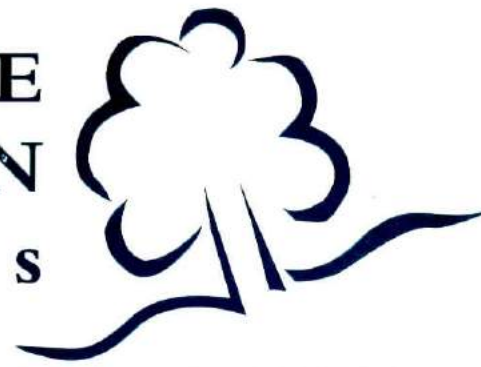


C O U N T R Y S I D E R E C R E A T I O N N e t w o r k N e w s



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— *This issue:*

Water recreation and access:

*angling
canoeing
reservoirs
'Sea Empress' oil spill*

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

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photo: Heltter Mason / Pro terra

Cover: Do white water canoeists receive an equitable use of UK rivers?

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 the results of countryside research and best practice on the ground.

Chair: Richard Broadhurst
Forestry Commission

Vice-Chair: Glenn Millar
British Waterways

CRN News 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 31 August. For more information or to subscribe, please contact:

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Editorial

We cannot live without it! Essential at human scale and at intercellular scale, it keeps us together. An extraordinary substance, it is everywhere in some concentration or other. Because water is so crucial to life, we should be looking after it perhaps more carefully than we have in the past.

Not only is it essential for our vital functions but for our recreation also. This newsletter focuses on the active use of water for recreation and looks at some of the conflicts. Newer sports have to compete with the traditional. Often the traditional sports have a voice which is more likely to be heard where decisions are made while the new sports have to struggle to find space and certainly a place.

Central to problems of conflict is often the problem of bad communication. Communication is necessary to understand the complicated requirements of each sport and the current legal and practical issues. On these pages is an attempt to redress this balance. The articles here focus mostly on active recreation in water in England, with the exception of the timely report on the monitoring of the impact of the oil spill from Sea Empress. There is interest and activity everywhere. The Access Forum in Scotland has turned its attention to the problems of access and water. The Scottish Sports Council have recently commissioned preparation of 'Guidelines for Planning and Managing Watersports on Inland Waters in Scotland'. The report draws on the experience across the UK – at Langstone Harbour, featured in this newsletter; but also of the Lower River Bann in Northern Ireland where consensus-based management proposals are taking shape to develop self regulation of water-skiing and jet-skiing; Llandegfedd Reservoir in South Wales where zoning in time and space is being put to effective use, and countless other examples. Towards the end of the year, CRN will be running a workshop on this topic, Water and Access.

Nowhere more so than in relation to water, techniques in consensus building and conflict resolution need to be in the toolbag of today's countryside staff whether ranger, planner, manager or policy maker. For those of you who missed the joint event held with the Environment Council in Exeter in February on Consensus Building, copies of the report are now available. In the autumn we intend holding another event in partnership, this time in Scotland.

People make use of the countryside for more contemplative forms of recreation and for social activities as well as for more active recreation. These competing demands are celebrated in the annual countryside recreation conference, this year held jointly with the Landscape Research Group. 'Landscapes of Leisure and Pleasure' will be held in Peterborough in November and will be certain to deliver some sharp reminders of these differences.

The Network focuses on countryside recreation. Users and visitors are central. 'Do Visitors Count?' is the workshop which will draw together developing expertise on user surveys. In recent years there have been great strides made, partly as a result of the application of information technology. Talking of which, you can now browse through the newsletter on the Internet, on <http://sosig.ac.uk/crn>. The Network operates through more traditional means also. Write in with your views and articles. Copy date for the next newsletter is 31 August.

Access to river corridors

The Environment Agency is keen to promote access to river corridors and develop riverside footpaths. Chris Marsh presents the Agency's strategy within the context of recent changes in legislation and explains how the 'Severn Way' project was developed.



Coalport Bridge: an example of the cultural heritage explored along the Severn Way footpath

Background

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) has now gone. In its place is the Environment Agency which was formed in April from the NRA, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution and the local authority Waste Regulators. This new Agency will combine and expand the functions of the old authorities to include pollution and the chemical quality of air, water and land; navigation, fisheries and recreation.

The Water Act 1989 and subsequent Water Resources Act 1991 charged the NRA with the duty to promote water and associated land for recreation purposes⁽¹⁾. This duty has now transferred to the Environment Agency. When considering opportunities to express this duty the Agency must determine the most cost effective and beneficial use of its physical, financial and human resources.

Research by the NRA⁽²⁾ and others⁽³⁾ indicates that walking in the countryside is very popular and in this country involves more visits by more people than any other outdoor recreation activity. It is estimated that each year over 230 million visits to the countryside are made by people whose principal activity involves walking.⁽⁴⁾

The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, launched the much awaited white paper entitled 'Rural England'⁽⁵⁾ on the 17th October 1995. It provides an

up-to-date framework for Government policy and recognises the countryside as a national asset which is valued and enjoyed by all. It is broad in scope, dealing with people, economy and environment with the emphasis firmly on sustainable development. One Government policy which is given priority is the promotion of countryside recreation because it 'enriches the nation as a whole'. Within this context, schemes to enhance access in river corridors are given special mention. Specifically, the Agency and the Countryside Commission are invited to focus resources and work closer together to develop links, in the countryside and around cities, to provide the potential for access to quality greenspace for everyone.

The Countryside Commission, Sports Council, County Councils and many others recognise in policy statements and action plans the importance of access to the countryside. An essential link in the issue of countryside access is the existing rights of way network. Many recognise that access to this network has a significant impact on the quality of life for many people. Indeed the Countryside Commission's current priorities are to get the rights of way network legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised by the year 2000 and to complete a programme of national trail development⁽⁷⁾. The Sports Council believe that all existing access to natural

resources for countryside activities should be maintained and where possible improved.⁽⁶⁾

The Environment Agency is not a significant landholder. However, with its involvement in a range of riverside works often on land within private ownership and its general duty to promote recreation, the Agency is often able to lead or support collaborative projects which improve access to or alongside rivers. The case history of the 'Severn Way' project demonstrates how this can be achieved.

The Severn Way

The Severn Way was conceived in the 1980's by Gloucestershire County Council. The aim was to establish a recognised scenic footpath route on both sides of the River Severn within the County of Gloucestershire. The project was a great success and proved very popular with many people, not only those walking the route and enjoying the landscape, but exploring the local folklore and natural history of the river helped by various 'Severn Way' interpretive publications.⁽⁶⁾

The Environment Agency is involved in rivers and their corridors for many reasons such as flood defence and water quality and believes a holistic and balanced approach, as illustrated by Catchment Management Plans, is pivotal to successful environmental management.

The extension of the Gloucestershire footpath by following Britain's longest river into Worcestershire and Shropshire through some of the most scenic lowland countryside in Britain, put it high on the menu of NRA recreation priorities. The concept was to extend the footpath, using the existing rights of way network, on a single side of the River from the Gloucestershire border to Shrewsbury and to promote the use

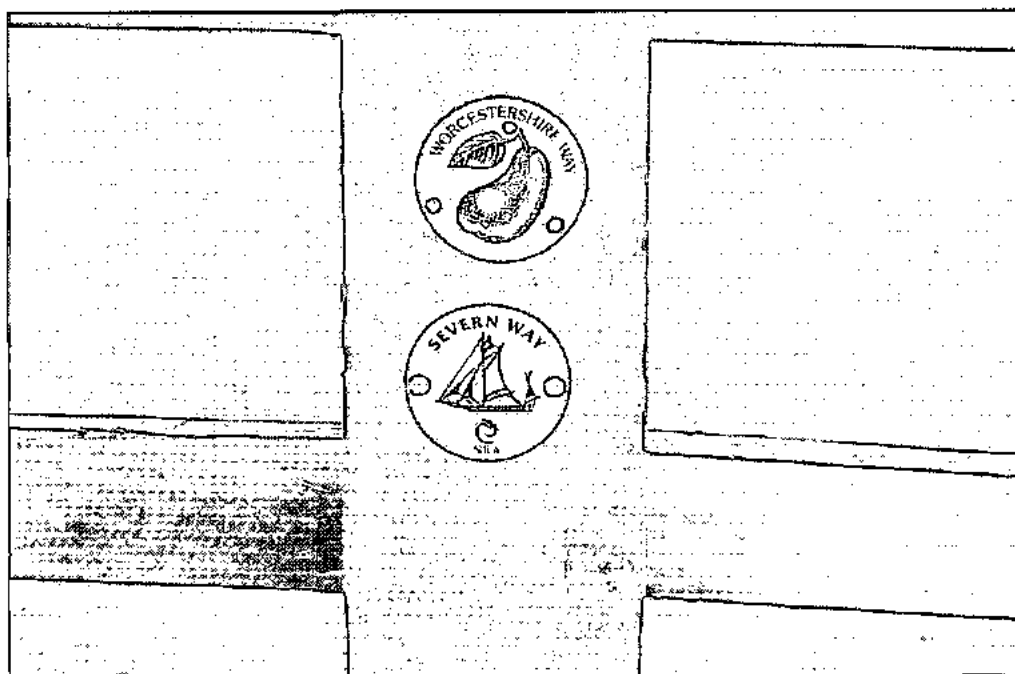
of the route as a long distance path. It would also act as a focus for smaller circular walk offshoots at appropriate points.

