

Countryside



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



I N S I D E

• Social Exclusion in the Countryside

• Missing Persons: Who doesn't visit
the People's Parks

• News

• Managing the Right of Access to
Open Countryside

• Joined Up Thinking for Recreation
Management?

• Training Events

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Contents

Editorial1

Social Exclusion in the Countryside
Dr Bill Slee, University of Aberdeen2

Managing the Right of Access to Open Countryside - The Role of the Ranger Service
Elwyn Owen, Leisure Consultant and Edward Holdaway, Rural Consultant8

Missing Persons: Who doesn't visit the People's Parks
Bill Breakell, Tourism and Transport Officer, North York Moors National Park13

Joined-up Thinking for Recreation Management? The issue of water pollution by human sanitation on the Mar Lodge Estate, Cairngorms
David Bryan, Manager, Sutherland Partnership..18

News23

Training and Events Diary27

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

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Editorial

ACCESS FOR ALL RESOLVING THE DILEMMAS

The articles in this issue of Countryside Recreation illustrate many of the dilemmas thrown up by efforts to improve the opportunities for countryside recreation and to open them up to a wider range of people. Some of these relate to the environmental impact that even quite small numbers of visitors can have in remote country with delicately poised ecosystems. Others concern the effect that recreationalists, and notably their cars, can have on the enjoyment of others, and indeed on the environment itself. Yet another – arguably better-rehearsed – set surrounds the interaction between recreational use and land management activities.

Even trickier, perhaps, are the issues involving matters of perception and even of ethics. One initial consequence of current legislation to improve access opportunities may well be to increase wariness between land managers and recreationalists. Stereotypes may actually be reinforced as each looks out even more keenly for examples of the types of unhelpful behaviour of which the other has always been suspected. And how far will the new opportunities simply be taken up by those best-equipped, financially and educationally, to do so – leaving the less affluent and well-informed little better off, despite the best intentions of the legislators?

None of these problems is easy to resolve. But their existence cannot be the excuse for abandoning the goal of better access for all. If we believe that the experience offered by countryside recreation is a truly life-enhancing one, then surely we must make it more widely available. Rather than retreating, we must search out ways of increasing participation that do not diminish the quality of the experience itself, or mean that some enjoy it at unreasonable cost to the pleasures or livelihoods of others.

The article on the future role of ranger services by Elwyn Owen and Edward Holdaway holds out a ray of hope. It offers practical suggestions, grounded in experience, as to how some at least of the challenges may be overcome. It illustrates the sort of forward-looking, creative but realistic contribution that CRN can make in a field where it can be all too tempting to assign problems to the "too difficult" category. There is of course a cost attached to its prescription of a more comprehensive coverage of countryside management services. But that price is surely one that we can afford – and which is amply justified by the wider benefits on offer. What price a healthier (in all senses of the word) and happier population at large?

John Thomson, Chairman, Countryside Recreation Network

Social Exclusion in the Countryside

Dr Bill Slee, University of Aberdeen

Introduction

Almost everyone is aware of the rhetoric surrounding social exclusion and inclusion. Although strongly associated with the New Labour agenda, the roots of social inclusion are more distant in time and space. In spite of the term's widespread use and numerous attempts at definition, the precise meaning of inclusion and exclusion remain rather elusive. Further, as is evident from the research, some definitions of exclusion are more obfuscatory than enlightening.

Defining Social Exclusion

A number of people and organisations have offered definitions of exclusion. The Cabinet Office (2000) (<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/>) suggest that:

"social exclusion is a shorthand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown".

The Local Government Association (1999) defines social exclusion as:

"the process through which individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society in which they live. This can include a range of processes (e.g. unemployment, lack of entitlement or access to social security benefits, social security benefit levels, and poor transportation) and outcomes (e.g. poverty, ill health and isolation)."

Burchardt et al. (1999) offer a further definition:

"An individual is socially excluded if (a) he or she is geographically resident in a society but (b) for reasons beyond his or her control he or she cannot participate in the normal activities of citizens of that society and (c) he or she would like to so participate."

The first definition suggests multi-dimensional disadvantage, reflected in a range of identifiable symptoms. The second definition asserts that exclusion is a process or set of processes. The third implies also that exclusion is a function of a set of processes resulting in the failure to participate in the 'normal activities of citizens' but adds that exclusion is only exclusion when the person has an unfulfilled desire to participate.

When applied to leisure, the concepts of exclusion and inclusion become no clearer. Whilst it is easy to acknowledge that non-participation cannot necessarily be taken as indicative of exclusion, it is difficult not to recognise that leisure choices for many are constrained by the very factors that, depending on definitions, are either correlated with social exclusion or which, linked together, comprise social exclusion.

In the context of countryside leisure, Harrison (1991) has argued that leisure opportunity has been constrained by the adoption of what she terms an 'aesthetic imperative'. In countryside recreation there is thus both a problem of socially constructed supply that creates particular types of opportunity (often with substantial public sector support), and socially constructed demand which leads certain groups out of choice to ignore some of the goods and services on offer. Under such circumstances, it is disingenuous to define away exclusion simply on the basis of the evidence of limited demand for countryside leisure from poorer groups.

It is interesting to contemplate the factors that, over a generation or so, have so dramatically altered the behaviour of working-class people in the countryside. The uplands of Britain were very widely used by working people for informal recreation in the inter-war and immediate post-war period. Has a more exciting array of opportunities? Has the

demise of public transport rendered the countryside more inaccessible? Or more controversially, has the access to the countryside by working class people been 'designed out' by agencies, keen to extol its educational value, but rather less keen to make the countryside an enjoyable place to experience the freedom that Ewan MacColl (who wrote the anthem for the Kinder Trespass) so valued?

A second (related) problem emanating from the definitions concerns the issue of what constitutes the 'normal activities of citizens'. There is an implicit bundle of values wrapped up in the notion of citizenship. However, in a pluralistic and multi-cultural society defining 'normal activities' is problematic, as we might anticipate substantial differences in leisure and other behaviour. Moreover, these differences are an obvious source of tension. A desire for quiet recreation is compromised by the desire of other groups for more noisy activities. Whose preferences comprise the legitimate mainstream wishes of citizens is open to debate.

Given the distinct decline in participation in the countryside, it is disturbing to read about the declining recreational infrastructure in towns. A recent Policy Studies Institute report (PSI, 2001) catalogues this failure: "at last we have definitive

information showing the dramatic decline in the quality of our parks and, for the first time, a national database of parks which can be built up into a reliable and comprehensive record. The record currently shows that for many (urban) parks the decline in funding and quality continues. Reversing this deep-seated trend requires clear leadership from government and decisive action from local authorities, with substantial support from government departments and agencies as well as the Lottery distributors." The same report quotes Jennifer Jenkins: "public parks are in serious decline, especially those in deprived areas".

There is unambiguous evidence of under-participation in countryside recreation by young adults, low income groups, ethnic minorities, and the disabled. However, the extent to which these groups (or at least some amongst these groups) are excluded or choose not to use the countryside is open to more debate. Questionnaire evidence reveals a combination of disinterest and a range of factors associated with exclusion (see Table 1)

The Survey

The approach we adopted was to screen as widely as possible to find examples of good practice in inclusion. We approached several hundred local

Table 1: Reasons for not visiting the countryside for those who did not visit at all during the year in Great Britain (% of reasons ranked for 1998)

Reason	1996	1998
No particular reason – just have not gone	23	19
Health reasons or disability	13	18
Work reasons – always too busy or a lack of time	19	17
Not interested: the countryside has no appeal	19	17
Lack of suitable means of transport	7	9
Not enough money or can't afford it	6	7
Nervous or uneasy about visiting the countryside	0	1
Lack of information about where to go	1	0
Other reason	12	12

Sources: Social and Community Planning Research, 1997 and 1999

authorities, quangos and non governmental organisations to determine what activities were taking place in relation to social exclusion and countryside recreation, and received over 200 replies, most of which comprised projects. It was interesting how many of the requests for information were redirected within organisations and how replies trickled in about interesting projects long after the selection process. From this long list we sought a short list, based on the type of countryside and the target group of people (see Table 2). Twelve projects were selected for detailed investigation including at least one in each box.

The Results

The twelve projects selected for analysis are indicated in Table 2.

We sought to visit each project and to interview both project managers and, wherever possible, beneficiaries. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to elicit responses to a wide range of questions. Most meetings were tape-recorded and provided a rich source of material for subsequent analysis.

All of the projects provided useful insights into policies and practices to address excluded groups. There is no recipe of success but rather a bundle of variables that help us to understand why some projects appear to succeed when others struggle. Our research design did not permit a focus on failure, but looking at some of the failures would be highly informative. Instead, we endeavoured to identify factors that predisposed projects to succeed.

