tel: 01766 590324

10 - 14 November

*Basic Training for Wardens &  
Rangers*

(Plas Tan y Blwch)

Cost: £346 Subsidised: £225

Tel: 01766 590324

12 - 17 November

*Working for a Sustainable  
Countryside*

CMA Annual Study Event  
(CMA)

Swallow Hotel, York

Cost: £280 Subsidised: £230

17 - 19 November

*Footpath Assessment and  
Management*

Ross & Cromarty Footpath  
Trust

Dingwall

Cost: £400 Subsidised: £300/£100

17 - 21 November

*Management Planning in the  
Countryside*

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Cost: £368 Subsidised: £220

Tel: 01766 590324

19 November

6th Conference & Annual  
General Meeting

*Standards for Ecological Survey -  
getting the right balance*

(IEEM)

The Birmingham

Botanical Gardens

Cost: Members £60

Non-members £80

Tel: 01635 37715

25 November

*Promoting Considerate Use of  
Urban Greenspace*

(CMA)

Houldsworth Park, Stockport.

Cost: £30 CMA Members: £20

27 November

Annual Conference of the  
Council for Environmental  
Education

*Educating for Biodiversity*

Natural History Museum,  
London.

Cost: £45

Tel: 0118 9756061

## December

3 December

*Visitor Safety and Risk Assessment  
(CMA)*

Risley Moss, Warrington

Cost: £30 CMA Members: £20

3 - 4 December

*Making Access for All a Reality*

Stakis Hotel, Sheffield

Tel: 01222 874970

December

Scottish Field Studies  
Association

*Organisational Roles and  
Responsibilities*

(SFSA)

Cost: £170 for Rangers and  
those grant aided by SNH  
£340 for Others

Tel: 01250 881286

# Countryside Recreation Training and Events

CRN is keeping advance information of training events, conferences and workshops, in order to act as a clearing house for those who are planning events and wish to avoid clashes. For further details please contact Siân Griffiths at CRN (contact details on p.3). If your organisation has event details please forward them to CRN.

## January

### 27 January

*Community Action in Urban Parks & Greenspace*

(CMA)

Houldsworth Park  
Stockport

Cost: £30 CMA Members: £20

## February

### 3 February

*Law in the Countryside: handling incidents, people and property*  
(CMA)

TBA, North London Fringe

Cost: £30 CMA Members: £20

### 11 February

*Interpretation on a shoestring*  
(CMA)

Risley Moss, Warrington

Cost: £30 CMA Members: £20

### 17 February

*Visitor Safety and Risk assessment*  
(CMA)

Ashton Court Estate Visitor  
Centre, Bristol

Cost: £30 CMA Members

## March...

## Training/events organisers

### SCRA

Scottish Countryside Rangers' Association

Tel: 01250 881286

### Plas Tan y Blwch

Tel: 01766 590324

### SFSA

Scottish Field Studies Association

Tel: 01250 881286

### CASS

Centre for Applied Social Surveys

Tel: 01703 594548

### CMA

Countryside Management Association

Tel: 01565 633603

### IEEM

Institute of Economic and Environmental Management

Tel: 01635 37715

### ILAM

Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management

Tel: 01491 874222

### Losehill Hall

Tel: 01433 620373

### CEE

Council for Environmental Education

Tel: 0118 975 6061

### FSC

Field Studies Council

Tel: (Head Office) 01743 850 674

### ETO

Environmental Training Organisation

Tel: 01452 840825

CEI - Following the closure at the end of July of the Centre for Environmental Interpretation (CEI), at Manchester Metropolitan University, staff and former colleagues have now set up CEI Associates Ltd. They will continue to provide CEI's services in training, advice and consultation from their offices in Manchester (0161 2471067/ 4456452) and Edinburgh (0131 3173360).