

# Countryside



ISSN 0968-459X

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 1

SPRING 2001

# Recreation

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

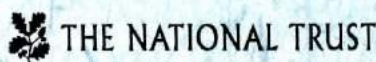
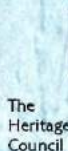


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### Countryside Recreation Network

CRN is a network which:

- covers the UK and the Republic of Ireland
- 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 in three areas:

**Research:**

to encourage co-operation between members in identifying and promoting the need for research related to countryside recreation, to encourage joint ventures in undertaking research, and to disseminate information about members' recreation programmes.

**Liaison:**

to promote information exchange relating to countryside recreation, and to foster general debate about relevant trends and issues.

**Good Practice:**

to spread information to develop best practice through training and professional development in provision for and management of countryside recreation.

**Chair:** John Thomson, Scottish Natural Heritage

**Vice-chair:** Eileen McKeever, Environment Agency

**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 **18th April 2001**.

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## Editorial

This issue of Countryside Recreation focuses on the implications of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This Act is probably the most significant piece of countryside legislation for the last 50 years. Whilst much of the Press coverage has focused on the issue of access to open countryside (the so-called Right to Roam), the Act also includes provisions aimed at strengthening the protection and management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and new procedures with regard to Public Rights of Way.

In her articles Anne Ewins outlines the legislation on Open Access and Rights of Way and what the new right will mean for the Authorities charged with bringing it about.

Rachel Cook and John Holmes, in their article "Good News for England's Sites for Special Scientific Interest", examine the role of Part Three of the legislation as a tool for ensuring appropriate management of SSSIs. The article on "New Protection for Our Finest Countryside" by Andrew Gale, highlights the advantages from Part Four of the Act for countryside management in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and outlines the role of the proposed statutory Conservation Boards for certain AONBs.

Whilst England and Wales embark on this exciting time for access the Scottish Parliament has begun the process of designating the first two National Parks for Scotland; the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, and the Cairngorms. John Mackay explains the process leading to National Park designation.

Of course, access is not just about physical access, but also includes social, psychological and cultural factors. Jane Stoneham reports on the results of the 'Making Connections' project and the importance of identifying the hidden barriers that prevent people from enjoying access to greenspace and the countryside.

If you are connected to the web please visit our new website at: [www.CountrysideRecreation.org.uk](http://www.CountrysideRecreation.org.uk). The site contains details about CRN events and publications. You can access current and past issues of 'Countryside Recreation' and there is a searchable database of research into countryside recreation which we will be updating regularly. Comments and suggestions for improvements are welcome.

Emma Barratt  
Network Manager



# *Countryside Rights of Way Act : Part 1*

## *Access to the Countryside*

*Anne Ewins, Countryside Agency*

With the roller-coaster ride of the Parliamentary process behind us, we can at least say we have reached the 'end of the beginning'. But there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure that the new open access rights under the Countryside and Right of Way (CROW) Act are implemented fairly and effectively.

Most readers of 'Countryside Recreation' will be well-aware of the main provisions for open access but, briefly, the Act will give people the right to walk over large areas of open country (generally mountain, moor, heath, and down) and common land.

The agreed areas will be known as 'access land' and many activities on foot will be permitted there - such as bird watching, climbing, running or simply picnicking or sightseeing. Activities specifically excluded (except with the owners' permission or where there has been an existing right or tradition for these uses on that land) include cycling and horse riding, hang gliding and paragliding, camping, using a metal detector, bathing or wind surfing in non-tidal waters, or taking part in organised games or commercial activities. Schedule 2 of the Act also reminds us of a list of existing criminal offences which are included under the heading 'Restrictions to be observed by persons exercising right of access'!

However, it is likely to be a few years before the new rights can be enjoyed everywhere. Firstly, the Countryside Agency and Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) have to map all open country and consult widely on the draft maps. Consultants were appointed in January 2001 to do this work in England. They will start mapping in NW and SE England, and the methodology, once refined, will be applied region-by-region around the country. The Act then allows for an appeals procedure - which

makes it difficult to predict the end point for production of conclusive maps. It is likely to be towards the end of 2004 before the whole of England is covered.

Meanwhile, other bits of the jigsaw need to be put into place. For example, the Countryside Agency, CCW and the National Park Authorities have to set up systems so that landowners and farmers can apply to restrict access when it is essential for reasons of land management, safety or fire risk. Visitors also need to be able to find out about any restrictions that may be in force when they plan to use access land.

Landowners and managers will also have up to 28 days a year when they can restrict access at their own discretion (though there are strict limits on weekend restrictions), provided that they notify the Agency or park authority.

Where there are strong nature conservation or heritage reasons for restricting access, this will be done on the advice of English Nature and English Heritage (England only).

It is hoped that permanent or long-term closures will be rare and restrictions will be kept to the necessary minimum. Positive management measures should preferably be used - the carrot rather than the stick - and the Agency is preparing best practice advice for land owners and managers.

The new rights will also mean new responsibilities for users. One benefit of the time scale for implementation is that it will allow time to inform people, not only about the new opportunities they will have but also any constraints on them. This will be a combination of education and information,

which will require the involvement of many partners. People will need to recognise which is access land and which is not (through appropriate symbols and discreet signing as well as maps), to be able to check what restrictions may be in force (both before they set out and when they arrive), and to identify alternative access land if the area they want is closed.

In addition, although the Country Code is a good guide for general behaviour (and it will be updated to take the requirements of the new Act into account), there are new details (such as the strict controls on dogs in different places and at different seasons) which people will need to learn and adapt to.

Inevitably, readers will have many questions about how the new rights will be implemented and how it will affect them as countryside staff and managers. Unfortunately, there is not space here to embark on a whole range of other vital issues such as rangers, training, the opportunities for incentives to encourage certain types of access management, the new statutory local access forums and the guidance the Agency will give on byelaws. Nor does this article cover the exciting possibilities of additional access to other types of countryside through the dedication of access land under section 16 of the Act. But it is still early days, more information will become available as Government regulations and circulars are published, and the Agency itself is working on all of these fronts to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to full implementation of the new rights. Exciting times.

*A leaflet 'New rights, new responsibilities' (CA 65) summarising the new access rights and key changes to rights of way law published in February is available from Countryside Agency Publications, tel: 0870 120 6466.*

*To keep up to date with developments, check the access pages on the Agency's website [www.countryside.gov.uk/access](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/access) and keep an eye out for further articles.*



# *Countryside Rights of Way Act : Part 2*

## *Rights of Way*

*Anne Ewins, Countryside Agency*

Part II of the Act aims to improve legislation dealing with the administration and management of rights of way. It is, in fact, the Government's response to recommendations made by the Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency) in 'Rights of way in the 21st century' (1999). This put forward a package of proposals for changes to both legislation and to administrative practice. There was never an expectation that legislation alone would address the widespread failure of highway authorities to carry out their statutory duties effectively.

This means that the legislation must be seen in the context of other changes which will need to take place if highway authorities are ever to meet the National Target for rights of way. The target, which calls for all authorities to address the backlogs of work on recording, managing and publicising their rights of way, was set for the year 2000. Only one authority met the target by that date and the majority of the rest expect at least another decade will be required. The Countryside Agency believes that the public deserve better than this and proper levels of funding must be made available to make sure that the job is done properly. The Government's best value initiative will go some way to ensuring this happens but only if authorities can be convinced that the rights of way network is worth investing in.