Factors Contributing to Success

Successful projects tend to be community-driven, championed by members of the community in which they are located. Community-driven projects contrast with top-down paternalistic projects where assumptions are made about community demands and projects are managed through top-down interventions. Where projects are community-driven, they tend to have higher levels of participation (representing real rather than assumed demand), have greater commitment and longevity, and tend to remain focussed on community rather than external interests. However community driven projects can give powerful individuals a chance to

Table 2: Projects selected for analysis

PROJECT	TARGET BENEFICIARIES
Antrim Borough Council	Ethnic/religious groups
Big Issue Hill Walking Club	Homeless urban poor, young adult
Black Environment Network	Ethnic minorities
Fairbridge	Young adults, urban poor
Glodwick Community Outreach	Ethnic minorities
Greenwood Community Forest (Bestwood)	Ethnic minorities
Mendip Hills AONB	Poor and young
Midlothian Council (Vogrie Country Park)	Disabled
Northants Council Brixworth	Disabled
National Trust Inner City Project	Poor; young and elderly inner-city residents
PACE (Croydon)	Ethnic minorities
Youth Route 70	Young adults, urban poor

'steal the show' and can allow antagonisms between conflicting interests to develop. Further, they may, in spite of focussing on the excluded, focus on the least excluded, with minority and weakly articulated interests being neglected.

Projects are more likely to succeed where empowerment of the target groups is a key component of the approach. Empowerment not only enhances the self-esteem of those involved but also increases the sustainability of the project. Rather than being passive beneficiaries, the participants become active citizens. Indeed, there were a number of examples where the actions of the beneficiaries was a major factor in perpetuating the project. However, empowering one group may challenge established users, a point that was raised in one of the cases. Further, given the project basis of so many of these initiatives, too much empowerment diminishes the need for project management. Finally, empowerment is not easy to quantify and thus is not easily defensible in a world where clear numerical indicators of success are often sought by project sponsors.

Increasing social cohesion may, at first sight, seem like an unlikely correlate of project success. However, where projects promote social cohesion, they tend to reduce barriers to participation and enhance the prospects for project success. As noted in the literature review, not all groups feel welcome in the countryside. Several projects built bridges to enable previously under-represented groups to become more active in the countryside and enjoy their visits more. The beneficiaries of one project noted how getting involved had re-engaged them in society: they had in their words 'been given back their lives'.

Projects that were based on partnership had a greater chance of success. Partnership formation often enables a pooling of resources that result in more joined-up action. Some partnerships provided a means of strengthening human and social capital in communities and this gave projects greater durability. Often, partnerships were able to survive

the difficulties that might afflict single-agency projects through drawing on experiences of partners with a range of skills and experiences. Not all partnerships work: inter-agency rivalries, conflicting rivalries and slow decision-making are all potential problems.

Appropriate staffing was seen as a key ingredient of project success. In almost all of the projects examined a principal success factor was the energy, motivation and skill of key project staff. Whilst the charisma of many of these individuals is difficult to define, it nonetheless contributed dramatically to project success. The use of 'outreach' as well as countryside management staff was seen as a desirable project attribute.

Both quantitative and qualitative evaluations were seen as desirable elements of successful projects. Those projects that depended on quantitative indicators often seemed more concerned to generate positive values for these indicators than to address less quantifiable concerns such as social capital building and empowerment. A recognition of the need to assess performance was seen as beneficial, but it was seen as desirable to embrace both quantitative and qualitative evaluation.

Effective marketing was seen as important. Given the competition for leisure spending by households and individuals, it is simply not reasonable to assume that countryside recreational products will market themselves. Although there is now greater tolerance amongst countryside managers of the need to take a more customer-oriented perspective, there has been a considerable suspicion of marketing in the past.

Factors which Limit Effectiveness

Many of the projects examined suffered from a semi-permanent need to seek future funding which would enable the projects to continue. Of course, finance emerged even amongst the successful projects as a factor limiting what could be achieved. However, the fixed term of many funding packages means that there is constant stress in many organisations to maintain their financial position that enables project

aims to be met. Well-endowed projects were distinctly advantaged.

The nature of the human resources employed on projects can be a source of weakness. Caring professions can subordinate the values of the intended beneficiaries to their own values. Paternalistic values might potentially take power away from local groups.

The problem of project dependency is often associated with the issue of paternalistic values of project personnel. As one of our respondents noted, success in the project is at the expense of your job: an empowered community should not need the person who facilitates the access.

Final Thoughts

This study exposed to the study team some excellent examples of good practice in addressing social inclusion and exclusion in countryside leisure. It also exposed the challenges of dealing with a malleable concept that many practitioners only partially understood. This is through no fault of the project officers and personnel on the ground. The inclusion agenda has been thrust upon them and increasingly funding revolves around taking inclusion issues into account in project design.

We need to better understand the attitudes of those who do not use the countryside and for whom exclusion may be an issue. The countryside is a place that many recent immigrants may feel no close affinity for. The educational ethos of a great deal of public sector provision may not appeal to less educated and poorer people who are simply seeking entertainment and fun. Certain disabled groups may not be able to access certain types of countryside. And the deeper recesses of the countryside may simply be too costly for poorer to access. But all the time we need to probe whether there are exclusionary forces at work or whether those in groups with low participation rates simply choose to spend their leisure pound in other places. As Isobel Emmett exposed in an early article for the Countryside Commission (1971), social filters can

operate to exclude certain groups from the countryside. These social filters still operate in the new millennium.

One facet of contemporary government activity is the tendency towards 'projectisation'. Funding is often not available for routine activity. Instead, institutions are forced to bid for scarce funds, and obliged, if they wish to succeed, to dress up project proposals in the jargon of the moment. This means that the work of honest journeymen may be neglected in favour of trendy wordsmiths. Whilst the need to select projects is an essential task for administrators, the dismal record of appraising the payoff from injections, for example, of lottery money is all too apparent.

There is a conflict of interest that is particularly evident in inclusion projects. With the inevitable desire to pick winners, the not-so-excluded may be easier to include than the most excluded. Consequently, there may be a tendency to ignore the most marginalised groups. The inevitable consequence is a concentration of effort where it may be less needed.

The mainstreaming of good practice in projects still presents an enormous challenge. It may not be easy to move from good practice in projects that address exclusion to embedding good practice into the enormous breadth and diversity of countryside recreational provision.

We know that neo-liberal economic policies generate inequalities between different countries, regions and groups. Inequality is associated with exclusion in a range of complex relationships. Alongside social exclusion in the leisure sphere lies social exclusion in a range of other spheres. Such exclusion is in part a product of structural economic and political forces, which are sometimes challenged (for example, the anti-globalisation demonstrations) and sometimes uneasily accepted as the status quo within which those addressing exclusion must work.

The Agencies and institutions involved in countryside

recreation need to look critically at policies, actions and projects that they have engaged in for those that might have increased exclusion. They need to think how else their budgets might have been deployed to reduce exclusion? The risk is that there remain powerful exclusionary processes forces inherent within countryside recreation policy.

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We would be naïve to believe that mainstreaming social inclusion in countryside leisure will be anything other than a formidable challenge.

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Managing the right of Access to Open Countryside - The Role of the Ranger Service

Elwyn Owen, Leisure Consultant and Edward Holdaway, Rural Consultant

Introduction

The introduction of a new statutory right of access to open was always going to be an important and controversial event. What no one could predict was that the new legislation would come into force in the shadow of the 2001 foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak, against an irrevocably changed policy background. That event highlighted in a very painful way the importance of tourism and recreation to the economy of Wales, and it has also demonstrated the interdependence between the various elements of the rural fabric. FMD has concentrated official minds and public opinion on the future role of agriculture and other rural activities and, in particular, on priorities for future official funding regimes.

Perhaps predictably, discussion of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) has focused on questions relating to the rights of countryside users and landowners (where precisely will people be allowed to go and what will they be allowed to do there?) and with policy structures (how many Access Fora will there be and what will be their precise role?). Debate about the implications of the new legislation for countryside management in its widest sense has tended to be more muted, and so this paper seeks to help redress the balance by considering the role of ranger and warden services in a post CRoW situation and urging action to ensure that the necessary services are in place before land is opened for access.

The Management Context of the CRoW Act

The CRoW Act provides a framework for the management of the right of access to open country, embracing:

- mapping of access land (Sections 4 to 11)
- display of notices deterring public access (Section 14)
- creation of byelaws (Section 16)
- notices indicating boundaries (Section 19)
- codes of conduct and other information (Section 20)
- exclusion or restriction of access (Section 21 to 23)
- means of access to open country (Sections 34 to 39)

However, it does not prescribe the way in which the various parties involved (owners, users and regulatory bodies) should interact, other than to:

- require the establishment of a local access forum in each local authority area; and to
- Enable local authorities to appoint wardens/rangers for access land in their area (Section 18), in order to secure the compliance with byelaws, to enforce any exclusions under the Act and to advise and assist the public and persons interested in access land.