Consensus building

A feasibility study, commissioned by the NRA⁽⁹⁾ determined a route was possible by using existing rights of way shown on the definitive maps held by the County Councils, even though it was known this would mean deviating from the edge of the river in a few places.

The NRA, as the route's principal promoter, recognised at the outset that the success of the project was totally reliant on the co-operation, collaboration and close liaison with a number of other organisations and individuals. To this end, the NRA convened a meeting of interested parties to convey the principle of the project and answer the concerns of those who may be affected. It was also used as a launch platform to seek help from other agencies. The meeting discussed various topics including collaborative funding, timetable, maintenance and the concerns of landowners along the route. Reassurances were given that only public rights of way would be used and that the project would not result in hordes of people using unsurfaced paths and causing major trespass problems. In reality, it is likely that only a handful of dedicated long distance walkers would attempt the complete route and such hikers are usually experienced, well informed and equipped for such an undertaking.

The real value of promoting the route lay in highlighting the scenic quality of the area and encouraging people to take relatively short walks (under 6 miles) from existing popular access points. This concept could be expanded by Parish and Town Councils in developing circular routes again using



Severn Way logos waymark the entire length of the path, in places coinciding with the Worcestershire Way

existing footpaths incorporating part of the Severn Way and starting from historic riverside townships and villages as well as country parks and picnic sites. It was considered that the project could act as a catalyst for the local economy and emphatic support was received at the meeting from the County Councils and Countryside Commission with others content that full highways procedure would be adhered to by those carrying out any work on the footpath. No new rights of way would be sought to 'drive' the route and no trespass problems were envisaged.

Progress

A collaborative project involving the NRA and the two County Councils was established and a timetable and areas of responsibility agreed. The 'Severn Way' is now formally supported in the recreation strategy of both Councils.

The route is now established on the ground and will be fully waymarked shortly. Funds allowing, there is an intention next year to extend the path into Powys with the support of the County Council and British Waterways with a view to eventually having a continuous route from the source of the Severn at Plynlimon to the estuary at Severn Bridge, a distance of some 350 kilometres. Subsequently it is intended to produce guide booklets showing the route and interpreting the corridor.

Policy

In summary, the Environment Agency policy is to promote access to the riverside by walkers and support the principles of:

- Using existing rights of way wherever possible and negotiating others with landowners where the need arises.
- Involving all the interested parties at an early stage to secure support for the project and seek collaborative partners.
- Looking to the long term sustainable use of riverside footpaths including maintenance agreements and to target promotion accordingly.
- Promoting the countryside code, waymarking and other good practices to prevent conflicts of interests.

In the Midlands Region, the Agency currently supports other riverside footpath projects including the Tame Valley Walkway in Birmingham, the Leen Valley Footpath & Cycleway in Nottingham and Project Riverlife in Derby. In

other regions many major footpath programmes including the Thames Way and River Medway Project are promoted or supported by the Agency.

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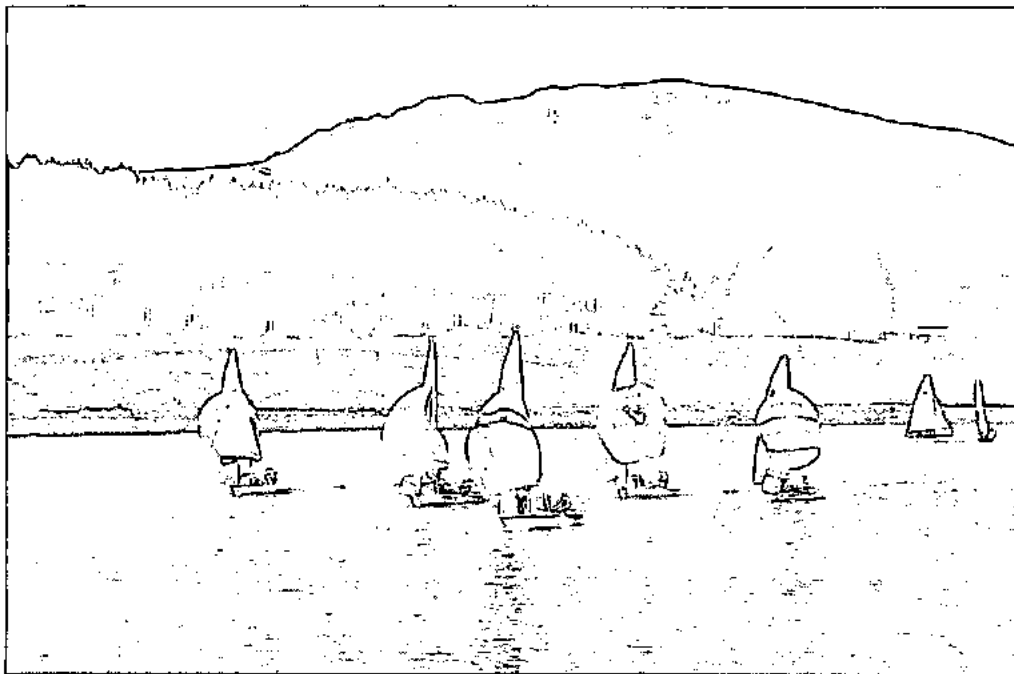
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Landlords and waterlords:

Water recreation in the Peak National Park

Colin Beard considers the opportunities for water sports on reservoirs



Sailing is a popular pastime on Torside

photo: Peak National Park

Many people flock to see large bodies of water, particularly in the National Parks, and this explains the proliferation of picnic sites, car parking facilities, information centres and cafes that are focused around the water bodies there. Recently people have gazed at steep sided muddy banks as most reservoirs have been depleted and rather unpleasant to the eye. But it appears that even when they are more vibrant and full of water we are rather strangely encouraged to do no more than look.

The Peak National Park covers some 555 square miles and receives over 22 million visits each year; it is within one hour's drive of half the population of England. It has a reputation as a good climbing location and one might think this area, like many National Parks, might be also be a good location for quiet water recreation. The Peak National Park has some 48 surface reservoirs of great recreational potential within its boundaries and these fall under the jurisdiction of three water companies: North West Water, Severn Trent Water and Yorkshire Water. Whilst today's landowners act as gatekeepers to our access to water, air, caves and mountains, this new breed of private waterlords will dictate the level of access to and on their waters. In a leaflet 'Water For Leisure' Yorkshire Water lists an impressive 71 sites to be found in its total catchment area. Yorkshire Water has to

supply water to 4.2 million customers – but potentially its recreation customer base is of course much bigger than this. Drinking water is only one of the future products it will sell.

The Peak National Park was designated as Britain's first National Park as long ago as 1951, soon after many of the reservoirs in the area had been built, yet the National Park Authorities, the Water Authorities and the local authorities seem unable to come to any agreement on the creation of good recreation facilities for the 1000+ hectares of water in the Park. Recent studies show that the National Park remains *potentially* good for water recreation. 45 years after the Peak District National Park was designated local people and millions of visitors are still being denied recreation opportunities. Figure 1 below illustrates the point. Yorkshire Water suggest that they are promoting the outdoor water sports:

All these popular sports need large areas of water. Yorkshire Water's reservoirs offer ideal facilities for these sports. A whole range of clubs organise these activities and welcome new members.. There are many examples where Yorkshire Water is going beyond statutory requirements in caring for the environment and in enabling the public to enjoy their land.⁽¹⁾

Water access and recreation:

A closer examination of the small print from the glossy literature shows that it is their *land* that is accessible but the reservoirs merely *offer* ideal facilities. Reservoirs remain exclusively available for certain activities – particularly those willing to enter into leasing arrangements (such as sailing clubs) or the payment of large permit fees (fly fishing). These are often categorised as ‘*commercial rent*’ activities rather than providing some ‘*financial contribution towards the Water Authority costs*’ (e.g. canoeing, sub-aqua). The other category is that of ‘*free activities*’ (see for example North West Water policy on charging for recreation) such as picnicking, birdwatching and photography.