We believe that more attention needs to be given to what the public require from their rights of way whether they be regular users, occasional users or aspiring users. Authorities need to find out whether there is demand for more cycling routes, places to walk for exercise near to home, routes to particular attractions, safe places to ride a horse, or perhaps easy circular walks for those who for many different reasons cannot climb stiles, or walk along steep or uneven surfaces. The network must be capable of

responding to the needs of users in order to justify the expenditure required to keep it in good order. Some provisions in the Act will encourage authorities to meet the National Target and consider and plan how their rights of way network could be improved. Other bits have been added for other reasons. The main points, but not every detail, are summarised below.

### **Definitive maps**

A number of provisions in the Act encourage authorities to complete their definitive maps, (the legal record of rights of way). These include:

- The reclassification of all Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs) as restricted byways - a new category of highway which will be open to walkers, horse-riders, cyclists and horse-drawn vehicles - will save administrative time;
- The power for an authority to combine definitive maps for different parts of their area will be helpful where local government reorganisation has changed administrative boundaries;
- The ability to combine an order to create, divert or close a right of way with an order to amend the definitive map will save time;
- Changes to the procedure for objecting to proposals to change the legal record will help to avoid wasting time on inquiries to deal with irrelevant matters;
- The extinguishment of old footpaths and bridleways, which existed before 1949, where they are not recorded on the definitive map by 1 January 2026.

The last of these is an interesting one and deserves more explanation. On its own it is not going to ensure that all rights of way are recorded on the definitive map. In fact, it could have the opposite effect if authorities decide to ignore their statutory



responsibility to record routes on the map and could result in the loss of many thousands of miles of rights of way. However, the Government has committed around £5 million to support research to prove the existence of historic rights of way. The Countryside Agency will administer the funds which will be channelled to the voluntary sector. We will ensure that the research is to a high standard and well coordinated. Monitoring systems will also be put in place to measure progress and to ensure the task is complete within the 25 years available.

### **Improving the rights of way network**

Highway authorities will have five years to produce a rights of way improvement plan for their area. The plans must include an assessment of the extent to which rights of way:

- meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
- provide opportunities for exercise, open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area; and
- are accessible to blind and partially sighted people and others with mobility problems.

The plans must also contain a statement of the action the authority will take to improve the network. They will need to be revised every ten years.

### **Better reports on rights of way work**

Authorities will be required to publish reports on how well they have performed their rights of way functions. The details of what to report on and how often will be specified in regulations. The reports are likely to include progress towards implementing rights of way improvement plans.

Authorities also have new duties to keep registers of:

- applications for definitive map orders;
- applications for all extinguishment and diversion orders;
- information on permissive paths.

All of these registers will need to be available for inspection free of charge at all reasonable hours.

### **Obstructions**

There are new penalties for failing to move an obstruction from a right of way. Members of the public can also exert more pressure on highway authorities to ensure that obstructions are removed. They will also be able to bring a private prosecution against a landowner who does not reinstate a right of way after ploughing.

### **Powers to apply to divert or extinguish rights of way**

Landowners and occupiers will have a new right to apply for a right of way to be diverted or closed and a right of appeal against the decision. The Act prevents a right of way from being stopped up or diverted purely because it is on the new open access land introduced by Part I of the Act.

In response to concerns about rights of way crossing school premises, the Act introduces new grounds to close or divert rights of way to prevent crime (in areas designated by the Secretary of State) or to protect the health and safety of school pupils and staff on school premises.

Diversions will also be allowed to avoid significant damage to SSSIs and it will be possible for farmers and other occupiers to divert a footpath or bridleway for up to 14 days a year in order to carry out works which may endanger the public.

### **Motor vehicles off-road**

The Act now makes it clear that driving any motor vehicle, including motor bikes, quad bikes and scrambler bikes, on footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways or off-road is an offence, unless the driver has lawful authority.

*Anne Ewins works for the Countryside Agency's National Access Team and is based at the Cheltenham office.*

*To keep up to date with developments, check the access pages on the Agency's website [www.countryside.gov.uk/access](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/access) and keep an eye out for further articles.*



# *Countryside Rights of Way Act : Part 3 Good News for England's Sites of Special Scientific Interest*

*Rachel Cook and John Holmes, English Nature*



Photo taken by Peter Wakely and reproduced courtesy of English Nature

*Upper Thurne, Broads and Marshes SSSI, Norfolk*

## **Introduction**

England's 4,100 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are our best sites for wildlife and geology and well over half by area are internationally important. Whilst the majority are in good condition and well managed, gaps in previous legislation meant that some SSSIs have continued to decline through inappropriate management or neglect. Around 70% of SSSIs are currently in favourable condition. Government's target is to increase this to 95% by

2010 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, gives English Nature the statutory powers to ensure that it can make a major contribution towards achieving this target.

Whilst primarily thought of as 'access' legislation during its progress through Parliament, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is also the most important national nature conservation legislation for twenty years. It makes significant changes to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 that will greatly improve our chances of securing appropriate management for the whole suite of England's SSSIs.

## **Changes to SSSI legislation**

The provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (which also applies in Wales) came into force on 30 January 2001. The basic process for notifying owners and occupiers of new SSSIs remains largely unchanged. Just as they do now, they will receive a map, a citation listing the special interests and a list of operations that are likely to damage those interests. In addition, however all SSSI owners and occupiers will get a short statement of English Nature's views on how the site should be managed to maintain its special features.

The list of damaging operations continues to form the basis for consultation with English Nature over management of SSSIs. Under the old Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, an owner or occupier was required to notify English Nature before carrying out any of the operations listed, but could legally go ahead after four months if an agreement had not been reached over appropriate management. In some cases this meant paying owners not to damage



sites, rather than for positive management to maintain the nature conservation interest. Under the new legislation, however, it is illegal for owners of SSSIs to instigate damaging operations without English Nature's consent, and those refused consent will not have to be compensated. A formal process for imposing suitable management (e.g. where a site is declining through neglect) has also been introduced, though this will be accompanied by management advice and in some cases, financial support from English Nature.

The new legislation considerably extends the community of individuals and organisations responsible for ensuring that SSSIs are maintained into the future. Firstly, it is now an offence for any person to intentionally or recklessly damage the special interest of an SSSI or disturb any of its special fauna, provided they knew it was within an SSSI. Byelaws may also be introduced on any SSSI to control activities that may damage the site. Secondly, there is a requirement on public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs and to consult English Nature before carrying out, or permitting anyone else to carry out work that is damaging. Public bodies are defined very widely and include not only Government departments and agencies, but also local authorities and privatised utility companies that have public functions.

Of course, there are exemptions for owners, public bodies and other people, who carry out damaging operations in an emergency or after having got appropriate permissions. However, anyone convicted of an offence can face much larger penalties under the new legislation: up to £20,000 in the Magistrates' Courts or unlimited fines in the Crown Court for some offences. The Courts can also order restoration of SSSIs to the condition they were in before they were illegally damaged. Even those who do not recognise that there are moral arguments for conserving these national wildlife and geological treasures should at least realise that damaging an SSSI could now be distinctly unprofitable.

### Access and SSSIs

English Nature welcomes increased public access to the countryside provided that wildlife can continue to flourish. Current estimates suggest that around 45% of England's SSSI land will be designated access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. This is the approximate area of SSSI land likely to be mapped by the Countryside Agency as access land because it comprises mountain, moor, heath, down or common land (see Anne Ewins article on Part 1).

English Nature will be assessing the vulnerability of each SSSI affected and developing a range of options to ensure, with the Countryside Agency, that nature conservation and access can be compatible wherever possible. Where that is not possible, then a cautious approach will be taken that favours nature conservation.

### Conclusions

With these new powers, of course, come responsibilities to act fairly and rights of appeal (often to the Secretary of State) have been introduced to ensure that the legislation is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights. We expect most owners and occupiers, however, to notice little change in their relationships with English Nature. We will continue to achieve positive management on the bulk of SSSIs through cooperation and partnership, using the new powers to achieve favourable condition on those sites where the old legislation let us down.