Given the numerous expressions of support from all quarters for the establishment of warden/rangers services to assist in the management of access during the passage of the Bill through Parliament, it is perhaps surprising that their appointment was not made mandatory.

The Need for Ranger Warden/Services

The very existence of Section 18 of the Act confirms that government perceives the need for wardens/rangers to help administer the provisions for access to open country. A recent research study in

Wales has shown strong support for the principle of having rangers/wardens available to assist in the management of access land (Owen and Holdaway, 2001). All the parties consulted during the study - including user groups, landowners and regulatory agencies - expressed the view that such services were needed.

The numbers of wardens/rangers that will be needed will naturally vary from one area to another, according to such factors as the scale and complexity of access land found there and according to how many people choose to exercise their new rights there. It is widely held that there is unlikely to be a dramatic increase in the demand to use the countryside generally and access land in particular, rather it will gradually increase as more information becomes available and as public knowledge and confidence grows. However, it is clear that, irrespective of the level of use, a range of management issues will arise at a local level. Accordingly a basic level of ranger/warden service will be needed to deal with them.

The access provisions of the new Act are not to be implemented immediately. Nevertheless it will be crucial for central and local government to indicate as soon as possible that it is their intention to put rangers/wardens in place to help implement the legislation. This is vital in order to reassure all stakeholders that their interests are being safeguarded from the outset.

As the new provisions come into force there is likely to be some initial nervousness and perhaps some posturing on the part of users and landowners alike. The former will wish to exercise their rights to traverse areas that have previously been out of bounds. The latter will wish to know whether or not their worst fears are being realised: they will be extremely vigilant themselves and will wish to be reassured that access authorities are just as keen. For both these reasons the issue of the presence of rangers/wardens will assume great importance from the outset. Indeed, they need to be involved from the outset in all the planning and the practical work

that will be necessary in advance of the opening up of open country

The Role of Rangers/Wardens

Figure 1 (see overpage) lists the key tasks that will need to be undertaken to deliver access to open country. Significantly, all of these activities have a direct or indirect ranger/warden component, suggesting that such services have an integral vital part to play.

Rangers/wardens operate at the interface between landowners and countryside users, and so it is perhaps inevitable that the two groups will tend to view their role from a slightly different perspective.

Our research has confirmed that landowners are inclined to view the warden as a custodian of the countryside, whose job is to police areas of open access in order to ensure that rules are obeyed and conflict is minimised. User groups, on the other hand, view the mission of the ranger as being to inform, to interpret and generally to make the visit to open countryside more rewarding. To be effective, ranger/warden services must work on the premise that each of these activities is legitimate and that neither should be pursued to the detriment of the other. It follows that they should have a two-fold role in relation to access land:

- to provide information that will help visitors to enjoy and appreciate the countryside responsibly, without damage to the environment and in ways that bring positive economic benefit to rural communities; and
- to maintain a close and regular dialogue with landowners and members of the local community, to ensure that their interests are safeguarded.

Towards an Holistic Approach

The CRoW Act provides an ideal opportunity to review the role of ranger/warden services in the context of the management of the wider countryside. Whilst the need to establish a ranger/warden presence is being driven by the

Figure 1: The core tasks involved in managing public access to open country which require a ranger/warden involvement

Policy formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping of open land • preparing strategies for access
Policy administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of bye laws • implementation of closures
Resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access management: signposting, waymarking, repair of paths and other environmental improvements • recreation management: provision of access points, car parking and traffic management • seeking economic benefit to the local community
Visitor services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing information to visitors to help them plan and enjoy their visit • helping visitors to understand and appreciate the countryside (e.g. guided walks, events, talks, educational services) • promoting the health and safety of visitors
Liaison and mediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a personal point of contact with landowners, conservation and access interests and the local community • trouble shooting and resolving disputes at the local level • servicing the Local Access Forum • provision of information to all stakeholders

national policy imperative of achieving public access to open country, it also has a link with other key government policy objectives such as pursuing sustainable development and promoting biodiversity, a healthy lifestyle and social inclusion.

There is scope for a more integrated approach to countryside management, with rangers/wardens playing a key role at local level. This implies moving away from the concept of site management- with its focus on discrete recreation sites - in favour of countryside management, which is characterised by an area approach and an integrated way of working. The essence of such an approach was described by the then Countryside Commission in an advisory booklet published in 1993, whose key principles carry even more force twelve years later in a post-FMD policy climate (Countryside Commission, 1993).

The range of issues that access to open country is likely to present will require such a local grass roots approach, providing the first point of contact locally for landowners as well as users. This approach would

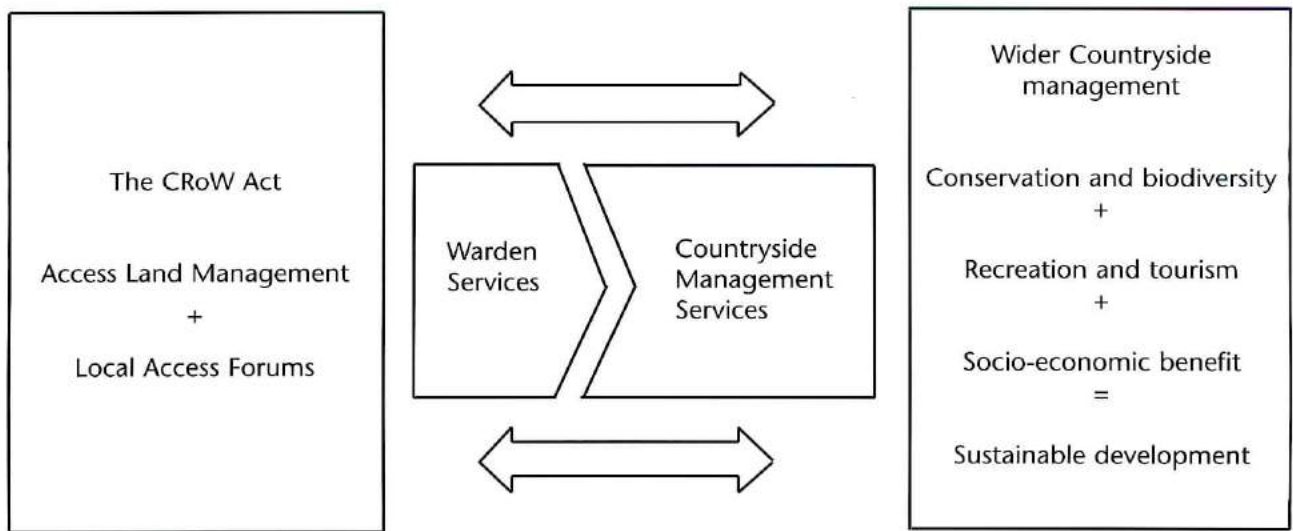
seem to be ideal to cope with these new demands and to ensure that they are linked to wider countryside objectives - landscape and nature conservation as well as helping to realise the economic benefits of access and conservation for local communities. Experience of managing access to open country in this way, in places such as the Pentland Hills in Scotland and in the Dartmoor and Peak District National Parks, shows that an integrated approach is crucial and workable.

Figure 2 illustrates in diagrammatic form the nature of the relationship might productively be developed between the wardening of access land and wider countryside management.

A Renaissance for Wardens/Rangers

In pursuing this holistic approach it will be very important to ensure that access to open country should be delivered in a consistent and equitable manner. This is based on the notion that both visitors to the countryside and landowners/farmers have an increasing expectation of the existence of

Figure 2: The relationship between the wardening of access land and wider countryside management



warden/ranger services to whom they can turn. Consistency and equity do not mean that all services should be the same. However, they should achieve broad consistency in terms of the purpose, range and quality of the services delivered, whilst at the same time allowing for local flexibility in terms of the scale and mix of service provision. It is also implicit that the services are provided on a countryside basis and that in certain circumstances joint working between authorities will be important - in many instances open access land tends to be on the edge of administrative areas.

This approach will need to be underpinned by the following principles:

- the development of common standards for operation of services;
- in service training and professional development;
- provision of appropriate education;
- the creation of a coherent career structure;
- the involvement of volunteers, though not as a substitute for full time professional services;
- the development of opportunities for the sharing of best practice;
- the involvement of local people as part of the services, providing that they have the requisite

technical and interpersonal skills.

In Wales, the first step towards the establishment of services across the whole country has been through the commissioning of the study already referred to, by CCW. One of its key findings was the seemingly low priority given to these services by local authorities in recent years, leading to a decline in resources and a lowering of morale. A process of retrenchment has taken place, whereby services are now concentrated at sites owned and managed by local authorities at the expense of the countryside at large.