Carel Quaife, the National Development Officer for the British Canoe Union recently outlined the problems concerning access to the countryside by canoe on rivers and said that canoeists ‘*have considerable difficulty in securing an equitable share of the use of the waterways.*’⁽³⁾ Less than a quarter of navigable rivers and canals are accessible to flat water canoeists. It now appears however that this problem also applies to our lakes and reservoirs; yet this recreation activity is the water equivalent of a ‘walk’ in the countryside – it is low impact and qualifies as ‘quiet recreation/ enjoyment’.

But many people have never been allowed access to use most lakes and reservoirs as a place for recreation despite the fact that there is little evidence that the scale of current restrictions is warranted.

In the Peak National Park the reservoirs occupy a surface area of over 1,200 hectares. Water and reservoirs are now big business, yet the thinking on the water recreation ‘product’ has not kept pace. Perhaps with a little creativity

we could rethink our approach to these large and numerous bodies of water. National Water Trails could be established perhaps in the Peak National Park? But is there a reason why such developments have not occurred already?

In the recent Environment Committee report on watersports published on July 20 1995 in the ‘Environmental Impact of Leisure Activities’ the NRA concluded that ‘*the impact of [water-based] recreation on the environment is relatively minor and can be managed within the current organisational and legislative framework.*’⁽³⁾

The overriding historical and current evidence suggests that more water recreation could be made available. We appear to have made little progress despite the debate that has occurred over the years. In 1960 the Wolfenden Committee Report encouraged ‘*greater access to inland waterways and reservoirs for sport*’, stating that ‘*the principal burden of providing recreation on inland waters must lie with the water industry*’⁽⁴⁾. It was also suggested that increased recreation on water bodies would relieve pressure that was already building up in National Parks. In the 1968 Countryside Act provision was made which ‘*enabled statutory water undertakers to provide recreational facilities at their reservoirs*’ The water undertakers became the water companies after privatisation in 1989 and they were able to dictate which activities were suitable and, moreover under sub-section 3 (section 22) were able to make charges for recreational activities.

In 1973 the Countryside Commission said that new and existing reservoirs ‘*offer great potential for recreational use*’. Under the Water Act of 1973 Water Authorities were given powers to ‘*secure the use of water and land associated with water for the purposes of*

Peak National Park Sites		
Owners:	Total no.	% of total
STWA	6	12
Yorkshire Water	27	56
North West Water	15	31
Activities permitted:		
Car parking	22	45.9
Angling	10	20.8
Sailing	7	14.6
Canoeing	5	10.4
Wind surfing	4	8.3
Rowing	2	4.2
Sub-aqua	2	4.2
Water Ski-ing	1	2.0

Figure 1:
Water Recreation in the Peak District
National Park.

recreation'.

Today reservoir recreation policies appear to have progressed very little and most certainly the recreation availability on such water bodies has changed little too. Ladybower Sailing Club was created in 1908 but only exists on paper. The Peak Park Joint Planning Board and the then Nature Conservancy Council refused to allow the application to proceed – opposing the views of the Severn Trent Water Authority and the Sports Council. Yet 13,000 anglers per year are now allowed at reservoir edges and on boats and now many of them even park their vehicles along waterside tracks so they do not have to walk too far to the water's edge.

The Peak Park Joint Planning Board have been unable to agree on negotiations over water recreation and have held back water recreation opportunities in the Peak National Park. But Severn Trent Water Authority do now preside over a recreation success story at Britain's newest reservoir – which lies just outside the National Park. The site is Carsington Water in Derbyshire. Here a privately operated Water Sports Centre leases facilities from Severn Trent Water and offers facilities for canoeing, sailing, wind-surfing and many other activities. Carsington also has restaurants, children's play areas, craft shops, and the large car parking facility generates considerable income each year for the Water Authority.

Greater use of Water Authority sites for water recreation might improve the public's image of their new private waterlords. Yorkshire Water currently needs more good press. Large sums of public money are being made available from UK and European sources to provide incentives for private landowners to provide access to their *land*, often through cross compliance within other schemes. Could such funds be made available to influence *water* recreation and the new waterlords? Could we also create water rights of way officers and water trails?

In the future more of our water may be bought up by overseas private investors. Britain's largest Water Company in the UK, Northumbrian Water, is now owned by Lyonnaise des Eaux, a French group. Maybe the French might be more successful in the negotiations over water recreation? The Financial Times on the 2/3 March 1996 reported that '*a bid for either Southern or Yorkshire is just around the corner with a Californian water group rumoured to be the predator.*'

Perhaps the new arrangements for the administration of the National Park Authorities which come into force in England in April 1997 will present an opportunity for the Peak National Park to rethink the way forward with the new waterlords. We must wait and see.

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A full version of this paper appears in 'The Journal Of Practical Ecology and Conservation.'

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Access to Water – Irreconcilable pressures or manageable challenges?

Craig McGarvey looks at the conflicts facing water users today.

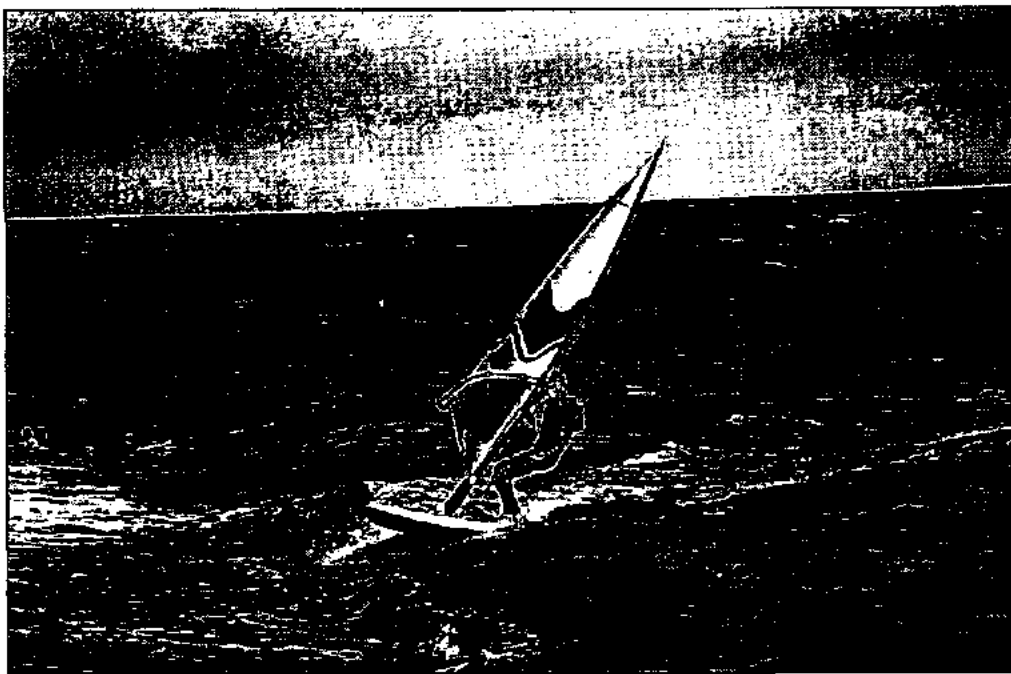
On the 1st April the Environment Agency commenced operations and assumed, amongst other things, the responsibilities of the NRA. With a general duty to promote recreation on and alongside water we continue to fulfil this responsibility by performing the role of honest broker. As honest broker we are able to bring riparian owners and recreational groups together to resolve conflicts and create access opportunities. However, like many snappy phrases this one belies the complexity and often intensity of the issues that now surround demand for and participation in watersports.

Like most outdoor pursuits a gradual if undramatic increase in participation is being experienced amongst watersports. The 1994 UK Day Visits Survey indicates the broad scale of participation with 120 million leisure visits to canals and rivers. Of this number 59 million visits were made for walking and 17 million visits were made for other outdoor sports. Analysis of research into individual recreational pursuits helps to complete our understanding of the demand for water and water-side recreation. In 1994 there were 3.3 million anglers aged 12 and over in Great Britain, of which 2.3 million participated in coarse fishing and 0.8 in game fishing. The British Canoe Union estimates that more than

1000,000 go canoeing each year. There are approximately 100,000 boats registered on the inland waterways network, the majority are motor boats and are used by more than 750,000 people. Water skiing attracts 400,000 participants.