*Rachel Cook and John Holmes work for English Nature's SSSI project.*

*More information on SSSIs and English Nature's work can be found on their Web site [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk). More information on the access provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act can be found on the Countryside Agency's Web site: [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk).*



# *Countryside Rights of Way Act : Part 4*

## *New Protection for Our Finest Countryside*

*Andrew Gale, Countryside Agency*

### **Introduction**

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is set to bolster the management and protection of the Areas Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) of England and Wales.

Our AONBs have been established, along with our National Parks, by the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. The AONBs give planning protection to around fifteen percent of the English countryside, and four percent of rural Wales. Within England this includes a very wide range of landscape types, from the wild Cornish coast to the soothing chalk and limestone topography of the south, and the starkly beautiful uplands of the north.

### **Reversing an historical oversight**

AONBs have always lagged well behind the National Parks in terms of their public, professional and political recognition; and the resources available for their good management. National Parks for example, have the benefit of National Park Authorities to lead their management, a job which they do very well.

AONBs are established to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the countryside. Until now AONBs have had precious little statutory backing for that important role, except the additional protection they are afforded under the planning system. And that protection has been widely (and wrongly) assumed to be weaker than that enjoyed by the National Parks.

The lack of statutory attention to the management needs of AONBs probably seems to stem from an assumption by legislators in the late 1940s that those traditional farming practices which created these wonderful and varied landscapes would continue to maintain them into the future.

This assumption of course failed to foresee all the new pressures which would emerge to put huge pressure on these landscapes, and indeed the rest of the countryside, over the rest of the 20th Century, including agricultural intensification, the growth of traffic on minor country roads, and a general erosion of local character and distinctiveness by a range of social and economic changes.

### **Confirmation that AONB landscapes are as good as those in National Parks**

During the summer of 2000 the Planning Minister confirmed to the House of Commons that AONB landscapes are the equivalent of National Parks landscapes and have the same level of protection from inappropriate developments. This was something that the Countryside Agency already firmly believed, but a ministerial statement was needed to make this crystal clear to a sometimes sceptical audience of planners and other professional decision makers.

### **The new AONBs legislation**

This announcement was a prelude to the introduction of new AONB measures into the Government's Countryside and Rights of Way Bill, which finally became law at the start of December. So what does the final Act actually provide for AONBs?

### **A new duty on public bodies**

The Act places a duty on public bodies to 'have regard' to the need to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of AONB landscapes when carrying out their statutory functions. This is a provision which already applies to National Parks. It is intended to ensure that the conservation and enhancement of these areas is always an important consideration for local authorities, statutory



undertakers and national agencies in shaping plans and policies which may affect an AONB.

### **Statutory Conservation Boards**

The Act enables statutory Conservation Boards to be established, where there is sufficient local support, to lead the management of AONBs. These Boards are aimed primarily at the larger AONBs which cross lots of local authority boundaries. For those areas a single board can be better placed to manage an AONB in an efficient and strategic manner than all its local authorities trying to co-ordinate management plans, activities and resources amongst and between themselves.

Conservation Boards are primarily about management efficiency and effectiveness, not about imposing a new bureaucracy on an area. It is important to appreciate that many local authorities already have management arrangements for their AONBs. The arrival of statutory conservation boards for some AONBs in no way invalidates the joint advisory committees and other non-statutory structures which operate in most AONBs and which do sterling work. The AONBs are a very varied bunch and each must have the management arrangements which best meets its local circumstances and needs. The Conservation Board model will only suit a minority.

Conservation Boards will be set up through individual Establishment Orders approved by Parliament. Those orders will identify what if any functions of direct relevance to the good management of the AONB, a particular conservation board should take over from its local authorities. Those functions might include running countryside management services, or managing the rights of way network. Alternatively boards will be able to run those management functions concurrently with their local authorities.

Planning and development control functions will not be transferred. Conservation Boards will not be quasi-local or planning authorities. Instead the boards will need to continue to work very closely

with their existing local authorities, which will continue to contribute significantly to their funding.

Local authority and parish representatives will occupy the majority of the seats on a board. The balance of seats will be taken by Secretary of State appointees who can bring a wider perspective to the management of the AONB, by representing recreational, land owning and other pertinent interests.

### **Conservation Boards and public enjoyment of AONBs**

To the extent that it doesn't conflict with the primary conservation and enhancement purpose of the AONB, a Conservation Board will also have a duty to 'have regard to the purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the area.' This recognises that whilst AONBs have not been established to provide recreational opportunities very many of them (not surprisingly) attract very large numbers of visitors. Conservation Boards need to be able to accommodate this in a positive way in their management of the area.

### **Looking out for the interest of local people**

Conservation Boards will also have a duty to 'seek to foster the social and economic well being of local communities'. This provision mirrors exactly a duty which applies to National Park Authorities. It is designed to enable and encourage the Boards to look for opportunities for linked environmental, social and economic benefits in pursuit of their main duty to conserve and enhance their area. This is of course something which fits very nicely with the concept of sustainable development. It could produce new sustainable recreational initiatives which build a wider understanding and support for the area and bring new visitor trade to local pubs, shops and hotels.

This duty should also enable boards to contribute to the plans and strategies of others which do have a community focus, including the new Community Strategies required from local authorities by the Local Government Act 2000.



**Management plans for all AONBs**

Finally the Act requires all AONBs to have management plans produced, published and regularly revised by their local authorities or by conservation boards where established. Such plans are absolutely essential to the proper and strategic management of these areas. They need to identify the main pressures on the AONB and bring together the widest possible partnership of local interests and resources to tackle those pressures. The Countryside Agency and Countryside Council for Wales is preparing guidance on how a new generation of AONB management plans should be prepared.