The main thrust of the report was to promote a renaissance for ranger services in Wales. Its main recommendations were for the adoption of:

- an integrated countryside management approach throughout Wales by local authorities and national park authorities; and
- a 'concordat' for countryside management services throughout Wales, setting out common standards;
- a partnership approach between the National Assembly for Wales and local government, with the long term commitment of resources to it.

The broad conclusions of the report have been endorsed by the National Access Forum for Wales and CCW, who are now working together to develop the idea of the 'Concordat' for countryside management services in Wales.

Conclusion

If the management of access is to be trouble free, then urgent decisions need to be taken about the establishment of appropriate services. The study of ranger services estimated the cost of their delivery at a basic level across Wales to be in the order of £3.5 million per year. This is a modest sum by comparison with the benefits that can be derived from such services, not only for users of access land but also for farmers and landowners and local communities. An exciting opportunity exists for taking an holistic approach to the management of the countryside, one that is wholly in tune with post FMD thinking and with the pursuit of sustainable development. It is an opportunity that is not confined to Wales, many of the issues and principles apply in England too.

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Missing Persons: Who doesn't visit the People's Parks

Bill Breakell, North York Moors National Park Authority

Many people involved in British National Parks acknowledge that those who fought for their designation especially in the 1930s and 1940s would probably be disappointed if they could see who was out and about in the Parks this summer.

Reading the report of the National Park Commission (or the Addison Committee) (1931), and those who added their views to the debate, one can't but be moved by their vision of National Parks as a resource and a refuge for those whose lives were timed by factory sirens six days a week. Almost a precursor of the National Health Service, National Parks would provide for the health of the soul as well as the body, and were to be available for all.

Support was almost universal, although, with hindsight, sometimes misplaced. For instance, the Automobile Association recommended that *"in view of the rapidly growing number of aircraft owners, suitable level ground should be cleared for an aerodrome"*. More alarmingly the National Union of Teachers said *"The provision of National Parks is strongly supported – and a movement similar to the Youth Movement in Germany might be organised in this country"* (National Park Commission, 1931).

Group after group lined up behind the concept of National Parks for 'the people,' led by the Ramblers' Association, the Youth Hostels Association, the Councils for the Preservation of Rural England and Rural Wales, and the Co-operative Holidays Association.

John Dower captured their views when he said that National Parks should be *"for people – and especially young people – of every class and kind. National Parks are not for any privileged or otherwise restricted section of the population"* (Dower, 1945).

Fanatics and Idealists

Translating that into reality has been difficult. In the run up to designating the North York Moors as a National Park in 1952, one rural district council clerk said: *"It seems to me that this is a fight between the interests of the industrial areas and the interests of the countryside. The National Park is not generally desired, it is a scheme of fanatics, idealists and those who live out of touch with life in the countryside."* He then went on to demand that certain villages be excluded from the proposed Park because they had *"council tenants who work in the industrial areas. They should not be in the Park area"* (comments noted in the report of enquiry into designation of North York Moors National Park).

These concerns seemed pretty widespread in and around the Moors. A key member of the local NFU branch added: *"Where is the safeguard against people who, in five minutes, can destroy the work of 200 years? I refer not to the Ramblers' Association, but to bus parties"*. (comments noted in the report of enquiry into designation of North York Moors National Park)

These sentiments echo those of a century earlier when William Wordsworth foresaw tourism posing a huge threat to the Lake District. *"The imperfectly educated classes are not likely to draw much good from rare visits to the Lakes"*, he wrote to the Morning Post (December 1844), pointing his pen towards the promoters of the railway who he saw as *"tempting artisans and labourers, and the humbler class of shopkeepers to ramble at a distance"*.

But rambling at a distance was central to the National Parks: the trains of the 1950s, together with importance of public transport access, intellectual access, information style and available time in

the charabancs, brought *"clean limbed working folk ... enjoying the fruits of their labours and doing very little damage to the environment, give or take the odd ice-cream wrapper"* (Kelner, 2000).

The Right Type of Visitors

In the North York Moors - as elsewhere - a slow reduction in railways and commercial bus services especially during the 1960s allowed tourism to slip into a progressively more exclusive state. There were many external influences on this change but it was also encouraged by those who saw a potential threat from growing number of visitors. Far better to have fewer, but higher spending visitors, they thought. In essence they may also be 'the right type of visitors.'

When the Parks grasped this nettle and remembered their socially inclusive mission, this placed them at variance with the tourist boards and local tourist agencies. Inadvertently, those welcoming visitors probably widened the gulf further through their language (written and spoken) which was pitched at their peers - middle aged, middle class visitors who tended to be members of the National Trust (when that organisation was also less inclusive than perhaps it is now).

There was a hunch that visitors were not drawn from across the whole of society, but it was not until the early 1990s that the North York Moors National Park was able to demonstrate this widening social gulf between those who visited and those who did not.

As a development of a major visitor survey, Postcode data was analysed by the English Tourist Board. This confirmed ABC1 visitors in abundance in the North York Moors, with the highest penetration being where access was exclusively the preserve of those with a car (or powerful legs). The conclusion was that *"visitors have an up-market profile, with significant numbers of visitors in the wealthy, older market, and family market"* (English Tourist Board, 1991).

A similar process in 1994, again working with colleagues in the tourist board, showed who was

visiting the Park - perhaps the 'Persons of Taste' in Wordsworth's words. The data showed seven key groups who were 'over-represented' in the North York Moors.

Table 1: Source ACORN analysis of visitors to the North York Moors National Park, 1994

Code	ACORN group	Index
A2	Affluent greys from rural communities	154
A1	Wealthy achievers from suburban areas	143
C7	Prosperous professionals from metropolitan areas	141
A3	Prosperous pensioners from retirement areas	130
D9	Comfortable middle-agers from mature home-owning areas	127
B5	Well-off workers from family areas	122
D10	Skilled workers from home-owning areas	120

Probing deeper into these visitor profiles re-inforced the impression of a Park full of wealthy achievers – as visitors, but not residents. The top visitor groups were aged over 45, read the Telegraph, Times, Financial Times or Daily Mail. Their occupations were professional, managerial, self employed or retired, with incomes (in 1994) of over £30,000. How had the Park failed to attract those who were literally on its doorstep and could often trace their pedigree back to the moors before migration to the steel works and chemical works of Teesside a generation or two ago?

The untimely death of Sue Glyptis of Loughborough University curtailed a research project which aimed to identify, amongst other things, the relative importance of public transport access, intellectual access, information style and available time in determining why certain people chose not to visit the Park (if indeed, choice was a factor).

An Omnibus Park

A further bit of the picture was revealed in 2000 when comparative surveys were undertaken of users of car parks (a surrogate for 'typical' visitors) and passengers using the Moorsbus Network.

This was, in part, to test the hypothesis that transport was at least a contributory factor in visitor patterns and type of users. The data obtained included satisfaction levels with a number of services and facilities, information on journey patterns, activities undertaken, information sources used, newspaper readership and home Postcodes.

The Postcodes were analysed in conjunction with the Yorkshire Tourist Board to give an indication of social groupings using 'CAMEO UK' categories. (A summary of the Moorsbus Network surveys 1994 – 2001 is available on the web at www.moorsbus.net).

These analyses showed that whilst there is some consistency between car park users and Moorsbus passengers, there are also significant differences. These suggest that the Moorsbus Network is achieving one of its goals, that of encouraging a wider social group of visitors to the National Park than the 'traditional' National Park visitor.

The research shows that skilled manual workers, poorer retired couples, young single parents and students are all more likely to access the Park as a result of the Moorsbus Network, whereas they are usually poorly represented in surveys at car parks. These groups do not (or cannot) access the area by private car. Conversely, those living in larger houses, and who are considered to be well-off are more likely to access the National Park by car than by bus.

This research implies that Moorsbus users are drawn from a wider range of social class than car-borne visitors. There is, however, a group of visitors who are from higher social groups and who choose to use public transport as a result of their environmental concerns. For a number of years, these groups have been evident in the Moorsbus surveys. They are often readers of *The Guardian* or *Independent* and

are likely to be either car owners who are willing to abandon their car for the bus ('switchers'), or non-car owners with a 'green conscience.' Surveys also reinforce the fact that half of Moorsbus users are over the age of 60, with many being active retired (the 'silver foxes'), or those who have given up car ownership and who find the Moorsbus one of the few ways of visiting the countryside with confidence as 'independent' travellers and with complete confidence. (See table 2 overpage)

The year 2001 was particularly difficult for the tourism industry in the North York Moors and a comparison between that year and the previous year suggests that certain groups were deterred, especially walkers. Conversely, the elderly continued to use the bus services, possibly in the belief that they were a safe and 'officially approved' way of accessing the countryside.

Parks for All

This type of analysis will continue so the Park can track change resulting from a revised philosophy about 'promoting' the Park as a tourist destination in appropriate circumstances. A new 'reaching out' project is underway working with communities in the surrounding urban areas. A study of ethnic participation is also being undertaken under the direction of Ash Amin of Durham University.