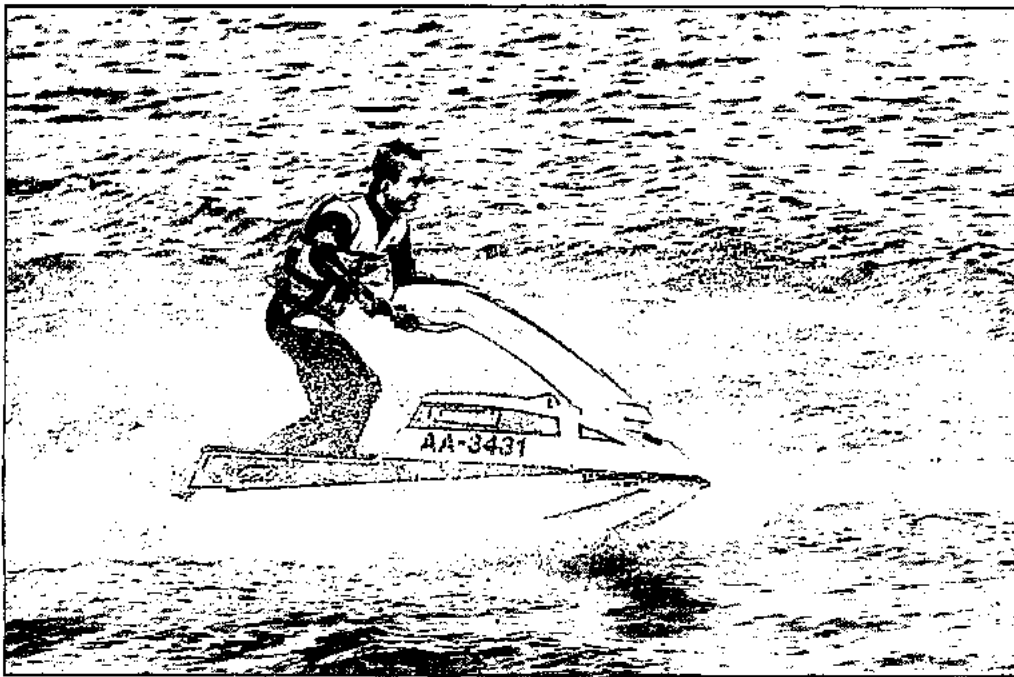
But to truly understand the demand and management and policy issues that are raised we need to look beyond mere statistics. Technology has brought dramatic changes to the type and nature of participation. Some of the influences are now legendary, for example the creation and rapid expansion of new sports such as windsurfing and jet-skiing. Other impacts are less obvious. The application of modern plastics and the development of rotational moulding has within the last twenty years revolutionised the sport of canoeing. Plastic boats which are relatively cheap and almost indestructible now dominate the market place. Their strength and durability have made previously impossible sections of upland rivers now canoeable and have increased demand for access to white water.

Other even more subtle sociological forces are at work and should not be ignored. As we are predominantly an urban or suburban population these



Technology has played a large part in the advancement of new sports such as windsurfing, jet-skiing and canoeing.

photo: Environment Agency



Motorised sports can often create concern over access

photo: Environment Agency

recreational pursuits contribute to physical and mental well being, and the focus on countryside as the venue is strong. The CPRE in their report "Leisure Landscapes" suggested that leisure has become a key element of the meaning in peoples lives. If true, and I must say their arguments find some resonance with me, this may assist us in appreciating the intensity of feelings held by participants.

It is difficult to estimate whether conflicts between the various watersports groups is decreasing or increasing. What is certain is that conflicts do occur. A quick search through the specialist monthly magazines will usually unearth tales of conflict or letters of complaint about other user groups. But if evidence is needed of underlying problems then I suggest we look no further than the two most dramatic legal battles to have shaken the history of watersports in this country. I refer of course to the Derwent case and the Lake Windermere public inquiry. During the eighties the River Derwent in Yorkshire became a battle ground for land owners, anglers and boating interests each pursuing their individual but conflicting pursuits. The recreational demands imposed on this river resulted in a long running and expensive legal battle which culminated in a House of Lords ruling that a right of navigation did not exist. The proposed Lake Windermere speed limit bylaw and subsequent public inquiry in 1994 demonstrated most vividly the challenges of managing demand for various

watersports and the extent to which these parties can become polarised in their views.

Inevitably conflicts are very localised and can result in disputes about a particular stretch of water or certain individuals. Quite often they can be resolved at this level. However this site by site process can mask the underlying and endemic issues. If the Derwent or Windermere type incidents are to be avoided, and I believe they should be as they are potentially destructive and are certainly expensive, then we must begin to address strategic and long term solutions.

There appear to be two major areas of concern. The first relates to demand from canoeists for greater access to those rivers where a public right of navigation does not exist and the second concerns provision for motorised watersports, such as water skiing, powerboat racing and jet-skiing.

The Environment Agency supports the use of access agreements as a means of increasing the provision of facilities for canoeists. In 1995 we re-established the Angling and Canoeing Liason Group as a means of improving communication between anglers, canoeists and riparian owners. The group has begun work on a guide to Access Agreements which will be of use to land owners and managers and should encourage greater shared use of natural resources.

Information and communication provide the key to success. Lack of understanding between the various interest groups appears to be a major stumbling block.

Water access and recreation

Each group needs to be aware of the others' requirements and the nature and practices of their sport. There is an important role here for governing bodies of sport and clubs to encourage information exchange between the various sports. Perhaps angling and canoeing clubs could arrange inter-club talks to explain and understand each others sport.

Throughout the country there are many examples of model agreements where canoeing may be possible for some or all the year and where it co-exists with often quite heavy angling use. Where good practice exists it needs to be promoted and used to increase opportunities.

Watersports and motorised watersports in particular lack a structured approach to provision of waterspace. A strategic approach would attempt to provide for all watersports a mix of multi and single use facilities, most natural and some man-made, some close to conurbations and some in remote rural settings. To plan at this level we require basic information about demand and supply. In 1993 the NRA and the Sports Council commissioned a research project for the North of

England. Similar information is either non-existent or not collated in most other parts of the country.

Within CRN, discussions about access to water are beginning to take shape. A much wider debate involving recreation groups and riparian owners needs to develop if this valuable and important area of recreational activity is to form part of strategies and policies for countryside management into the next century. Let us not ignore the warning bells; the time is right to work in concert with all interested parties to plan for the future.

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Navigation law

Catherine Etchell summarises the rights of water users in England and Wales

Under English and Welsh law there is, at present, no general right for one person to exercise rights over property belonging to another and there is no general public right of access to property belonging to another. The right to fish and the right to navigate are governed by the same law. The equivalent of a public right of way on land is the public right of navigation.

Historically, rights of navigation are based on commercial need and recreational navigation has followed more recently. In relative terms recreational navigation and canoeing in particular are young sports. Angling has a history going back hundreds of years. The result is that the law relating to fishing rights is well established.

It is a general principle of English law that the owner of land bordering on a watercourse also owns the bed of that watercourse up to an imaginary line drawn down the middle. The common law concerning trespass relates to water in the same way as it does to land. The owner of land fronting onto a watercourse can stop people travelling over or to that part of the watercourse owned by them in exactly the same way as they can stop people walking over their land without permission or fishing from their land into the watercourse without their permission.

A riparian owner can expressly dedicate a stretch of river under their control for public use although this appears to be quite rare. These forms of dedication are what make up the Common Law of navigation. A right of navigation where it

exists is a right to use the river to its full capacity. There is no such thing as a limited right of navigation such as a right limited to canoes. The creation of navigation routes over watercourses where no public rights of navigation exist without the consent of all persons having an interest in the bed of the river will involve changing the law by Act of Parliament, although it might be possible to do so using existing powers of compulsory purchase. Where a public right of navigation does not exist, agreements to use the river can be negotiated with the owner of the riverbank who controls the right of use the river.

[If you are interested in the position in Scotland, read Scottish Natural Heritage's Access Review Research Report - 'The Law of Access for Water Based Recreation', 1991]

Angling and access

Mark Hatcher discusses how access affects anglers

Angling – the art of fishing by rod and line – is an ancient pastime which, in some respects, has changed very little over the years. An Egyptian illustration of 2000 BC and an Etruscan bas relief from 300 BC both show fish being caught on a short line fixed to the tip of the rod, the same technique as today's fishing with a pole. The reel and the almost limitless line that goes with it are relatively new, but they were possibly used in China in the eleventh century. The earliest known British metal hook, discovered in the Thames at Grays in Essex, is about 2500 years old.

Because it is intrinsically simple angling is a universal recreation, practised throughout the world wherever there is an access to a coastline, river, stream or pond. Historically it has relied on readily available natural materials for making rods and lines and on natural water bodies containing natural fish stocks for sport. In Britain, the urbanisation of the industrial revolution was accompanied by the growth of canals, especially in England, making waters containing fish accessible to a greater proportion of the population. More

recent changes have been brought about by the proliferation of worked out gravel pits which, being left to flood, develop into fisheries either naturally or through deliberate stocking.

Fishing with a rod and line may once have been the answer to a pressing need for something to eat, but pleasure became the motive long ago. The real change brought about by modern equipment and materials is that anglers now have more opportunity than ever before to catch the fish they want in the way they like.