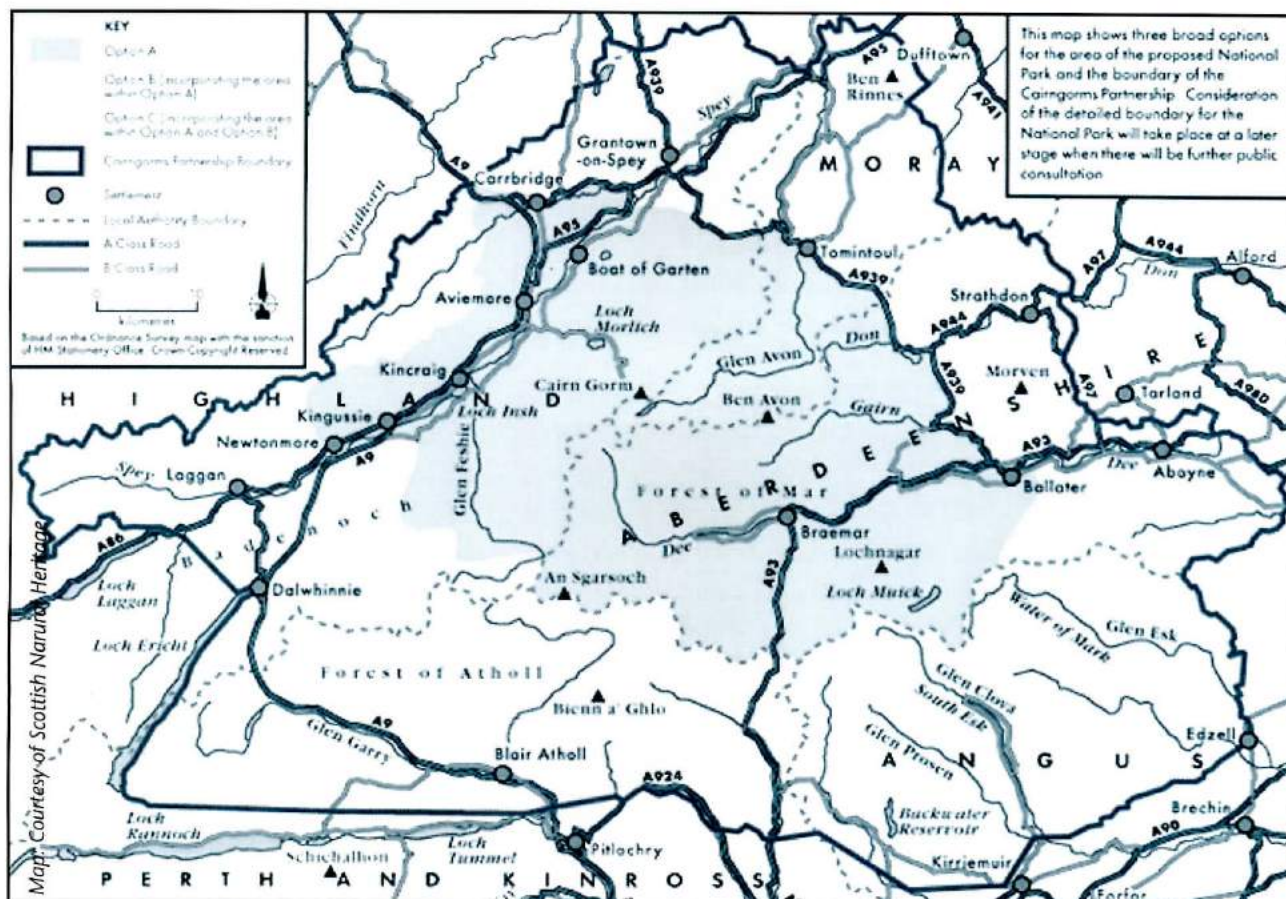
*Andrew Gale is a Senior Countryside Officer at the Countryside Agency in Cheltenham.*

*For further information on the CROW Act and AONBs visit the Countryside Agency website:  
[www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)*



# National Parks for Scotland - a step closer

John Mackay, Scottish Natural Heritage



Options for the Cairngorms National Park

On 5th July 2000, the Scottish Parliament debated the final stages of the National Parks (Scotland) Bill and after final amendments passed it without division. The Bill received Royal Assent on 9th August 2000 as the 10th Act of the new Parliament. This is the culmination of a long debate about National Parks in Scotland. The Ramsay Committee reports at the end of the war (the Scottish equivalent to Hobbouse and Dower) did not lead to legislation. Nor did later efforts in the mid-1970s and the late-1980s secure a legislative solution for those areas of Scotland's outstanding landscape which evidently need greater care and management.

Now that we have an Act, Scottish Ministers have moved quickly to make proposals for both Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and the Cairngorms and, all going well, the first of these areas should achieve park status in early 2002, while the Cairngorms may be about a year behind that date.

But that is jumping ahead: the legislation allows for a two stage process of consultation before the creation of any park. The first step is that Scottish Ministers make an initial proposal to establish a park, and then appoint a reporter whose task is to consult on the details of this proposal and to make



recommendations back to Ministers. The Scottish Executive can also undertake this reporting task itself but SNH has been appointed to act as the reporter on Government's formal proposals for both the proposed parks.

Following this first round of consultation, Ministers have the options of not doing anything, of holding a public inquiry where matters still remain unclear or in dispute, or of moving to the next step of drafting a Designation Order. This Order is then the subject of a second consultation. It will specify Ministers' formal proposals on the membership, powers and boundary of each park, following the outcome of the first consultation. After this second period of debate, the Designation Order – revised if needed – will pass to the Scottish Parliament for its approval.

Parliament and its committees will have the opportunity, if they so choose, to debate these proposals at each step, and there is also a third consultation now underway over proposals for the elections to a National Park Authority. The Act allows for at least 25% of its membership to be elected locally, and the procedures for this are now open for wider debate.

Readers will have concluded that this is a fairly complex process. The two consultations for each park area will run for a minimum of 12 weeks: so, allowing time for assessment and review, and also for any engagement by the Parliament, it will take rather more than a year for any one park to move from initial proposal to an approved Designation Order. That timing allows for a tight timetable and no public inquiry. This extended period may test the patience of those who are anxious to move ahead quickly, but it is a very necessary part of the process that all the interests have a clear opportunity to enter the debate on the general merits of the proposal, as well as the details. The extended consultation also reflects the strong participatory approach the Scottish Parliament has adopted to conducting its business.

A participatory approach is also strongly built in to

the conduct of the consultation. While the details vary a bit between Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and the Cairngorms, the process began with the involvement of key local interests in designing the approach to the options to be presented during the consultation. A wide range of mechanisms will be used to capture the opinions and ideas of all the relevant parties – all local bodies and the special interest groups, and also the general public. A shortened version of the consultation paper will go to every household in the proposed park areas.

One main difference between the two consultations is that the first consultation in the Cairngorms will focus strongly on the area of the Park – how extensive should it be – with the details of the boundary being presented in the consultation on the Designation Order. In Loch Lomond & the Trossachs, the preliminary discussions have allowed SNH to move more towards identifying a draft boundary, although there are still options to debate about areas which might or might not be within the Park. There are differences also in the suite of powers proposed by Government. The main difference here is that the Cairngorms Park Authority is not being proposed as a planning authority in its own right, although it will have a strong engagement in the planning process. The Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Park will have a nearly full range of planning powers, except for structure plan preparation. For both parks, Government recommends that the number of elected members be 20% - the minimum required under the legislation – with the remaining 80% being appointees, half of them on the nomination of the local authorities.

The timings for the consultations differ: the consultation for Loch Lomond & the Trossachs has now closed. The Cairngorms consultation was launched in the week beginning 11th December and will close on 13th April. Copies of the consultation paper can be obtained from SNH and they are also available on our website: [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk). The SNH website also has other background information available and the Act can be found on the Scottish Executive website: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk).



So an important step has been taken towards greater care of two of Scotland's most special areas. This consultation is just a first stage in the process. Inevitably, there is a good deal of other practical action in hand to pave the way for the creation of these two National Parks, should that be the eventual outcome. This preparatory work is most advanced in Loch Lomond & the Trossachs, where there has been an interim committee working over the last two years, led by the local authorities and building on the work of the existing Loch Lomond Park Authority. Of interest here is the degree to which this Park might extend eastwards into Perth & Kinross towards the area around Loch Earn, or westwards into Argyll to encompass much of the Argyll Forest Park.

The interim arrangements in the Cairngorms are less well developed on the ground. The current arrangements have been led on partnership basis through the Cairngorms Partnership, which has only a small staff, mainly working through its partner bodies. One critical issue for the initial consultation is the area of the Park. Three basic options are proposed as a starting point for debate, the largest of which is just a little larger than the existing area of operation of the Cairngorms Partnership. If this largest area is favoured, then this would be about four times larger than any other Park south of the Border.

Implementation of National Parks raises some important general challenges because wariness about the role of Parks in Scotland has not entirely gone away. The longstanding concerns about maintaining the economic status of these areas still stands high in local concerns, and the inclusion in the Act of a statutory aim for Parks to "promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities" reflects that concern. The creation of National Parks will give practical force to this debate. It affects all of our uplands and gives future Parks a critical role in providing a strong lead to sustainable development and sustainable use of natural resources in our most special landscapes.