Questions continue to be asked about the carrying capacity of the area, and how widening the audience can be managed. However, all the surveys of residents acknowledge that it is not visitors who are generally the problem or the threat, it is their means of transport.

Since 2001 there has also been a greater acknowledgement of the role of tourism in the local economy, although this needs monitoring to ensure that there is no reversion to the 'fewer, but bigger spending' target.

However, there will undoubtedly be tensions. The most broad group of visitors appearing in the North York Moors recently has come as a result of TV

Table 2: Cameo Categories

Ref	Description	Moorsbus	Car Park
1E	Affluent singles and students	212	59
2B	Retired home owners in pleasant suburbs	128	172
2C	Older flat dwellers (areas of mixed tenure)	260	129
2E	Older couples in retirement towns	172	126
3A	Younger families in larger dwellings	48	196
3B	Wealthy older families, large houses, exclusive areas	38	173
3F	Well-off families in spacious semi detached houses	66	143
4B	Well-off older families in detached properties	141	184
4C	White collar workers in areas of mixed tenure	175	103
4E	Younger and more affluent families in urban developments	196	131
5B	Older families in larger dwellings	120	141
5C	Suburban families with school age children	197	203
5F	Skilled manual workers with older families	206	69
6A	Active home owners in larger dwellings	152	161
6D	Small, privately owned dwellings	345	194
7C	Poorer retired couples, singles	139	46
9A	Young single parents & students in small flats / bed sits	220	31
9C	Single parents & retired residents (low quality terraced properties)	164	35

(An index of 100 would signify that the proportion of users in that group is the same as the proportion of households in that group within the UK. An index of over 100 suggests that a group is represented at a higher proportion in the databases than in the population.)

Source: North York Moors Visitor Surveys, 2000

tourism. 'Heartbeat' attracts over a million visitors a year to the small village of Goathland (and more may follow seeking 'Harry Potter' at the same location). But there are concerns that they are seeking a myth, a fantasy of the rural idyll. They are not our 'normal' visitors who would be readily assimilated because they are exactly like everybody else who visits the Park.

Instead, these 'new' visitors come in their coaches from the South Yorkshire steel works social clubs, or from Hartlepool. They are given only a muted

welcome and sometimes labelled as the 'wrong sort' of visitor. Other than their age, they are probably exactly those who the Parks were aimed at sixty years ago, although their motivation is very different.

If they lack Wordsworth's 'eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy' then we need to accept that we have collectively failed somewhere along the line.

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Joined-up thinking for recreation management?

The issue of water pollution by human sanitation on the Mar Lodge Estate, Cairngorms

David Bryan, Sutherland Partnership, Lairg

Introduction

The Cairngorms National Nature Reserve (NNR) has been described as the most natural place in the British Isles (Curry-Lindahl, 1990). At the heart of the NNR is Mar Lodge Estate, which incorporates over 7000 ha of the reserve. It is widely recognised as the most important place for nature conservation in the UK. Following centuries of mismanagement for personal sporting interests, the estate was transferred into the ownership of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in 1996.

The area is also recognised as a recreation 'honey pot' (Fielding and Haworth, 1999), with a long tradition of unfettered public access. Trends in recreation have changed markedly in recent times. The last two decades have been characterised by a dramatic growth in the popularity of mountaineering, mountain biking, bothying and wildcamping. ¹ Whilst the mountaineering fraternity in the Highlands are often the first to campaign against the perceived unsustainability of other land uses, there is a widely held resistance to acknowledging that their own pursuits negatively affect the environment. This article will examine the impact of human sanitation on water quality in montane environments with particular reference to recent developments likely to increase such pollution in part of the Cairngorms NNR now owned by the NTS.

Human Sanitation and Water Pollution in Backcountry ² Areas

Whilst great attention has been paid to the issues of footpath erosion (e.g. Watson, 1984) and disturbance of wildlife (e.g. Liddle, 1997) in the Scottish Highlands, the issue of backcountry human sanitation and consequent water pollution has been largely ignored.

One impact of untreated sewage is to raise the levels of phosphorous and nitrogen in watercourses. The chemistry of naturally eutrophic watercourses such as the Norfolk Broads are little effected by the discharge of human sanitation (Moss, 1977). However, in the Cairngorms the underlying granite and low levels of primary productivity have created oligotrophic watercourses, sensitive to even low levels of eutrophication.

Human waste also introduces a variety of pathogens into aquatic ecosystems. Research from the United States has shown that faecal coliform bacteria and faecal streptococci in a reservoir were significantly higher in the vicinity of a recreational centre (Barbaro et al., 1969).

Current backcountry guidelines such as the Bothy Code (Mountain Bothies Commission) and the Wildcamping Code of Conduct (The Mountaineering Council of Scotland) recommend the shallow burial of human faeces. However experiments suggest that bacteria such as salmonella can survive burial at 20cm depth for 51

weeks in a montane environment (Temple, Camper and Lucas, 1982). Furthermore, Mason (1991) reported that human pathogens can be transported by rodents, whose urine can carry the organisms into the water. Buried faeces are therefore potential sources of water pollution in wilderness camping areas (Liddle, 1997).

The Particular Problems of Water Pollution on Mar Lodge Estate

Mar Lodge Estate is traditionally a popular area for backcountry overnight stays. The area is well served by bothies and includes the most popular howff in the Highlands³. However it is the popularity of wildcamping in the area that is most noteworthy. Wildcamping is a popular activity in its own right but it is also used by hillwalkers to avoid the 'long walk in' and by backpackers journeying between Speyside and Deeside. It is not uncommon to find in excess of 60 tents in the most popular locations. No sanitary provision is made for the wildcampers.

Levels of water pollution are sensitive to recent weather conditions. The relatively continental climate of the Cairngorm mountains can result in lengthy dry periods in summer. The extensive high plateaus and precipitous slopes contribute to severe summer thunderstorms (Watson, 1982). Intense rainfall after a long dry period resulting in overland flow can produce levels of faecal coliforms and faecal streptococci ten times greater than background levels (Hendry and Toth, 1982). A similar effect is experienced during the Spring thaw.

In a spot check at Ryvoan bothy in the Cairngorms, Pringle (1996) found that levels of coliform bacteria in a stream by the bothy were ten times higher than they were just a few metres upstream. The concentration of bacteria only returned to background levels 60 metres downstream from the bothy. Significantly higher levels of non-coliform bacteria, phosphate, sodium and chlorine ions were also recorded in the vicinity of the bothy.

The National Trust for Scotland has implemented strict pollution prevention policies for their staff and

work parties. When working on the estate all human waste, liquid and solid, is collected and carried out of the mountains. This follows best practice from National Parks in North America and scientists working in Antarctica. However there is no such requirement of members of the public partaking in backcountry recreation on the estate.

It can be seen that there exists a significant problem of water quality resulting from recreationists in the area. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it is not unusual for recreationists to contract stomach bugs after overnight stays in the area. There are obvious implications for human settlements that draw their drinking water from the River Dee downstream of the NNR. This case of water quality is therefore a classic case of sustainability in which environmental pollution poses a threat for both wildlife and people. However, on Mar Lodge Estate, the potential to reduce pollution has been compromised by recent developments.

Recent Complications in the Management of Recreationists on Mar Lodge Estate

The pollution challenge facing conservationists can be characterised by the principle of the 'Frontiersman and the New Yorker'⁴ (Tietenburg, 1996). The greater the number of overnight stays by recreationists, the greater the pollution problem for people and wildlife. Freedom of access (save for a short period during the 'Highland season'⁵) is staunchly defended in the Highlands. The purchase of land by a conservation organisation is generally accompanied by an expectation of even freer access. Furthermore the draft Access Code (part of the Land Reform Bill due to go before the Scottish Parliament) endorses the right of recreationists to engage in wildcamping (Scottish Executive, 2001; section 3.22). The code advocates a right of 'responsible access'. In relation to human waste, the code requires that recreationists "*only urinate or defecate where there is no risk to human health and follow good practice in burying waste*". The above discussion suggests that these conditions may be difficult to achieve.



Photograph taken by David Bryan, UHI

A consequence of 'Frontiersman and the New Yorker' is that individuals should not be actively encouraged to stay overnight in backcountry locations. However recent developments on the Mar Lodge Estate are likely to increase the number of 'Frontiersmen' in this particular 'wilderness'. In the 1997 revision of Munro's tables, Sgor an Lochan Uaine (pictured), situated in one of the remotest corners of Mar Lodge Estate and at the heart of the NNR, was elevated to Munro status. Before its recent fame, it stood as an infrequently visited top, well in excess of the 3000 feet threshold of Munros but not regarded as a mountain in its own right. To climb Sgor an Lochan Uaine requires a 14km trek to the start of the climb, after which walkers must ascend Cairn Toul, the fourth highest mountain in Britain, before continuing to Sgor an Loch Uaine itself⁶. The round trip in a single day is beyond the stamina of many Munro baggers and an overnight stay either at one of the popular wildcamping sites in the area or at the conveniently located Corrou bothy is a common choice.