The pleasure of angling is complex. Thomas de Quincy described fishing as "an unceasing expectation and a perpetual disappointment". However, it is not simply catching fish – blank days are an accepted, if not always welcome, aspect of the sport – but doing so in a way which satisfies, in the right surroundings, and in the right circumstances. To many people the quietness and quality of their surroundings are very important, allowing them an escape from the frantic pace of working life. Sometimes, angling can be a very pleasant way of doing nothing at all.

Angling is unique among water based recreations in that the quality of the ecosystem is of primary importance. Many anglers gain much satisfaction in managing their waters. The quality of a large number of fisheries is the result of hard work in pruning, planting and cutting bankside and in-stream vegetation; and protecting natural characteristics of a watercourse by carefully placed groins, stones or trees. English Nature has recognised that much of the value of river SSSIs, selected as the best examples of their type of watercourse, lies in their maintenance for angling. Deterioration in environmental quality is most likely to be caused by external factors such as over nutrient over enrichment from sewage effluent; physical damage caused by channelisation and dredging for land drainage or navigation; reduced flows caused by over abstraction; or uncontrolled access.

For all its informality and diversity, angling today is a highly structured sport. The only public right to fish is in the sea in territorial tidal waters. By common law this includes the seashore between the high and low



For many, a tranquil environment is one of the attractions of fishing

photo: Environment Agency

water marks, and as far up estuaries and rivers as the tide normally runs. All freshwater fisheries are private, and anglers have to secure permission from the owner before starting to fish. A public right of navigation does not include a right to fish. In some places, such as the Thames below Staines, the public may fish freely because the owner decides, perhaps for historical reasons, to take no action to prevent them.

Legislation to conserve inland fisheries goes back to the Magna Carta. Modern law is specific about lawful and unlawful ways of taking fish, including by rod and line, and the seasons for doing so, and fisheries bylaws enforceable by the Environment Agency apply in all parts of England and Wales. Fishing without permission of the owner of a fishery may be an offence under the Theft Act of 1968, and the Act may also give legal force to other rules imposed by the owner of a fishery.

In order to secure access to waters for fishing anglers have developed a web of agreements with land and fishery owners, ranging from simple verbal permission to fish to detailed legally binding leases. Important in those agreements, particularly in leases and licences, are commitments on the part of anglers to protect the fisheries ecosystem, livestock, crops and other property of the landowner, and maintain control and discipline over their members. Agreements usually provide for the termination of the lease or licence if the conditions are not observed.

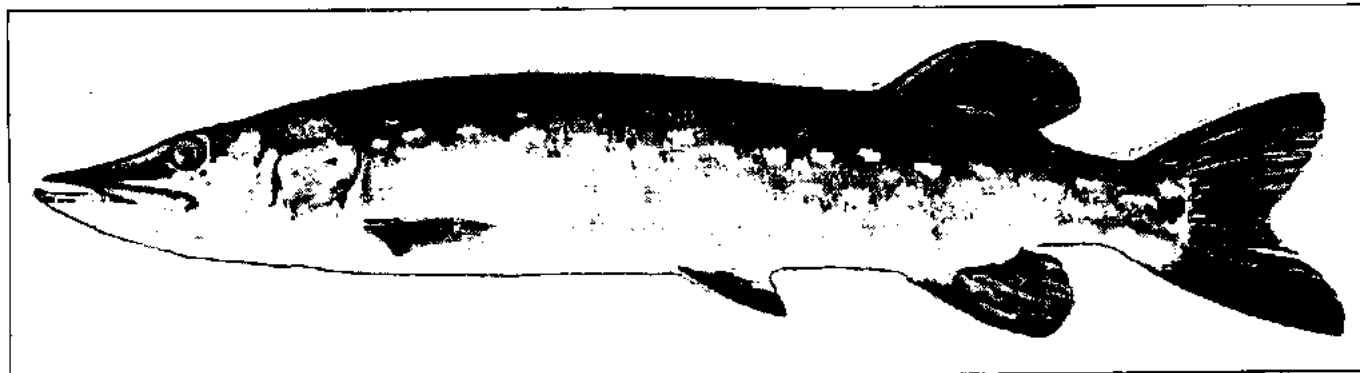
Leases and licences do not come free. A fee is required for practically every agreement, often payable quarterly and subject to adjustment for inflation at intervals during the period of the lease. Even for locally based angling clubs these payments can amount to several tens of thousands of pounds a year. When they have had the opportunity and been able to meet the expense, angling clubs and associations have bought lakes, fishing rights, or land bordering rivers and other water resources, giving them full legal rights over the property.

In 1961 the 'Report of the Bledisloe Committee on

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries' commented that man's pleasure is hardly suitable to be regulated by law, but in 1987 William Howarth observed in his book 'Freshwater Fishery Law' that "The argument for deregulation fails because of a number of features that angling does not share with other sports: the importance of property rights in fisheries, the need to protect fish stocks from over exploitation and environmental deterioration, and the requirement that fish be protected from illegitimate fishing practices by force of law. These factors, amongst others, serve to give the activity of angling a legal character which is distinct from all other sports. Hence the angler, unlike other sportsmen and sportswomen, is bound not only by the rules of his or her sport, but by a extensive and sometimes complex code of legal provisions".

Many of these provisions can be traced back to the Acts of the 1860s and 1870s which, in setting up fishery Boards of Conservators, addressed the failure of previous legislation to give effective protection to fisheries. Among the problems requiring attention were obstructions to the passage of fish; fish trapping; inconsistencies in close seasons; illegal methods of fishing; poisoning of water by mining; pollution by factories and gasworks; absence of enforcement. Many of these problems still occur today. Initially the Boards were drawn from fisheries interests and had powers to regulate fishing, enforce regulations, make byelaws, and control pollution. Funds were derived from licences for fishing. Over time other responsibilities were added to the Boards and membership expanded. With growing responsibilities they have evolved through River Boards, River Authorities, Regional Water Authorities and the National Rivers Authority into the Environment Agency, but the funding of the fisheries function is still chiefly provided by anglers through rod licences.

Perhaps it is the failure to appreciate this framework, and the depth to which it underpins much of today's statutory environmental protection, that causes conflict when other activities seek to share waters with anglers.



Angling is, and always has been, a sport which can be pursued by people from all income groups. Relying in the main on a self regenerating resource, angling has also minimal impact on the environment. Increasing disposable income has led to relatively little change in angling on rivers, canals and naturally occurring waters, but the demand for other water based recreation such as canoeing, powered boating, water skiing, jet skiing, has been growing.

There is no simple pattern to the conflict that can occur between angling and other recreations. Circumstances are important, so that the passage of a boat which can improve fishing on a canal by colouring the water may be completely unacceptable on a private fishery where successful angling requires the minimum of disturbance and clear water. On private waters trespass by boat users is an infringement on anglers' rights of uninterrupted enjoyment of their sport, and it can damage water plants, wildlife, fish and fish spawning grounds, as well as ruining the fishing for long periods. On still waters speeding can be dangerous to other users and cause excessive wash and noise. On canals the use of tow paths is a contentious issue, with numerous complaints about speeding cyclists and motor cyclists, but anglers, too, have to ensure that they do not cause obstructions. A continuous procession of boats on a canal may make fishing impossible and insensitive maintenance programmes can diminish the quality of the fishery. On river navigations poor operation of locks can starve natural reaches of the river of water, putting stress on the fishery and reducing its value for angling, and mooring can obstruct legitimate rights of access for anglers. The passage of boats can cause excessive turbidity smothering plant growth and inhibiting successful fish recruitment.

In the end, any recreational use of water space has to be sustainable, meaning that it must be compatible with the aquatic ecosystem and with other activities. This in turn implies that those enjoying the recreation must be willing to acknowledge its impact on the water environment and other

activities, and be prepared to modify their activity as necessary. Conflict will continue unless all who have an interest in water based recreation accept that they do have a responsibility towards each other, not only in ensuring that they behave within the constraints of the law, but also in endeavouring to discover the environmental impact of their activity.

Maybe it should be a primary task of the national recreation bodies to encourage this to happen.

Mark Hatcher is Director of the National Association of Fisheries and Angling Consultatives and can be contacted at:

*30 Ainsdale Way
Goldsworth Park
Woking
Surrey
GU21 33PP*

Tel/fax: 01483 769736

Skill at angling requires an understanding of the fisheries habitat and the things which affect fish behaviour

The Royal York Hotel, York
16 October 1996

Do Visitor Surveys Count? Making use of surveys for countryside recreation

This workshop will look at how to design, use and interpret visitor surveys. It will look at whether you need a survey, what the objectives should be, and how to run a survey, drawing on existing examples and case studies.