And thereafter? Obviously there will be continued speculation about where a third or even a fourth park might emerge in Scotland. Some people think that we should aim boldly for a park in the western maritime environment, and other candidates considered in earlier reviews of National Parks are likely to re-emerge in the debate ahead. However, the first task is to get the two first parks up and running: indeed, it is likely that the main stimulus to debate about more parks will be the successful establishment of the first of what we hope will be a number of National Parks north of the Border.

*John W Mackay is the National Strategy Manager for Scottish Natural Heritage and is based at Edinburgh*

*For further information about the designation process visit the SNH website at: [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk) and the Scottish Executive: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk).*



# *Making Connections for Accessible Greenspaces*

*Jane Stoneham, The Sensory Trust*

With social inclusion, disability rights and countryside access high on the political agenda, and the introduction of related legislation and policy directives, there is increasing attention being given to ways in which excluded groups, such as people with disabilities and older people, can be more effectively engaged in the whole arena of greenspace design and management.

The Sensory Trust is a national organisation promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities to experience and enjoy the natural world. In 1999 we initiated Making Connections, a two year project funded by the National Lottery Charities Board to focus on accessibility and universal design in public greenspace and in particular the reasons preventing or dissuading use by disabled and older people.

The Making Connections project was based on the connection between people and the natural world and in particular on how opportunities to enjoy the natural world can be made available to everyone, regardless of age or disability. We were not presuming that disabled and older people have more interest in greenspace than anyone else, simply that there is a basic right for all people to have meaningful opportunities to enjoy, learn from and participate in the natural world.

The project was managed by Richard Price and involved national surveys exploring the views and expectations of disabled people and greenspace managers, and consultation with a wide range of individuals who shared experience, ideas and examples of good practice. With the User Survey we tried to target the non-users of greenspace to find out why they are not using these places and what would help encourage them to do so. Throughout

the study we were particularly keen to explore some of the following key issues that relate to accessibility in its broadest sense.

## **The missing visitors**

Recent years have seen a significant increase in developments aimed at increasing disabled people's access to areas of public greenspace and countryside. Many of these projects have addressed the basic issue of physical access. Quite simply, if people cannot get around a site they will not be able to use and enjoy it. Understandably the first, and overriding, concern has therefore been to ensure that there are no physical barriers to people using a landscape and to design or modify paths and access routes to accommodate people with mobility impairments.

However, it has become increasingly apparent that this physical provision alone does not always lead to significantly higher levels of use by disabled people. It is not unusual to find examples where physical access improvements have been made but sites still remain relatively under-used by disabled and older people. This pattern of under-use had been expressed to us informally over many years by a wide range of site practitioners. It was also highlighted by a Countryside Agency survey (Chesters, 1997) that reported that the missing visitors to the countryside represent 40% of the population and are mainly people on low income or state benefit, reliant on public transport and including ethnic communities, elderly people and people with disabilities. The percentage of people who are being left out is a cause for concern and provided the main incentive for initiating the Making Connections project.

## **Desire to use greenspace?**

The suggestion that these visitors are missing because they have no enthusiasm for using the



outdoors is sometimes made by those looking to justify lack of change or action. In common with a wealth of anecdotal reports, the Making Connections survey showed that people expressed a strong desire to visit public greenspace (81% said they were interested in visiting the countryside; 78% in outings or sightseeing). Respondents' most commonly held perceptions of these places were as settings for experiencing relaxation, beauty and wildlife. A significant number of people said they would like the chance to visit greenspace more than they do at the moment. One of the important questions for the project was: what stops them?

**Accessible greenspace**

Accessibility is a complex issue and relies on both physical factors (such as distance from home) and socio-cultural factors (such as people wanting to go somewhere and feeling comfortable there). These social factors are generally less obvious but often very significant in determining the quality of visitor experience. The project was designed to address accessibility in terms of these socio-cultural factors, in particular highlighting ways that greenspace can

provide rich experiences and a means of disabled people connecting with the community and their surrounding environment.

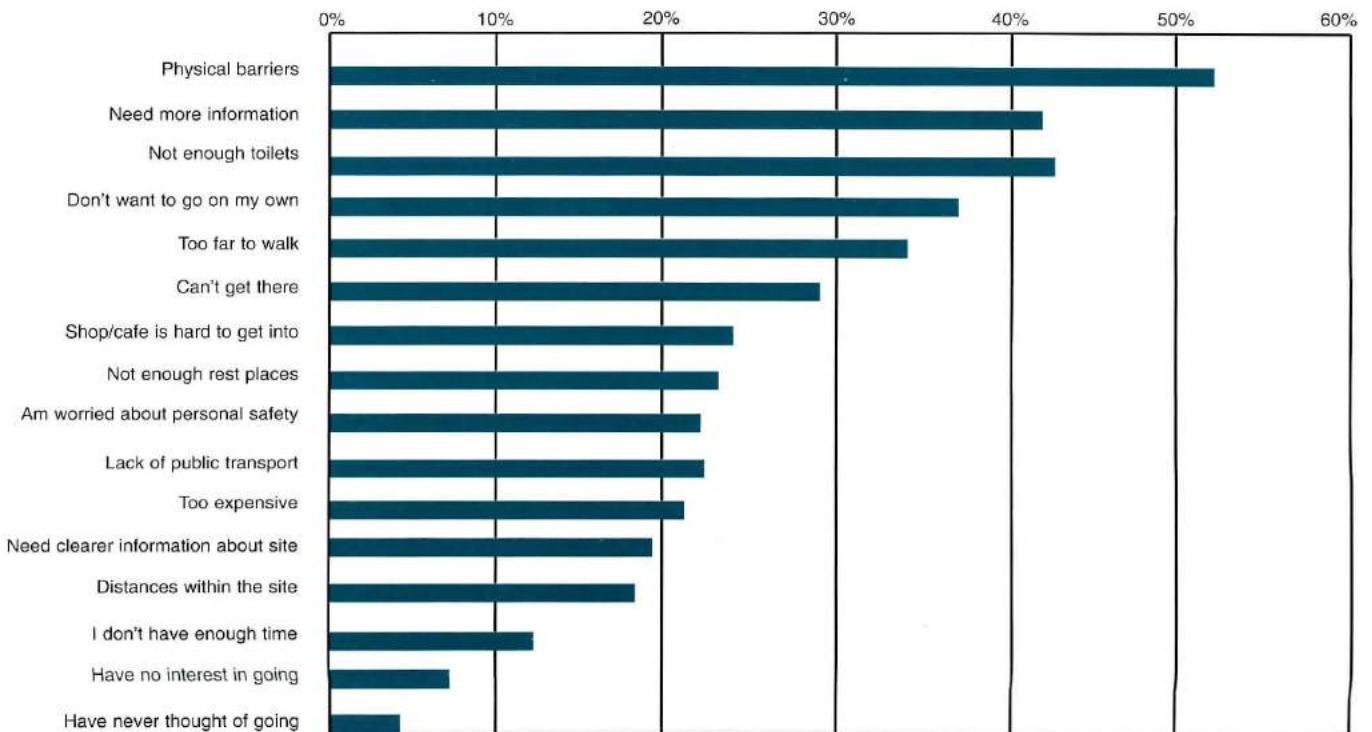
Barriers preventing or dissuading use are diverse and interrelated. Physical barriers are interwoven with social and economic issues such as appropriate information, transport, poverty, social isolation, accompaniment, personal security, low expectations and discrimination. Barriers can prevent access but often they simply put people off bothering to make a visit, particularly for people who have to make more effort to go out.

The following graph (Graph 1) shows the results of one of the questions in the User Survey which asked respondents to identify barriers in greenspace.

It is useful to note that lack of information was highlighted as a significant barrier and there is a definite need for more attention to be given to the whole issue of how and where information about greenspace is provided.