The number of hillwalkers studiously ticking off the Munros is difficult to estimate. However it is notable that when a revised edition of the SMC Munros

Sgor an Lochan Uaine and Braeriach, Cairngorms

guidebook suggested that the descent of Ben Lomond may be varied by taking in a subsidiary peak, a massive footpath scar developed in just three years, where before there had been no path at all. With regard to Sgor an Lochan Uaine, NTS rangers noted scores of baggers on the remote summit on the weekend after the designation was announced, despite inhospitable weather conditions.

The proportion of Munro baggers electing to wildcamp or bothy may also have been increased by the recent ban on cycling on the estate⁸. The estate has a well-developed network of robust bulldozed tracks ideal for mountain biking. Over the last two decades, cycling into the mountains has become a popular way of achieving the bases of the remoter Cairngorm summits, bringing many into the domain of a single day excursion. With cycling into (and out) of the Cairngorms no longer an option, many hillwalkers will choose to stay overnight in the mountains. The environmental impact of camping or bothying in the area is almost certain to be greater than that of cycling on the bulldozed tracks.

Conclusion

The impact of the Munro designation and cycling

ban is likely to have been an increase in the number of 'backcountry bed-nights' in the area and a concomitant deterioration in the quality of watercourses in the NNR. The Cairngorm Partnership indicated in their management plan (Cairngorm Partnership, 1999) that one of the policies for the mountain core is to reduce visitor pressure. No attempt was made to consult either the Cairngorms Partnership or the NTS before Sgor an Lochan Uaine was promoted to Munro status.

There is clearly a need for further research into both the biochemistry of backcountry sanitation and possible engineering solutions to the problem (such as specified wildcamping sites with some form of sanitation) ⁸. Recreationists must be made aware of their impact on the environment, not only in terms of their sanitation, but also the washing of utensils in watercourses and the use of cleaning agents, soap and toothpaste. Notwithstanding possible technocentric solutions to the problem, organisations with influence over recreationists must recognise their responsibilities and engage in "joined-up thinking", in order to achieve the universally accepted aim of sustainability in the mountains.

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Footnotes

¹ *Wildcamping is defined as an overnight stay using a backpack tent in a location distant from a public road and not on a commercial campsite.*

² *The American term "backcountry" is used to describe any location distant from human settlement and infrastructure. The terms "wildland" and more so "wilderness" are contentious in the Scottish context*

³ *The Shelter Stone is a natural shelter formed by a jumble of boulders.*

⁴ *In North America a river in a wilderness area is traditionally regarded as being able to cleanse itself every 10 miles. Therefore one frontiersman can have no impact on water quality as long as he is more than 10 miles away from the next frontiersman. Frontiersmen therefore need not concern themselves unduly with water pollution, however in New York 17 million people live within 10 miles of each other. New Yorkers have therefore been forced to create an appropriate sanitation infrastructure to deal with the problem.*

⁵ *This is the late summer and early autumn when the landed gentry would traditionally migrate to the Highlands for grouse shooting and deer stalking seasons.*

⁶ *Other routes of ascent are possible, though they are not as popular and no less arduous.*

⁷ *The Mar Lodge Estate was purchased with the aid of £4 million from the Easter Trust. As part of the purchase agreement, the Easter Trust required National Trust for Scotland to phase out the use of*

mechanical vehicles on the estate. The Easter Trust regard cycles as mechanical vehicles. It is unclear whether the many de facto rights of way on the estate extend to access by bicycle (Rowan-Robinson, 1994). However prominent signage requiring that cycles not to be used on the estate is sufficient to dissuade most hillwalkers from using this form of transport.

⁸ *After the NTS purchase of Mar Lodge Estate, the MBA offered to install and maintain a biological toilet at Corroul bothy. The offer was declined by the NTS, apparently on ideological grounds.*

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News

AUDIT OF COUNTRYSIDE SPORTS FACILITIES IN SCOTLAND

Sportscotland have commissioned consultants to undertake an audit of countryside sports facilities in Scotland. A draft will be ready in August and the final report deadline is December 2002. Sportscotland have also commissioned consultants to undertake an audit of golf facilities in Scotland with a deadline for a draft report in November 2002.

For more information contact Kirsty Noble, Research Manager, Sportscotland, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ, Tel: 0131 317 7200, email: kirsty.noble@sportscotland.org.uk

OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

A copy of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code is now available on Scottish Natural Heritage's website at <http://www.snh.org.uk>

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN FOOTPATH INVENTORY

A multi partner project called the Scottish Mountain Footpath Inventory will be available shortly following successful conclusion over map licensing arrangements on CD Rom. It will provide information on the condition of Scotland's upland path network.

For more information contact Bob Grant, Scottish Natural Heritage, 27A rdconnel Terrace, Inverness IV2 3AE. Tel. 01463 667919 e-mail: bob.grant@snh.gov.uk

VIRTUALLY HILLWALKING

A hill walking CD 'Virtually Hillwalking' is now being distributed to key people in Scotland, eg. Schools, libraries etc. The CD is free and teaches novices how to navigate in the hills.

For more information contact Kirsty Noble, Research Manager, Sportscotland, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ, Tel: 0131 317 7200, e-mail: kirsty.noble@sportscotland.org.uk

SOCIAL EXCLUSION UP-DATE

The Countryside Agency's work on social exclusion includes the Diversity Review, which is a Rural White Paper initiative to identify and demonstrate how socially excluded groups of people can be helped to enjoy the countryside. It will involve surveys, demonstration projects and an information programme. Other social exclusion projects include the 'Out There' project which is run by the Broads Authority to bring children into the countryside; a project with the Council for National Parks and Black Environment Network to promote access by ethnic minorities to 7 National Parks; and pilot projects to help improve access for people with mobility problems.

For more information contact Matt Jones, Assistant Adviser, Countryside Agency, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3RA, Tel: 01242 533346, e-mail: Matthew.Jones@countryside.gov.uk

British Waterways are to produce a document showing work done so far and suggesting the need to do more in partnership with other organisations in a Social Exclusion report.

For more information contact Glenn Millar, Research Manager, British Waterways, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, WD1 3QA, Tel: 01923 201356, e-mail: glenn@canalshq.demon.co.uk

Ordnance Survey are currently undertaking new projects, including increasing the spread of map uses, which relates to social inclusion.

For more information contact Paul Smith, Map Development Manager, Ordnance Survey, Room C626, Romsey Road, Southampton, SO16 4GU, Tel: 02380 792329, e-mail: phsmith@ordsvy.gov.uk

YOUR COUNTRYSIDE, YOU'RE WELCOME

The campaign is to encourage visitors to the countryside to help to boost rural businesses following last years outbreak of foot and mouth disease when many visitors stayed away. The campaign is steered by DEFRA, DCMS, the English

Tourism Council and the Countryside Agency but has around 50 stakeholder organisations directly involved. On Sunday March 10, a major event took place in Leicester Square to launch the Your Countryside, You're Welcome week of activity. More activities and promotions are planned throughout the spring and summer 2002.

Further information can be obtained from the web site www.yourcountryside.uk

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

The Council for National Parks, World Wide Fund for Nature and English Nature have published a report by Dr. Kevin Bishop (Cardiff University) and Dick Bate (Green Balance) that explores the opportunities for the South Downs of National Park.

*For more information visit:
<http://www.cnp.org.uk/SouthDowns.pdf>*

RESEARCH FINDINGS - WATER-BASED SPORT AND RECREATION: THE FACTS

"This report is produced as a final output of the research project Water-based sport and recreation: the facts. The research followed from a meeting, hosted by officials from the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, with representatives from groups interested in water sport and recreation. The meeting participants agreed that there was a need to establish some clear facts about current levels of participation and the extent of problems about access to water for sport and recreation. DETR (now Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) awarded a research contract in February 2001 to consortium led by the University of Brighton. The project was also sponsored by British Waterways, Countryside Agency, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency and Sport England." (Executive Summary, Section A: Background)

*For more information or to download a copy of the report visit:
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifecountryside/resprog/index.htm*

Research Findings, December 2001, Water-based sport and recreation: the facts.

YHA INVESTS £550,000 TO IMPROVE ITS HOSTELS

YHA is investing £550,000 in improvements to 18 of its Youth hostels this winter throughout England. The Countryside Agency have given £400,000 from existing programmes towards YHA programmes. CA responded swiftly to the financial crisis of YHA as a result of the Foot and Mouth outbreak last year. Improvements will include essential repairs at YHA Ravenstor, YHA Swanage and YHA Haworth.