Further details from:
Catherine Etchell, Network Manager
tel/fax: 01222 874970
e-mail: stoce@cf.ac.uk

Countryside Recreation Network

Sea Empress – Monitoring the impact

CCW has embarked on a comprehensive programme to analyse the short and long term effects of the Sea Empress oil spill. Catherine Etchell describes current proposals.

The grounding of the Sea Empress in Milford Haven in March of this year eventually resulted in 70,000 tonnes of oil being lost along the Pembroke and Gower coastline. The spill has had a drastic affect on the marine and terrestrial environment. A grant of £250,000 has been awarded to CCW by Welsh Secretary William Hague to measure the environmental impact of the spill. The monitoring programme could take up to ten years and will be the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken by CCW. It will provide invaluable data on the impact of oil pollution, and the recovery of the environment. Work will also monitor the effect on the recreational use and public enjoyment of the areas.

Overview of existing information

A desk study of the experiences of other oil spills such as the Torrey Canyon oil spill off Cornwall, the Amoco-Cadiz off Brittany and the Braer off Scotland is proposed. In particular the long term implications for the amenity of these areas will be considered.

Public perception of the impact

It is proposed that the views of visitors and potential visitors to South and West Wales should be sought. Over the summer of 96 the study will question the way in the public's enjoyment of the area has been compromised, by for example oil on the beaches. Through the Wales Tourist Board's 'All Wales Visitor Survey' questions will establish whether the decision of visitors throughout Wales to visit a particular location has been influenced by news of the oil

spill. Further qualitative research will investigate the perception of potential visitors to Wales by focusing on groups in England.

Actual impact

Impacts from the oil spill arise from three different causes – the oil itself, dispersants and the clean-up activity. Work has already started to map the impact of the spill on the environment and on the amenity/facilities in the area.

Long term implications

Pembrokeshire Coast is Britain's only coastal National Park and it contains internationally important populations of many species. The study will survey the long term effect of the spill on such an ecologically rich environment.

The information resulting from these surveys will be used to help prevent further oil spills, influence decisions about future contingency plans and help monitor the recovery of habitats and species affected by the incident.

Further information about the monitoring being coordinated at CCW can be obtained from Rob Jones at:

*Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Penrhos
Fford Penrhos
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2LQ
Tel: 01248 370444*



Photo: Hellier Mason/Pro terra

The biggest casualty has been the Common Scoter with up to 4,500 birds either dead or oiled.

Canoeing's unsung champions

John Westlake looks at the access problems which face canoeists.



*National Canoeing Day
on the River Wear*

photo: Environment Agency

It is the unexpected that stays in the memory. My canoe club enjoys inland touring, exploring the many miles of more placid water in our canals and navigable rivers. Peaceful days in good company, with the unexpected making memories for dark winter evenings. I remember well when we spent an evening rescuing a cow from the River Severn. Another trip when we cut free a sheep on the bank of the River Wye which was well and truly tangled in barbed wire fence. The time we helped swan-rescue capture a swan in distress. A fun weekend, with a serious purpose, took place recently to help conservationists who were undertaking a bird and wildlife survey. Canoes require only a few inches of depth to be able to paddle and can, therefore, go where other craft cannot, quietly and without disturbance. The terrain for survey included water, and canoes were ideal for the work at close quarters. Another benefit was that the canoeists' knowledge of the watercourses enabled them to act as guides.

There seems to be at present a trend in the countryside of increasing difficulties with access, use and enjoyment of our beautiful land which has been brought to our attention in previous issues of CRN News.

Access to water is a major issue facing canoeists and in my view will become even more important in future years. Increase in leisure time and the relatively

inexpensive nature of canoeing mean that the number of people taking part in this recreation activity is likely to increase. More water that can be paddled legally will be needed to support the demand. The British Canoeing Union (BCU), the governing body for canoeing, has in place a nation-wide network of voluntary Access Officers who constantly strive to make voluntary access agreements with riparian owners and anglers for use of water.

It is the faster 'whitewater' rivers which appeal to the majority of canoeists. However, the 'whitewater' rivers which we are allowed to use are limited in number; only a small percentage of paddleable waters can be used legitimately. The result of pressure on these 'honeypots' leads to overuse and inevitably problems start to arise.

The problems of these 'honeypots' hinders the British Canoe Union (BCU) Access Officers from being able to conclude voluntary access agreements with riparian owners and anglers. As can be appreciated this has all the makings of a vicious circle which if extended to its logical conclusion could lead to difficulties with access where it is now available - no new access - less water available - less canoeing, etc.

An extensive study on the River Wye has resulted in the setting up of The Wye Forum - a user's forum - representing 30 or more different interests on the river supported by the Environment Agency, formerly the



National Rivers Authority. After two years of meeting together one can detect a will to try and come together. One indication is that there is an initiative by the anglers to put together a paper about their sport – how it works – what is needed – how it is affected by other river users. It will then be up to the other users, including the BCU, to respond positively so we can all understand each others' needs and problems. This will then lead to finding ways and means of using the river side by side.

In the world in which we live – which is getting smaller every day – the pressures on our mountains, lakes and rivers will undoubtedly become greater from both outdoor activities and the desire for public access to the countryside to allow people to unwind from the stress and strain of life. The debate on access has begun and will continue with many points of view being aired.

The canoeing press naturally responds to stories of canoeists' pursuit of excellence, success and medals. There are, however, 'champions' in canoeing whose light tends to be hidden under a bushel - this is not intentional but being less newsworthy they do not fare as well in the scramble for space. The 'unsung champions' I refer to are those who quietly and unobtrusively pursue *responsible canoeing*. Responsible not only in pursuing the sport on the water but

also in the appreciation of the needs of others, the environment, and the future of our sport.

In order to legitimately achieve our goals it is vitally important to gain the sympathy and support of many people and organisations with whom our sport interacts; riparian owners, anglers, local inhabitants, other navigators, Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, British Waterways Board, and so the list goes on. Quite obviously, responsible canoeing is one of our most valuable tools.

The BCU takes a lead in promoting responsible canoeing. Their Coaching Service provides a comprehensive range of Training Awards in personal skills and coaching. These cover the whole range of canoes and kayaks and starts from the young novice performing his or her first reluctant capsized to training the Coach to train others on Grade IV waters. The awards include not only practical canoeing skills but also the associated theory. Safety, of course, is the major content but an awareness of the environment is included in the first basic award and continues to be developed. Respect for the countryside, its inhabitants and other activities is a constant message. The leaflet 'Earning a Welcome' proffers sound advice for responsible canoeing. River guidebooks and handbooks are available to help visiting canoeists be aware of the

local access arrangements and hazards. Further information is available from the Local Access Officer.

There are many different outdoor pursuits. In the air. Underground. On land and in water. As pressure for use of the countryside grows all these have legitimate needs and in so many cases these needs are in conflict. The more I become involved in access work the more it becomes obvious to me that faced with a challenge to pursue a sport or activity each side takes a more entrenched and defensive position and the 'problem' seems to become submerged while each party fights its own corner. If only each side would look outward and make a more genuine attempt to learn and understand the purpose, needs and aspirations of the other activity I believe the 'problem' could melt into the background. Goodwill would develop and each would make a real effort to see how they modify their use of water or crag to enable both activities to fairly share and enjoy the wonders of nature and the thrills of their sport.

Our responsibilities also extend to the general public who live and work by our rivers and lakes and those who walk the river banks and observe what is going on. The more the public understands what we do the more they will be able to recognise the skills involved leading to a better appreciation of

Considerate Cycling in the Chilterns – A new code of conduct for mountain bikers

A canoeists view of life?

Cartoon from
*'The Blind
Probe: cartoons
by foxy' by
Alan Fox*

our sport. Public sympathy can also be won in this way.

With the growing pressures on the countryside make no mistakes about it we all need the sympathy of others and a greater understanding of each others activities. The 'unsung champions' – our responsible canoeists – can help make this happen.