*Graph 1*  
**Question: What puts you off visiting one of these places?**

Percentage of respondents





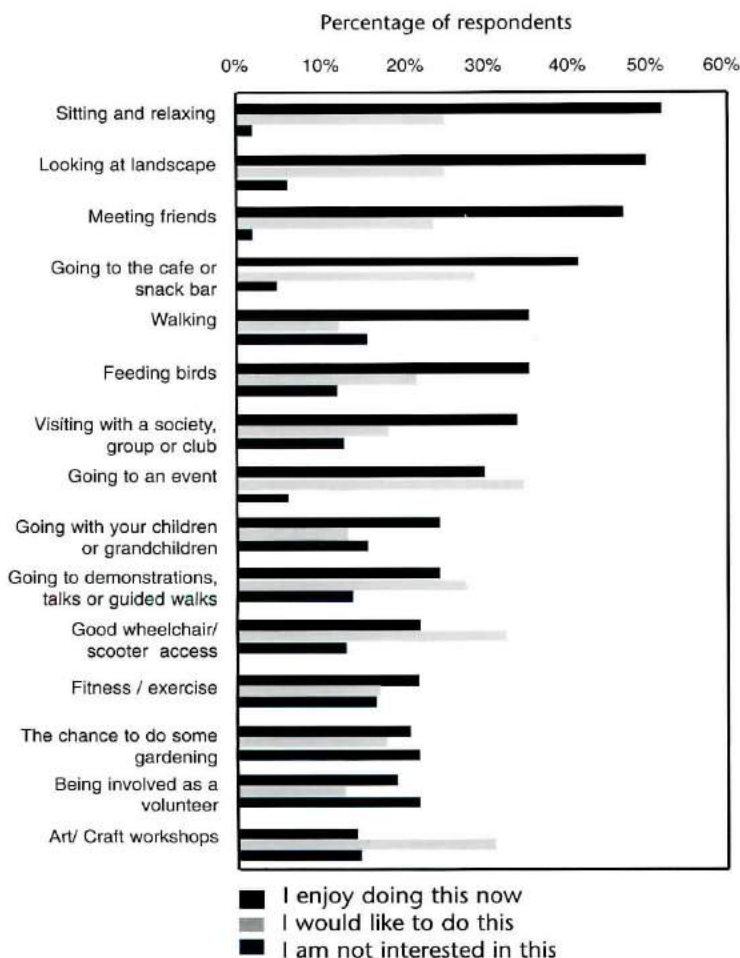
**Quality of experience**

The project was based on the principle that people should have an equal quality of experience, not just access to and around a place. The reward of going somewhere must outweigh the effort of getting there and this requires careful attention to the range of attractions and benefits that greenspace can offer. This includes a wide range of passive experiences, such as sitting or walking in pleasant surroundings, but also (importantly) other more active involvement for example through social contact, volunteer programmes, outings and events and education.

The following graph (Graph 2) is based on data from the User Survey and shows the associations that people made with greenspace.

**Graph 2**

**Question: If your local greenspace could provide the following opportunities, which would be of interest to you?**



Maintaining the integrity of greenspace experience for disabled visitors is important. One of the greatest challenges in natural landscapes is how to make them available to people without destroying their special qualities. The spirit of the place is often related to natural beauty, and absence of overt management, and can be easily destroyed by efforts to make it accessible. Sensitivity in design is therefore important, for example the selection of hard materials that blend with the landscape.

It is important to remember that people usually make the decision to go outside when they are indoors. This makes it particularly important to consider those factors that may motivate people to visit greenspace. For example, information and publicity materials they receive, the access between their home and the site and availability of transport.

**The Results**

The result of Making Connections is a publication that draws on the experience and opinions of disabled people and greenspace managers to illustrate the challenges and opportunities involved in opening up public greenspace to a wider audience. Making Connections was as much about raising questions as identifying possible answers and we hope it will serve as a useful tool in the increasingly active debate about universal design, participation of people and accessibility.

*Making Connections: A guide to accessible greenspace by Richard Price & Jane Stoneham (114pp) is available from the Sensory Trust, £12 (students & not-for-profit organisations), £15 (standard) incl. p&p.*

*For more information about our work:  
 Sensory Trust, Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road, Bath BA1 7DE. Tel. 01225 852554. Fax 01225 851000.  
 E-mail: sensory@sensorytrust.swinternet.co.uk*



## News

### ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RESEARCH PUBLISHED ON IMPACT OF CANOEING ON ANGLING AND FISH STOCKS.

In response to the debate over the compatibility of angling and canoeing the Environment Agency carried out research on the effects of canoeing on fish stocks and angling.

The research concludes that there is no empirical evidence linking canoeing with damage of spawning grounds and stocks, but has identified disturbance caused by canoeists to anglers as an area of conflict. The Environment Agency is considering the use of access agreements to solve the problems of conflicting use and looking at ways of promoting more effective communication between canoeists and anglers.

*For copies of the research document 'Effects of Canoeing on Fish Stocks and Angling' Technical Report W266 contact the Environment Agency R&D Dissemination Centre, c/o WRC, Franklin Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 8YF, Tel: 01793 865000, or e-mail: publications@wrcplc.co.uk*

### OUR COUNTRYSIDE: THE FUTURE, A FAIR DEAL FOR RURAL ENGLAND

The DETR have released a summary document of the Government's White Paper 'Our Countryside: The Future, A Fair Deal for Rural England'.

*For copies contact the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, DETR Free Literature, PO Box no. 236, Wetherby, LS23 7NB or tel: 0870 1226 236.*

*Further details about the White Paper can be found on the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions website: [www.detr.gov.uk](http://www.detr.gov.uk)*

### COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY STRATEGY RELEASED

On 22nd January the Countryside Agency published its new strategy 'Towards Tomorrow's Countryside',

to link in with the publication of the Government's White Paper: 'Our Countryside; the future'. It sets out the Agencies priorities for the next decade and covers 8 policy areas. These areas are:

- Rural Assurance – influencing the quality of rural life;
- Countryside Capital – making the most of the natural asset;
- Wider Welcome – opening up more of the countryside for more people, from all backgrounds, to enjoy;
- Market Towns – revitalising rural service centres for the wider countryside;
- Countryside On Your Doorstep – creating attractive, accessible greenspace close to home;
- Finest Countryside – securing the quality of our best landscapes;
- Vital Villages – equipping communities to shape their futures; and
- Local Heritage Initiatives – helping people to care for their landscapes, landmarks and traditions.

The new strategy has been devised to enable the Countryside Agency to effectively cover the 20 key issues that it has identified for action:

#### *Environmental Pressures*

- The character and diversity of England's countryside, including its landscape and architecture, are being eroded by industrial agriculture and new buildings that fail to respect their context.
- New farming practices and other factors are reducing biodiversity, reflected in the decline in farm and woodland bird populations.
- Air and water quality are generally improving, but rivers are under pressure with higher demand for water, while soil erosion threatens the future productive use of farmland.
- Rising traffic levels continue to intrude on the countryside's tranquillity. Moreover, road casualties are falling more slowly than in urban areas.



### **Quality of life under threat**

- The closure of rural post offices around 200 or so each year, as well as banks, garages, pubs and village shops, is making it increasingly difficult to find local services in rural areas.
- Heightened migration from cities and suburbs to rural districts is changing the social fabric of countryside communities
- Real incomes of the less well off in the countryside are falling.
- Fear of crime in the countryside is rising, even though the incidence of crime is far less than in urban areas.
- Child care is improving but its provision remains patchy.
- The health of rural residents is generally above the national average, but the increasing remoteness of centralised health facilities disadvantages certain groups and individuals.
- Rural homelessness is growing, and not enough affordable housing is being built to meet needs.
- Opportunities for education and training are improving and very few rural schools are closing.