*For more information visit: <http://www.yha.org.uk>
YHA News article, Countryside Agency helps Youth Hostels, 7th January 2002*

BOATERS' TOOLKIT

A Toolkit is now available, compiled by British Waterways and the Environment Agency with help from the British Marine Federation and boating user groups. It is presented in a format which is easy to read and includes real-life examples. To view a copy visit: www.aina.org.uk/handbook

The online toolkit is described as a detailed "Highways Code" for the waterways. It is aimed at Navigation authorities, boat hire companies, training providers and boat builders to provide advice in playing a major part in preventing accidents and injuries on our waterways. The toolkit is designed to make it easier to pick out relevant parts for individuals and can be used to create individual leaflets, posters, handbooks and website content.

From Easter 2002 an A5 Boaters' Handbook will also be available, which will include the advice contained within the Toolkit.

*For more information visit:
<http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/site/Newboaters>*

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

Coillte Teoranta (The Irish Forestry Board) is a leading Irish company which operates in forestry and related businesses. Coillte is the Irish language word for woodlands. The Minister for Finance and the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources are the company's shareholders and they own the shares on behalf of the Irish State.

Coillte has published a report 'A Vital Resource-A Report on the Sustainable Management of Coillte's

Forests' looking at social and environmental benefits to society. It states that planned forest management ensures that these benefits can be provided on a sustainable basis. "The essence of sustainable forest management planning is that it seeks to balance the achievement of economic, social and environmental objectives today and into the future."

For more information and to download a copy of the report visit:
http://www.coillte.ie/about_coillte/social_report.htm

FORESTRY COMMISSION WINS TOP AWARD

The Forestry Commission received a "Commendation" in the 2001 Business Commitment to the Environment Awards. It was awarded for demonstrating exceptional commitment to the environment in its efforts to create environmentally sound, socially acceptable and sustainable forests.

Geoff Hatfield, Forest Enterprise's Territorial Director for England says:

"Modern forestry is about people and the environment, not just about trees. I see this award as welcome recognition of the efforts of Forestry Commission staff in recent years to put this into practice in our day-to-day management of the national forest estate, which extends from the New Forest to the Highlands of Scotland. The BCE award shows that our forest designers are making a real impact, creating and managing forests everyone can enjoy"

For more information visit:
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf>
 Forestry Commission News Release No: 4548

FARMING AND FOOD – A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The report of the Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food was published in January 2002. This Policy Commission was tasked with advising the Government on how it could create a sustainable, competitive and diverse farming food sector which contributes to a thriving and sustainable rural economy, advances environmental, economic, health and animal welfare goals, and is consistent with the Government's aims for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, enlargement of the EU and increased trade liberalisation. The report sets out a vision for the future of the

farming and food industry in England, compares this with the situation as it is today and describes how to move towards its vision.

For more information or to download a copy of the report visit:
<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/farming/index/CommissionReport.htm>

BIKE WEEK

National Bike week will be held on 15th – 23rd June. Free cycling events and rides that encourage cyclists to venture into rural areas will be one of the main attractions. One of the objectives is to get cyclist to visit rural areas which were hit by the Foot and Mouth crisis. The money spent by cyclists will aid the recovery of many businesses and tourist attractions.

Bike Week registration is free and organisers of all registered cycling events will benefit from free PR support, website promotion and public liability insurance.

For more information visit:
<http://www.bikeweek.org.uk> or contact, Nick Harvey,
 Bike Week Liaison Group, Tel: 01243 543888,
 e-mail: nick@bikeweek.org.uk

UK OK CAMPAIGN

A multi-million pound campaign has been launched by the UK tourism industry, which aims to woo back tourists scared off by Foot and Mouth Disease and the events of September 11th. It is hoped at least half of the estimated £2billion lost last year will be recovered using is slogan "UK OK".

The campaign is coordinated by the British Tourism Authority and is aimed at attracting the tourists from the UK's main overseas markets – US, Canada, Germany, France, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands. A £5 million advertising campaign will enable tourism businesses, hotels and other attractions to offer substantial discounts in a bid to attract visitors back to the UK.

For more information visit:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/english/business/>

HIGHLANDS TO HOST MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CUPS 2002

With £100,000 support from Sportscotland Lottery Fund the first ever Downhill and 4-Cross Mountain Bike World Cups will be held this summer at the Nevis Range, Fort William. The bike track has been selected by the Tissot UCI Mountain Bike World Cup Series as one of the eight international venues in the most prestigious mountain bike competition in the world. The event will run on the 1st and 2nd June, Off Beat Bike Track, Nevis Range Ski Area, Fort William. There will be over 250 competitors taking part from around the world and an estimated 5000 spectators will watch the event.

*For more information visit:
www.fortwilliamworldcup.co.uk*

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARKS REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

Three supplementary reports are now available which cover the responses and feedback received during the consultation on proposals for a Cairngorms National Park.

Scottish Natural Heritage carried out the consultation on behalf of the Scottish Executive.

For more information visit: www.snh.org.uk or contact the SNH office in Aviemore and the Cairngorms Partnership office in Grantown-on-Spey, Calum Macfarlane, Tel: 01463 723106

*<http://www.snh.org.uk/news/nw-frame.htm>
12/02/2002 Press Release*

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND – NEW GUIDE

Guide 2002, is a definitive handbook to heritage from The National Trust for Scotland and is now available from the press office. The guide is supported by Virgin Trains and details over 120 places in the care of the Trust. All of the attractions are open to both members and visitors.

For more information contact Simon Walton, Press Officer, Tel: 0131 243 9384, Fax: 0131 243 9589, e-mail: swalton@nts.org.uk or visit www.nts.org.uk

NATIONAL OUTDOOR WELCOME CAMPAIGN

Britain's first ever National Outdoor Welcome campaign or NOW! will commence at Easter and run through to the early summer 2002. It is organised jointly by the British Mountaineering Council, The Camping and Caravanning Club, The Ramblers' Association, the Youth Hostels Association and the Outdoor Industries Association.

The initiative will be the largest celebration of all adventurous activities, taking place in the great outdoors. Tens of thousands of people will be taking to the countryside, the hills and water to walk, climb, camp, cycle, canoe and enjoy other activities.

*For more information visit:
<http://www.outdoorwelcome.org.uk/>*

Countryside Recreation and Training Events

CRN EVENTS FOR 2002

Provisional CRN Conference/ Workshop dates for 2002:

- **Opening Up Access In and Around Towns**

Date: 12th June 2002

Venue: University of Durham,
Stockton Campus

Cost: To be announced

- **Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans**

Date: September

Venue: To be announced

Cost: To be announced

- **Visitor Liability / Occupiers Liability**

Date: October

Venue: To be announced

Cost: To be announced

For more information about any of the above events please contact CRN at: crn@cf.ac.uk or
Tel: 029 2087 4970.

To find up to date information about CRN events and to book online visit our website at:
<http://www.CountrysideRecreation.org.uk>

April 2002

10 - 12 April

Delivering Biodiversity Through Community Strategies

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Venue: Snowdonia

Cost: £185

11 April

Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) Conference

(Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)

Venue: The Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Cost: £90

16 April

Getting Local People Active and Involved

(Environmental Trainers Network)

Venue: Manchester

Cost: Please ring for details

17 April

Making Your Project Sustainable

(Environmental Trainers Network)

Venue: Birmingham

Cost: Please ring for details

20 April

9th Education Earthwise Conference

(Education Earthwise)

Venue: Oxfordshire

Cost: £65

22 - April

Getting Funding - Landfill Tax

(BTCV)

Venue: Broxburn, Nr. Edinburgh

Cost: £40

24 - 26 April

Landscape Management of Marginal Land

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Venue: Snowdonia

Cost: £185

May 2002

1 - 2 May

It's Wild! People, Nature and Tourism in Scotland

(Tourism and Environment Forum)

Venue: Aviemore

Cost: Please Contact for details

2 May

Project Management

(Environmental Trainers Network)

Venue: London

Cost: Please ring for details

9 May

Safety on Activities

(BTCV)

Venue: Wirksworth, Derbys

Cost: £75

10 - 12 May

Woodland Ecology and Management

(BTCV)

Venue: Wiltshire

Cost: Please phone for details

13 May

Evaluating and Re-vamping Visitor Centres

(SNH)

Venue: Glenmore Forest Visitor Centre

Cost: £80

13 - 17 May

An Introduction to the NVC and its Uses for Site Assessment and Management

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Venue: Snowdonia

Cost: £350

13 - 17 May

Surveying Methods for Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan Sites

(Plas Tan y Bwlch)

Venue: Snowdonia

Cost: £340

14 - 16 May
Advanced Interpretive master Planning
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £110