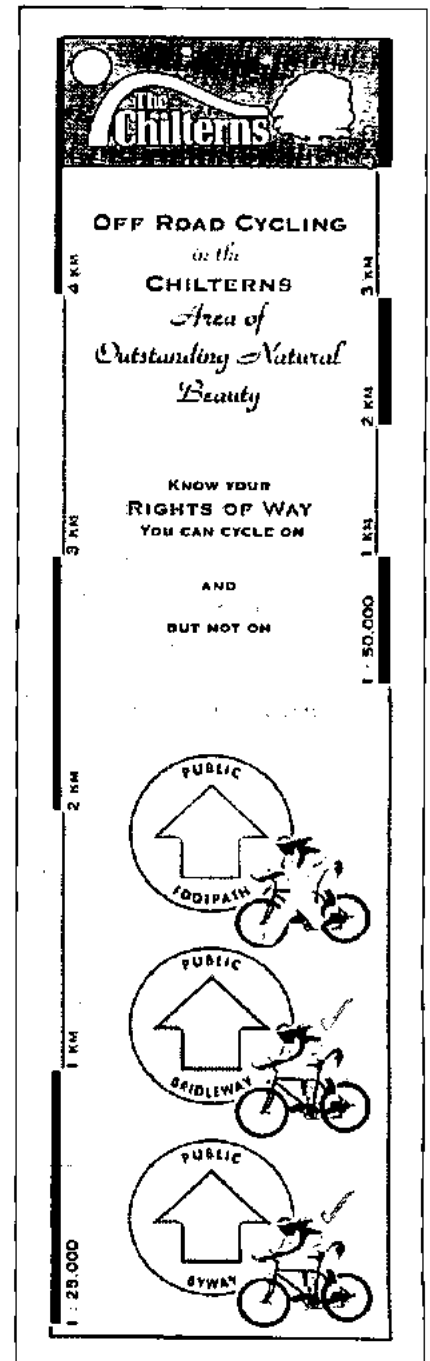
John Westlake is BCU Regional Access Officer for Wessex and BCU Local Access Officer for the River Wye in England. He can be contacted at:

33 Golden Vale
Churchdown
Gloucester
GL3 2LU
Tel: 01452 531218

The Chilterns are very popular with cyclists, walkers and horse riders. With more mountain bikes sold each year than cars, the potential for conflict in the countryside is looming. The question of which routes may be used by mountain bikers is often unclear. The Chilterns Conference has launched a code of conduct for cyclists which allows cyclists to use bridleways and byways but not footpaths. It will clarify for cyclists the types of routes they can use, and advise them on respect for the environment and other users of the countryside. The Chilterns Conference comprises all the County and District Councils concerned together with the relevant government agencies, amenity organisations and user groups. It is hoped that responsible cycling will lead to more opportunities for off-road cycling provided by local authorities, Forest Enterprise, the National Trust and other site managers.

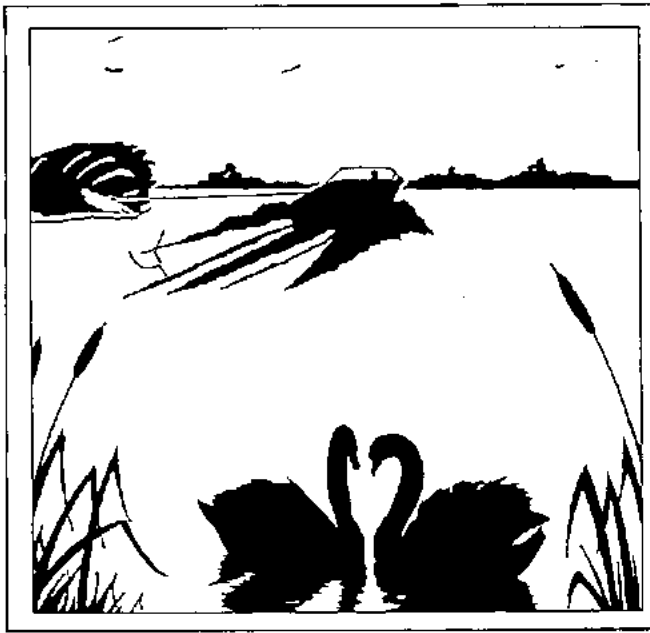
The code will be available in cycle shops, schools, cycling clubs and visitor centres. It is available free of charge from:

*Chilterns AONB office
6 Cornmarket,
High Wycombe,
Bucks,
HP11 2BW
Tel: 01494 510954*



Water-skiing in Langstone Harbour

Ian Hamilton describes an example of how water-skiing can be pursued alongside other recreational users in a sensitive area.



I want to show how, through the formation of a Club, the sport of Water Skiing (which is often seen as a noisy, intrusive, elitist pastime for 'yobs' in speed boats) can happily co-exist with other sports and interests.

Langstone Harbour is one such example, where for over twenty years, water skiing has continued uninterrupted, despite the fact that it borders the Solent which is one of the busiest areas of water for recreational use in the world.

The Harbour itself has grown and is also important for its nature conservation interest; the RSPB are close allies to the Water Ski Club.

The Langstone Club is one the forerunners in implementing the guidelines of the "Statement of Purpose & Environmental Commitment" issued by the British Water Ski Federation (BWSF).

Langstone Harbour is a tidal basin lying between Portsmouth and Hayling Island in the South East corner of Hampshire. Two other harbours are connected to Langstone by water – to the west Portsmouth Harbour, to the east is Chichester Harbour. Langstone harbour is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and a Ramsar site.

Langstone Harbour Water Skiers Association

The Langstone Harbour Water Skiers Association (LHWSA) has been co-ordinating the water-skiing in Langstone Harbour for the last twenty years at the request of the Langstone Harbour Board.

Most of the members own their own boats, although we welcome associate and family membership. The subscriptions for 1995 are £60.00, of which £23.50 goes to the British Water Ski Federation, £15.00 goes back to the member if they do their patrol and the balance is for our administration and running costs.

The 'Patrol' is the main factor that the Board allow us to ski in the harbour; each member does one four hour patrol each season. In this way the Harbour Master always has a fast boat at his disposal on the water at busy times such as weekends and Bank Holidays.

The ski season is from 1 April to 31 October, from sunrise to sunset. The designated area is marked out by yellow buoys, and is approximately 1.5 miles long and 800 yards wide at high tide. There is no club boat, no jump, no slalom or trick course, no showers; but there is use of the public slipways and toilets. Most slipways are available at all states of the tide although a 4-wheel drive tow vehicle is essential on a very low tide. The Association does have a large raft in the middle of the area, complete with barbecue and rubbish bin, and this proves to be the main focal point of the Association!

Since the Association joined the British Water Ski Federation in 1985, the Chairman has had the opportunity to sit on the Langstone Harbour Board's 'Advisory Committee' which is made up of the main water users, conservation bodies and officers of the Board. This has enabled the Association to represent itself against the high volume of flack usually encountered by speed boats on the South Coast, and to be able to put suggestions directly to the Board. Over the years this has enabled an excellent basis for co-operation and communication with the conservation bodies to be established. Langstone Harbour Water Skiers Association is often quoted as being an example of 'good practice' within a 'nature sensitive' area.

The chairman is a qualified water ski instructor and

Ski Boat Driver Award Tutor and examiner. All boat owning members are encouraged to obtain their Ski Boat Drivers Award

How to water-ski in Langstone Harbour

1. Buy a boat or find a friend with a boat;
2. Insure it with a minimum 3rd party liability of £500,000;
3. Join the Langstone Harbour Water Skiers Association;
4. Pay Langstone Harbour board fees;
5. Do one 4 hour patrol of the harbour;
6. New members have vaccinations i.e. polio, tetanus, hepatitis etc;
7. Have use of 4-wheel drive for launch and recovery of boat;
8. Have plenty of patience with:
 - Bad weather
 - 3000 ton dredgers
 - Personal water craft (jet skiers)
 - Unlicensed boats
 - Canoeists
 - Fishermen in drifting dingies
 - Shell / dredging fishermen
 - Sub-aqua divers who 'pop up'
 - Wind surfers
 - Learner sailors
 - Moving mud and sand
 - Sewage and floating debris;

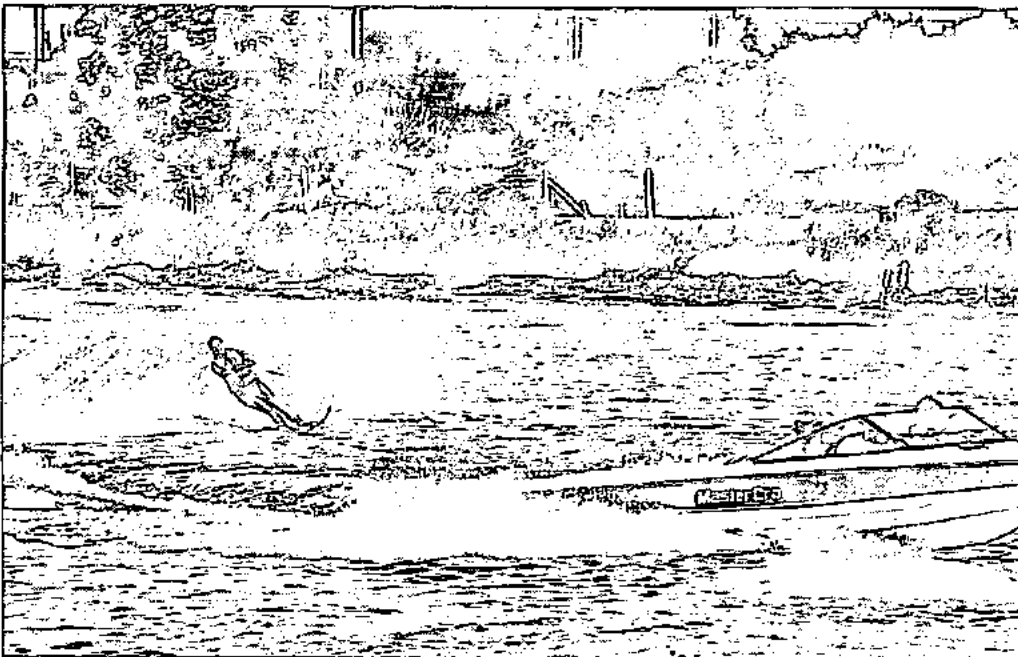
9. Have care and respect for the wildlife and the environment i.e. take rubbish home, avoid oil and fuel leaks, pick up flotsam;
10. Obtain ski boat driver award, or ensure that you drive with care with an observer on board and follow local and national safety guidelines for driving a speed boat for water-skiers;
11. Participate in club activities and be pro-active;
12. Advise all new-comers to the area of the rules;
13. Respect that the water-ski area is in a 'nature sensitive' area, and that we do not own the area, which is open to other harbour users.