### **Challenges to enterprise and business**

- Rural areas are falling behind their urban counterparts in the information and communication technology revolution due to delays in installing the necessary infrastructure.
- Public transport provision is getting better and access to a car is also improving but too many people who have no car are still left isolated.
- Fewer new businesses registered in three quarters of rural districts compared to the regional average.
- The prosperity of market towns is declining as services and industries are rationalised which affects surrounding rural areas.
- Employment opportunities are changing with fewer working directly on the land and more working from home or at edge of town locations
- Land based activity is suffering from the crisis in farming.

### **Everyone's countryside**

- Rural and urban people alike value the countryside as a place to relax and play.
- Most in town and country regard the countryside as a healthy and happy place to live, and as a result care deeply about its future.

*For copies of the report 'Towards Tomorrow's Countryside' (ISBN 0 86170 6242) contact Countryside Agency Publications, PO Box 125, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7EP, Tel: 0870 120 6466, E-mail:twoten.press.net*

### **GREEN AUDIT KIT LAUNCHED**

The Countryside Agency and the English Tourism Council have developed the Green Audit Kit "Investing in your business and the environment" as a tool to help small tourism businesses become more sustainable and environmentally friendly. The Green Audit Kit was launched on 29th November 2000.

The Kit covers use of energy and water, purchasing and disposing of materials. It also covers marketing and product improvement whilst illustrating ways to help the environment and save on costs whilst exploiting the commercial advantages of these actions.

Both the Countryside Agency and the English Tourism Council hope that the Kit will help tourism businesses develop in a sustainable manner.

*Copies of the Green Audit Kit "Investing in your business and the environment" are available from Regional Tourist Boards free of charge (limited to one copy per person). Additional copies are available from the Countryside Agency Publications Department, Tel: 0870 120 6466. Cost £7.50.*

### **EXTENSION TO PENNINE BRIDLEWAY PROPOSED**

The Countryside Agency submitted a recommendation to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions in



November 2000 to extend the Pennine Bridleway further northwards. The proposed extension would add an extra 141 miles to the current bridleway and run through Cumbria and into Northumberland.

Consultation was carried out by the Countryside Agency with landowners, local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations and interest groups to determine the level of interest in the project. The Countryside Agency is waiting for the decision from the Secretary of State as to whether the proposals will go ahead.

*Copies of the submission are available from the Countryside Agency Publications, PO Box 125, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7EP. Tel: 0870 120 6466. Copies are priced at £16.*

### **BRITISH WATERWAYS AWARDED TOP TOURISM PRIZE**

British Waterways has been awarded the 'Tourism and Heritage Organisation of the Year' by the Good Britain Guide 2001. The Waterways Trust which manages The National Waterways Museum has also received an award as 'Gloucestershire Family Attraction of the Year'.

*For more information visit British Waterways on the web at: [www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk)*

### **COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) ACT**

On the 30th November the CROW Act received Royal Assent and signalled the start of the mapping process of at least 4000 square miles of England. Mapping of the areas to be designated as open access land in the first step in the process, and wide scale consultation will take place before the full access rights are agreed.

Management plans will be drawn up and published for all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) by the local authorities responsible for them with guidance from the Countryside Agency. Larger

AONBs may also benefit from the proposed setting up of conservation boards to bring together local authority, parish representatives with national appointed members in the management of these areas. They will take over some of the local authority functions which relate to the AONBs but will not become local planning authorities.

*For further information on the CROW Act refer to the articles by Anne Ewins, Andrew Gale, Rachel Cook and John Holmes featured in this issue of Countryside Recreation.*

*For the online version of the "Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000" visit the HMSO website: [www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm](http://www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm)*

*Hard copies are also available from the Stationery Office, Tel: 0870 600 5522. ISBN 010543700X and costs £15.55. Alternatively it can be ordered from the web at: [www.clicktso.com](http://www.clicktso.com)*

*For more details about the implementation of the CROW Act visit the Countryside Agency website: [www.Countryside.gov.uk](http://www.Countryside.gov.uk)*

### **MAPPING OPEN ACCESS LAND**

On 9th January the Countryside Agency signed a contract with Binnie, Black & Veatch, specialists in environmental consultancy and mapping, to start the mapping programme of 'open country' and common land under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

The consultants will be responsible for identifying and mapping the areas that are 'open country' and common land. The Countryside Agency will then consult widely on the maps showing areas to be included in the Act. The new access rights will only come into force when all appeals to this process are heard and resolved, likely to be in 2003. The consultants will also provide a Geographical Information System (GIS) which will help the



Countryside Agency to manage access rights and information.

*For further information about the implementation of the CROW Act visit the Countryside Agency website: [www.Countryside.gov.uk](http://www.Countryside.gov.uk)*

### COMMUNITY FOREST REGENERATION

The Community Forest Programme presented its Annual Monitoring Report to the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in December 2000. The report highlights the regeneration and creation of Community Forests around towns and cities across England over the last 12 months .

The highlights for the year 2000 include:

- 1,200 hectares of new woodland planting
- over 1,400 hectares of existing woodland were brought into management, and
- over 1,300 hectares of woodlands were opened up to the public for recreation and access.

The Programme is also concentrating on other related land types and uses associated with community forests; such as opening up non-woodland areas of urban fringe for access and recreation where there is a demand for informal recreation, community involvement and nature conservation. Work is also underway transforming closed landfill sites for land reclamation for forest use.

*For more information on the report visit the Community Forest website: [www.communityforest.org.uk](http://www.communityforest.org.uk)*

### CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY ANNUAL REPORT 1999- 2000

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Natural Environment Research Council have published their Annual report for 1999-2000.

CEH aim to become the centre of excellence in terrestrial and freshwater sciences through their

directed long term, strategic and integrated research relevant to governments and industry. Their science strategy is based around 9 key programmes:

- Soil and Soil-Vegetation Interactions
- Land Use Science
- Urban Environments
- Freshwater Quality and Ecology
- Biodiversity and Population Processes
- Biocontrol and Biotechnology Research
- Pollution
- Hydrological Extremes and Ecological Response
- Global Change

*Copies of this and other CEH publications contact: CEH Publications Office, Directorate, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2LSF, Tel: 01487 772549. For further information on the research carried out by CEH visit their website at: [www.ceh.ac.uk](http://www.ceh.ac.uk)*

### COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME – NEW SCHEME LITERATURE

In January the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) published new guidance on the 'Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is one of 10 schemes within the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) framework. The other 9 schemes are:

- The Rural Enterprise Scheme (new)
- The Vocational Training Scheme (new)
- The Energy Crops Scheme (new)
- Processing and Marketing Grants (new)
- The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme
- The Organic Farming Scheme
- The Woodland Grant Scheme
- The Farm Woodland Premium Scheme
- The Hill Farm Allowance Scheme (replacing HLCA's)

*Copies of the Handbook are available free of charge from MAFF Regional Service Centres. The application form can also be found on MAFF's website at: [www.maffweb/aboutmaf/agri-env.countstew](http://www.maffweb/aboutmaf/agri-env.countstew)*



*For information about the other ERDP schemes visit the MAFF website at: [www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk)*

### **SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PRODUCERS**

Country Life Online has launched a campaign to encourage people to support the rural economy and preserve traditional foods. A website has been set up to make it easier for people to buy directly from local farmers markets and farm shops, and enables smaller producers to sell their goods direct to the public.