16 May
Planning and Managing Drought in the UK
 (CIWEM)
 Venue: London
 Cost: £329

20 May
Implementing an Environmental Management System
 (Excel Partnership)
 Venue: Newcastle-upon-Tyne
 Cost: £690

20 - 24 May
Tree Care and Management in Urban and Semi Urban Areas
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £365

27 - 30 May
Upland Conservation Management
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £270

29 May
Restoration of Ancient Woodlands
 (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)
 Venue: Conwy
 Cost: £90

June 2002

2 June
Access and Boundary Management
 (BTCV)
 Venue: Preston
 Cost: £75

6 June
Landscape Capacity for

Windfarms
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £50

11 June
Wonders of Nature
 (SNH)
 Venue: Aberdeen
 Cost: £10

13 June
Working with Words
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £50

17 - 19 June
Visitor Studies
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £210

19 June
Trees, Woods and Natural Spaces
 (Forestry Commission)
 Venue: Univ. of Glasgow
 Cost: please ring for details

24 - 28 June
Grazing Management for Nature Conservation
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £345

27 June
Environmental Impact Assessment
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £50

28 June
New Guidance for Landscape Character and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £50

28 - 30 June
Woodland Management
 (Field Studies Council)
 Venue: Fermanagh
 Cost: Please ring for details

July 2002

1 - 4 July
The Royal Show
 (Royal Agricultural Society of England)
 Venue: Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
 Cost: Up to 25% discount - please telephone

4 July
Trees, Woods and Natural Spaces
 (Forestry Commission)
 Venue: London
 Cost: please ring for details

8 - 12 July
National Vegetation Classification: Mapping and Management Uses
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £350

8 - 12 July
Woodland Conservation Management
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £345

27 July
Grassland Ecology and Management
 (BTCV)
 Venue: Dering Wood, Nr Ashford
 Cost: £50

27 - 29 July
Pond and River Dipping
 (Kindrogan Field Centre)
 Venue: Perthshire
 Cost: £105

August 2002

14 August
Bog Demonstration Day - Restoration Techniques
 (SNH)
 Venue: Flanders Moss, Nr. Stirling
 Cost: £35

27 - 30 August
Looking at Wildlife Reserves
 (Kindrogan Field Centre)
 Venue: Perthshire
 Cost: £150

30 August - 3 September
Sustainable Building Technology
 Kindrogan Field Centre
 Venue: Perthshire
 Cost: £165

September 2002

2 - 6 September
Monitoring for Nature Conservation
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £345

3 September
Locating New Native Woods in the Landscape
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £50

4 - 7 September
Tourism Research - an International Interdisciplinary Conference
 (University of Wales Institute Cardiff)
 Venue: Cardiff
 Cost: Please ring for details

19 September
From AV 2 VR, via AA, WAP, & CCTV!
 (SNH)
 Venue: Battleby
 Cost: £50

17 - 20 September
Local Action for Biodiversity Conservation
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £260

19 - 23 September
GIS and RS in Mountain Environment Research
 Jagiellonian University

Venue: Krakow - Zakopane
 Cost: please contact for details

23 - 26 September
Management Skills for Countryside, Tourism and Heritage Staff (Part 1)
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £690

27 September
Introduction to Working with Special Needs Clients
 (BTCV)
 Venue: Glenrothes
 Cost: £40

27 - 28 September
Celebrating Biodiversity
 (SNH)
 Venue: Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
 Cost: £60

Contact details for training/events organisers

BTCV Training
 Tel: 0121 358 2155
 E-mail: A.Groves@btcv.org.uk
 www.btcv.org

CIWEM
 Tel: 01787 249290
 E-mail: Erica@lavenhamgroup.co.uk

Education Earthwise
 Tel: 01395 222033
 E-mail: a.j.dyer@plymouth.ac.uk

Environmental Trainers Network
 Tel: 0121 358 2155
 E-mail: ETN@ukgateway.net
 www.btcv.org/etn

Forestry Commision
 Tel: 01420 22255
 E-mail: Liz.o'brien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

IEEM (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)
 Dr Jim Thompson
 Tel: 01962 868626
 E-mail: enquiries@ieem.demon.co.uk
 www.ieem.org.uk
Excel Partnership
 Tel: 01442 242929
 www.excel_world.co.uk

Field Studies Council
 Tel: 01743 852100
 E-mail: Fsc.headoffice@ukonline.co.uk
 www.field-studies-council.org

Jagiellonian University
 E-mail: Confe2002@enviromount.uj.edu.pl
 www.enviromount.uj.edu.pl

Kindrogan Field Centre
 Tel: 01250 881286
 E-mail: Kindrogan@btinternet.com
 www.kindrogan.com

Plas Tan y Bwlch
 Tel: 01766 590324
 E-mail: plas@eryri-npa.gov.uk

**Royal Agricultural Society of
England**

Tel: 02476 696969

E-mail: Info@rase.org.uk

SNH

Tel: 01738 458554

E-mail: Lorna.brown@snh.gov.uk

Tourism and Environment Forum

Tel: 0141 434 1500

E-mail:

Nature@meetingmakers.co.uk

www.greentourism.org.uk

**University of Wales Institute
Cardiff**

Tel: 02920 416315

E-mail:

Tourismresearch2002@uwic.ac.uk

www.uwic.ac.uk

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. Do you read Countryside Recreation? All of it Some of it None of it
 2. Do you circulate Countryside Recreation to your colleagues? Yes No
 3. Which is the most useful part of the Countryside Recreation? Articles News Section
 4. How do you rate the articles published in Countryside Recreation?
 Very Useful Useful Rarely Useful

5. How would you improve Countryside Recreation? Suggestions welcome.

6. Would you prefer an electronic or hard copy of Countryside Recreation in the future? Electronic
 Hard

We are currently updating our database. If you wish to continue to receive a copy of Countryside Recreation (CRN), please can you confirm your contact details in the space provided below.

Title: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Surname:** _____

Job / Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Contact Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Would you like CRN to pass on your contact details to CRN Sponsoring agencies, for example: National Trust, Countryside Agency, British Waterways and other similar organisations?

CRN will not pass on your details to any organisation outside of the Countryside Recreation Network.

Please place a cross in the appropriate box:

YES, I agree for CRN to pass on all of my contact details to its sponsoring agencies

NO, I do not agree for CRN to pass on all of my contact details to its sponsoring agencies

For further information about CRN please visit our website at:

<http://www.CountrysideRecreation.org.uk>

You can find out about current events and information about Journal editions, how to advertise events through fliers sent out with CRN Journal, submitting articles and writing for the Journal.

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this form, we value your feedback. We hope that you will continue to enjoy Countryside Recreation in the future. If you have any questions, at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Please return this form by post or fax to the address below:

Department of City and Regional Planning
 Cardiff University
 Glamorgan Building
 King Edward VII Avenue
 Cardiff, CF10 3WA

Fax: 02920 874728

Tel: 02920 874970

E-mail: crn@cf.ac.uk



Countryside Recreation Network Publications List

	Price (incl.postage)	Tick
REPORTS		
Social Exclusion in Countryside Leisure in the United Kingdom - the role of the countryside in addressing social exclusion (2001)	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS		
Removing Barriers; Creating Opportunities: Social Inclusion in the Countryside (2001)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managing the Challenge of Access (2000)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the Honey-pot Overflowing? (1998)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS		
Local Access Forums (2001)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising and the Lottery (2001)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are We Getting There? Delivering Sustainable Transport in the Countryside (2000)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breaking New Ground in Sustainable Tourism (2000)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using Local Distinctiveness as an Economic Development Tool (1999)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Just Walking the Dog (1999)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sponsorship (1998)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making Ends Meet (1997)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS & Countryside Management - Theory and Application (1997)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to Water - Sharing Access on Reservoirs and Rivers (1997)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do Visitor Surveys Count? - Making use of Surveys of Countryside Recreation (1996)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus in the Countryside II (1996)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus in the Countryside I - Reaching Shared agreement in policy, planning and management (1996)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Brush with the Land - Art in the Countryside II (1996)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Brush with the Land - Art in the Countryside I (1995)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playing Safe? Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside (1995)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS & Access to the Countryside (1995)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport in the Countryside (1995)	£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"/>
CRN RESEARCH DIRECTORY An annual directory of the research work carried out by the CRN agencies during the year		
Research Directory 1998	£5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Directory 1997	£5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Directory 1996	£2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Directory 1995	£2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Since 1998 we have been developing a searchable database on the CRN website. This has replaced the 'traditional' hard copy of the 'Research Directory'.		
UK Day Visits Survey 1994 (1996)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
UK Day Visits Survey 1993 (1995)	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>

Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

E-Mail: _____ Tel: _____

Please photocopy this page and send it with a cheque made payable to 'University of Wales Cardiff' at the following address:
Countryside Recreation Network, Department of City & Regional Planning, Cardiff University, Glamorgan Building,
King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3WA.