The success of the club is due to its members respecting these guidelines.

Maintaining the conservation interest of the harbour

Contrary to popular belief, water skiing can be pursued without detriment to areas of important ecological interest. The RSPB have the following to say about users of the harbour:

"Thanks to the co-operation of harbour users, Langstone Harbour is rapidly becoming one of the most important sea bird breeding sites in Southern



Water skiing can be pursued in areas of ecological interest.

photo: Environment Agency

England. We are pleased to announce that since the introduction of restricted landing on the islands, several new breeding species including the common tern and black-headed gull are now well established. Other species are the oyster-catcher, ringed plover and sandwich tern, but the most impressive success story is one of Britain's rarest sea birds, the little tern. This very attractive bird first bred in Langstone Harbour in 1976 and by the late eighties one of Britain's largest and most successful colonies had established.

The RSPB wish to thank all harbour users for their help in saving a place for the birds and to appeal for your continued support in the future. Thanks once again to the LHWSA for making wardening the RSPB reserve such a co-operative venture."

Average wintering of birds in the harbour often number 50,000 with over 30,000 dunlin and 7,000 Brent geese. Average summer figures are in excess of 5,000.

The LHWSA are in constant communication with the RSPB warden who generally states that his problems arise from visitors to the area who are ignorant about the Nature Reserve, and windsurfers who run out of puff and end up on the islands.

Much work is done by the LHWSA to ensure that the birds are not disturbed and the warden sends frequent updates to the LHWSA detailing the breeding results, human disturbance, other activities and plans for the forthcoming season.

The future

Water in the South of England is in short supply for recreational use so it is very important not to lose any that already has permission for water-skiing.

The Water Ski Club works for its members and other harbour users by continually keeping a finger on the pulse of all activity both on and off the water.

The Club:

- Monitors their Club behaviour;
- Keeps up an ongoing dialogue with the RSPB;
- Sends out regular newsletters to members to keep them advised;
- Encourages pro-active water-skiing;
- Undertakes charity work;
- Teaches skiers and boat drivers;
- Encourages the region's disabled Water-

ski Club;

- Uses the raft not the islands;
- Registers all powered water ski craft;
- Insists on 3rd Party Insurance;
- Encourages the taking of the Ski Boat Driver Award;
- Promotes liaison with other local agencies;
- Actively communicates with the Southern Region of the BWSF.

In summary:

COMMUNICATION
RATHER THAN
CONFRONTATION
PLAN DON'T BAN

This article is taken from a presentation which Ian Hamilton, Chairman of the Southern Region British Water Ski Federation, gave at a CRN workshop 'Sport in the Countryside: Planning for sport and active recreation' in March 1995.

Ian can be contacted on: 01705 463501

Countryside Recreation Training and Events

International Symposium on the Non-Market Benefits of Forestry
Forestry Commission Conference
23-29 June, Edinburgh

Grassland Management for Nature Conservation
Losehill Hall
24-28 June, Derbyshire

Habitat Management for Invertebrates: Grasslands and Heaths
Achieving an integrated wildlife management strategy
Plas Tan y Bwlch
24-26 June, Gwynedd

Habitat Survey and Monitoring
Scottish Countryside Rangers Association
24-28 June, Ayr

Canals and Regeneration
New uses for old waterways
World Canals Conference 1996
26-28 June, Birmingham
Contact: Flights Conference Services Ltd 0121 2124433

Visitors to the Countryside
Developing and promoting walking and cycling routes for recreation and tourism
Losehill Hall
26-28 June, Derbyshire

Restoring and creating Wildflower-rich Grassland on Farmland
IEEM
28 June, Wiltshire

Annual Conference and AGM
Rights of Way Management in the Future
Rights of way beyond 2000
Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers
28 June, Chester

Visitors to the Countryside
Developing and promoting walking and cycling routes for recreation and tourism
Losehill Hall
15-17 July, Derbyshire

Understanding Farming Systems
For countryside staff
Plas Tan y Bwlch
15-19 July, Gwynedd

Rural White Papers and implications for land use research
Land Use Research Coordination Committee
17-18 July, York
Contact: Sandra McNally, tel: 01487 773381
e mail: samcn@wpo.nerc.ac.uk

Introduction to Bat Ecology and Survey
IEEM
24 July, Newbury

Woodland and Forest Conservation
Principles and practice of conservation
Field Studies Council
28 July-2 August, Gwynedd

Permaculture Design Course
Teaches the principles by which sustainable systems become responsive to economic, social and environmental elements.
Institute for Bioregional Studies
August 4-17, Charlotte Town, Canada

Mountain Leader Training
Field Studies Council
1-6 September, Gwynedd
17-22 November, Gwynedd

Mountain First Aid
Field Studies Council
2-6 September, Gwynedd

Rights of Way for Councillors and Senior Management
Legal duties, responsibilities and the powers of local authorities
Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers
3 September, Kettering

Accelerating Leisure?
Leisure, time and space in a transitory society
Leisure Studies Association
12-14 September, Wageningen, The Netherlands
Contact: +3170 35 00 111
e mail: rene.vanderduim@alg.swg.wau.nl

How Successful are You?
Evaluating the visitor experience
Losehill Hall
16-18 September, Derbyshire

Definitive Map Unsurveyed Areas
Consideration of the law and practice of compiling and publishing unpublished Definitive Maps
Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers
17 September, Cheshire

Why make a drama out of the past?
Using live interpretation at your site
CEI, England and Wales
26 September, Cheshire

How many more can we take?
Planning for access and establishing carrying capacities at countryside sites and nature reserves
CEI, England and Wales
7-9 October, Gwynedd

Planning Interpretation
CEI, Scotland
8-11 October, Perthshire

Countryside Recreation Training and Events cont..

**Rights of Way:
Contract Management**
Institute of Public Rights of Way
9 October, Warwick

Do Visitor Surveys Count?
Making use of surveys for
countryside recreation
Countryside Recreation Network
16 October, York

Velo Australis
International Bicycle Conference
28 October - 1 November,
Fremantle, W. Australia
Tel: +61 9 364 8311
e mail:
promaco@cleo.murdoch.edu.au
Info also available on [http://
www.dot.wa.gov.au/Velo-
Australis-1.html](http://www.dot.wa.gov.au/Velo-Australis-1.html)

**How Many More Can We
Take?**
Planning for access and
establishing carrying capacities at
countryside sites and nature
reserves
CEI, Scotland
29-31 October, Perthshire

Pilgrim or Tourist
Travelling in Search of Heritage
The Robert Gordon University
Heritage Convention 1996
30 October-1 November, Perth

Working with Words
Producing low cost publications
CEI, Scotland
13-15 November, Edinburgh

Your place or theirs?
Involving communities in
interpreting their places
CEI, England and Wales
13-15 November, venue tbc

Deer or the New Woodlands?
Managing Deer in Community
Forests and the Urban Fringe
SCEEM
16 November, Sheffield

**Landscapes of
Leisure and Pleasure**
1996 joint annual conference of the
Countryside Recreation Network
and Landscape Research Group.
Explores the challenges and trends
of recreation in the countryside
Countryside Recreation Network
19-20 November, Peterborough

**Biodiversity from Policy to
Practice**
IEEM 5th anniversary conference
26-28 November, Kent

Environmental Interpretation
CEI, England and Wales
2-6 December, Gwynedd

Countryside Interpretation
CEI, England and Wales
17-24 January 1997, Derbyshire

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