*For further information about Country Life Online visit the site at: [www.countrylife.co.uk](http://www.countrylife.co.uk)*

### **LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL**

On 22nd February Scottish Ministers Jim Wallace and Sam Galbraith launched the public consultation on the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill. Part I of this Bill introduces the proposals for legislative change on access in Scotland and the rest of the Bill is concerned mainly with other land reform issues including community 'right to buy' proposals.

The Scottish access proposals are for a general right of access, subject to access being exercised responsibly and to safeguards for privacy, land management and conservation needs. So these are proposals more akin to the Scandinavian approach. There is a consultation also on a draft Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which is an integral part of the access proposals. The Code is the reference point for the definition of responsibility in access, and for those details of the access arrangements which are not included in the primary legislation.

*The consultation runs until 18th May. For further details visit the Scottish Executive website: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk).*



# Countryside Recreation and Training Events

## CRN EVENTS FOR 2001

### Fundraising and the Lottery: Grants and funding for countryside recreation projects

A one day workshop including presentations and workshops with discussion led by speakers from grant funding bodies, providing advice on making successful applications, and from organisations that have a proven track record of drawing down grant funding. For more information contact CRN.

Date: 11th April 2001

Venue: Cardiff University, Cardiff

Cost: £95 (Funding Agencies £80)

Conference and Workshops topics planned for 2001:

- **Social Inclusion**
- **Local Access Forums**

Further details will be available in the near future. To request information about any CRN even please e-mail the Network Manager -crn@cf.ac.uk or phone 029 2087 4970.

## March 2001

**12th – 16th March**  
**Access and Public Rights of Way, Law and Management II**  
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)  
 Venue: Snowdonia  
 Cost: £204 subsidised / £408 full

**12-14 March**  
**Breaking Down the Barriers – Working towards a countryside for everyone**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £207.50 subsidised / £415 full

**19 March**  
**Green Ways to Better Health - Greenlinks Annual Conference**  
 (Greenlink)  
 Venue: Bournemouth  
 Cost: £23.50

**19-22 March**  
**Visitor Safety**  
 (Kindrogan Field Centre)  
 Venue: Perthshire  
 Cost: £305

**20 March**  
**Living in the Country: Local Homes for Local People**  
 Conference  
 (Town and Country Planning Association)  
 Venue: Regent's College, London

**22 March**  
**Leading and Managing Conservation Projects: Training, Education and Promoting Sustainability**  
 (Environmental Trainers Network)  
 Venue: Birmingham  
 Cost: £95.00 full /£250 - for all three days 22nd February/ 8th March and 22nd March

**26-30 March**  
**Education in the Countryside – Developing skills for devising and delivering effective and creative environmental education programmes**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £509

**26-27 March**  
**Beach Management Conference and Seaside Award Presentations**  
 (Tidy Britain Group)  
 Venue: Torquay  
 Cost: £195

**27-29 March**  
**Environmental Consensus and Conflict Resolution Workshops**  
 (Institute of Ecology and Resource Management - Edinburgh University)  
 Venue: Edinburgh  
 Cost: £380

**29 March**  
**The Human Factor - Staffing public transport**  
 (TR&IN)  
 Venue: Manchester  
 Cost: £223.25 (TR&IN Subscriber £176.25)

**26-28 March**  
**Wilderness Britain? Society, Policy and the Environment**  
 Conference  
 (University of Leeds)  
 Cost: £150

**31 March-1 April**  
**Working with Local Communities**  
 (BTCVTraining)  
 Venue: Clandeboye, NI



## April 2001

**2-4 April**  
**Surveying and Map interpretation Skills – For public rights of way**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £425

**4 April**  
**Woodland Access**  
 (BTCV Training)  
 Venue: Londonderry

**9-12 April**  
**Environment for all Abilities**  
 (Kindrogan Field Centre)  
 Venue: Perthshire  
 Cost: £335

**23-25 April**  
**Site Management Planning – An applied training course for countryside managers**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £519

**30 April – 4 May**  
**Interpretation – A wide-ranging, stimulating and practical introduction**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £519

**30 April - 3 May**  
**Garden Culture in the 21st Century**  
 (The National Trust)  
 Venue: Bath  
 Cost: £350  
 May 2001

## May. 2001

**4 May**  
**Community Consultation Techniques**  
 (BTCV Training)  
 Venue: Burnley, Lancs

**9-11 May**  
**New Paths to Better Access – Exploring the opportunities for enhancing and integrating access**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £425

**11 May**  
**Access Management**  
 (BTCV Training)  
 Venue: Bury, Lancs

**14-18 May**  
**Woodlands: Everything you ever wanted to know**  
 (BTCV Training)  
 Venue: Durham

**15 May**  
**River Survey Techniques**  
 (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)  
 Venue: Central Scotland  
 Cost: £90 non-members £45 members

**16 May**  
**Managing Native Broadleaved Woods**  
 (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)  
 Venue: Wye Valley and Forest of Dean  
 Cost: £90 non-members £45 members

**21-25 May**  
**Tree Care and Management**  
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)  
 Venue: Snowdonia  
 Cost: £321

**30 May**  
**Trains for Market Towns**  
 (TR&IN)  
 Venue: Knaresborough

**30 May-1 June**  
**Advanced Interpretive Master Planning**  
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)  
 Venue: Snowdonia  
 Cost: £209

## June 2001

**4 June**  
**Getting 'Best Value' from Your Ranger Service – A review and step by step guide for managers**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £145

**4-8 June**  
**Grazing Management for Nature Conservation**  
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)  
 Venue: Snowdonia  
 Cost: £321

**11-14 June**  
**Upland Conservation Management**  
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)  
 Venue: Snowdonia  
 Cost: £246

**25-29 June**  
**Grassland Management for Nature Conservation**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Castleton  
 Cost: £425

## July 2001

**5-6 July**  
**Progress in Rural Geography: Towards 21st Century Geographies of Rurality Conference**  
 (Coventry University)

**16-20 July**  
**Wetland Management for Nature Conservation**  
 (Losehill Hall)  
 Venue: Beverley  
 Cost: £452

**26 July**  
**Managing an Urban Fringe Heathland**  
 (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)  
 Venue: Canford Heath, Poole, Dorset  
 Cost: £90 non-members £45 members

**Contact details for  
training/events organisers**

**BTCV Training**

Tel: 0121 358 2155

E-mail: A.Groves@btcv.org.uk

**Coventry University**

Geography Dept.

www.kcl.ac.uk/rgsg

**Environmental Trainers Network**

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E-mail: ENTP@dial.pipex.com

(n.b. VAT is charged on all courses listed)

**Greenlink**

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**IEEM (Institute of Ecology and  
Environmental Management)**

Dr Jim Thompson

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**Institute of Ecology and  
Resource Management**

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**Kindrogan Field Centre**

Tel: 01250 881286

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**Losehill Hall**

Tel: 01433 620373

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. A listing in these pages is free. If your organisation has event details please forward them to CRN.



# Countryside Recreation Network Publications List

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS	Price (incl.postage)	Tick
Managing the Challenge of Access (2000)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Making Access for All a Reality (1997)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Today's Thinking for Tomorrow's Countryside (1995)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communities in their Countryside (1994)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GIS & Countryside Management - Theory and Application (1997)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Playing Safe? Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside (1995)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Recreational Travel (1994)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Drive in the Country? - Examining the Problems of Recreational Travel (1994)	£7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Economics, Sustainable Management and the Countryside (1994)	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CRN RESEARCH DIRECTORY</b> An annual directory of the research work carried out by the CRN agencies during the year		
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In future the Research Directory will be available as a searchable database on the CRN Website		
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UK Day Visits Survey 1993 (1995)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Please photocopy this page and send it with a cheque made payable to 'University of Wales Cardiff' at the following address:  
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