

Countryside



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Recreation

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



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UN International Year of the Mountains

Hafod y Llan and Gelli Iago

Wildness and Mountains

PUBLISHED BY THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

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• The Future for Scotland's Mountains

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Munro's Pilgrims

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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: Geoff Hughes, SportEngland

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Editorial

Mountains fascinate us in the way that few other landscapes do. Perhaps only the coast exerts an equally powerful, widespread and enduring appeal. For countless generations they have been a source of inspiration and place of retreat. It is no accident that all of England and Wales' original national parks, and most of their AONBs, lie in upland areas. So too does Scotland's first, not to mention its prospective second National Park.

Yet there is an ambivalence in our attitude towards mountains. Their frequently harsh environment can be threatening, as well as enticing. Mountain communities are as much derided for their alleged backwardness as admired for their fortitude. The language used about peaks has as often reflected a desire to subjugate as to admire.

Moreover their very nature as a physical barrier has meant that many mountain massifs have served as administrative boundaries. As such they have frequently been the arena for conflict. When not, they have been at the periphery of political attention.

More recently, mountain areas have been the focus of new tensions, notably between those conservationists who view them primarily as last refuges for wildlife and recreationalists eager to experience their special qualities. The fundamental coincidence of interest between these two groups, both anxious to safeguard the naturalness that they associate with the uplands, has all too often been obscured by the more superficial clashes that other interests have been only too ready to play up and exploit.

The articles in the present issue of Countryside Recreation illustrate several facets of this ongoing debate about the role of mountains in the life of wider society. They underline the value attached to them by people from far afield, some of whom may never even visit them. They illustrate the dilemmas faced by those responsible for managing key areas within them, as they struggle to reconcile the aspirations of visitors and residents, and even to accommodate the worthy ambitions of those seeking ways to raise money for good causes. They highlight the need for investment in practical solutions to accumulating problems, such as footpath erosion.

Taken together, they demonstrate the timeliness of the current International Year of the Mountains. We are in the midst of a lively debate about the role of the countryside generally. European Governments are debating proposals from the Commission for the future of the CAP, which themselves pose fundamental questions about the basis of public support for the rural economy. What the various options would do to secure the well-being of Europe's mountains (and indeed other remote and physically disadvantaged areas) must surely be a key test of their relative merits.

The arguments will no doubt roll on for a long time to come. Hopefully CRN members will contribute to them. Meantime, there is at least one encouraging omen: the Heritage Lottery Fund has recently agreed in principle to support NTS's "Scotland's Mountain Heritage" project, which will take forward the pioneering footpath repair and management work described in David Mardon's article.

John Thomson, Chairman, Countryside Recreation Network

UN International Year of the Mountains 2002

Stuart Ingram, British Mountaineering Project Assistant



Photo taken by Gavin Rauberheimer, Mountain Club of South Africa

View from Cleft Peak, Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa

"As we begin commemorating the International Year of the Mountains, conflict may be the single greatest obstacle to achieving our goals. Without peace, we cannot even consider sustainable development"

Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the UN FAO at the 11 December launch of IYM 2002.

The International Year of the Mountains (IYM) began in December 2001 – a collaboration between governments and international bodies such as the UIAA (the world body for mountaineering) and its affiliates. The initiative was initially conceived as a way of raising the awareness of the importance of the mountain environment amongst outdoor enthusiasts and the global community at large. As regular visitors

to the mountains, we certainly appreciate their value as places of beauty, excitement and inspiration, but do we always consider their true importance; the larger picture?

Ask a climatologist or environmentalist and they will almost certainly start telling you that the mountains are vital "water towers" – vast storage areas that are the source of over 70% of the world's fresh water supply. They will then speak in dire tones about global warming, glacial recession, deforestation and soil erosion in the mountains, and they're not scaremongering – Mount Kilimanjaro has lost 82% of its icecap since 1912. A recent UN report "The Global Environmental Outlook" estimated that this

degeneration of the mountain environment could lead to a shortage of fresh water for over 50% of the world's population by 2030. Add to this the impact of mountain activity, not only on the environment, but also on the local population, culture and economy (look at the amount of trash on Mount Everest, or the mistreatment of porters in the Himalaya) and think again about the fragility of your favourite mountain playground.

With this in mind, the IYM exists to promote the conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions, by making positive contributions to local communities, cultures and of course environments. Starting from the precept that everyone should have the freedom to enjoy the mountain environment, IYM (and the UIAA charter for 2002) urges participants to help conserve its integrity and value in the following ways:

- ♦ Environment and access – Visitors to the mountains should follow good practice guidelines for minimum impact activity, and respect any access restrictions. This is a critical factor in the sustainable development of mountain areas.
- ♦ Adventure, risk & safety – Individuals should take responsibility for their own actions, and participate in mountain activities at their own risk.
- ♦ Equal opportunities – Participants should be able to enjoy the mountains together, regard less of race, religion, ability, gender or age. In fact mountain sports are one of the best examples of how barriers caused by these issues may be broken
- ♦ Integration – Visitors should make use of local facilities and services and encourage or assist with their development wherever possible. We should also respect local cultures and traditions, and make every effort to integrate positively with resident communities.

So, having made some doom-laden announcements and grandiose statements above, what does IYM actually translate to “on the ground”?

Answer: A huge international programme of events spanning every kind of mountain activity, centered

around the values above. Participation is on every level from local scout groups to the Prime Minister (who recently praised the initiative in the House of Commons), with a vast network of volunteers working to make it all happen. By involving yourself in the celebrations, you can make a positive contribution to the sustainable development of mountain areas, increase your own knowledge of the issues involved and have a great time whilst doing it!



Photo taken by Roger Payne, UIAA

Jamie Andrew, (quadruple amputee) abseiling at Gogarth

Of course IYM 2002 can only do so much – one year in the geological timescale of the mountains isn't very long! It's up to everyone who visits, works or lives in mountainous areas to remember these issues and constantly attempt to act on them in a positive way – all the time! There are many ways in which you can do this (see the BMC Tread Lightly booklet for more information), for example:

- ♦ Use local facilities wherever possible – everything from buying your lunch locally to hiring guides who live in the area. Use honesty boxes, leave donations and don't cheat the Pay & Display car parks!
- ♦ Respect the environment – don't drop litter, clear up after others and always stick to footpaths if they are there. Respect other users and residents by being polite and helpful.
- ♦ Volunteer – make time to participate in some of the many voluntary schemes that operate in the outdoors. Footpath repair schemes, crag-clean ups, access open meetings, visitor surveys etc. are all important for sustainable development. Information on local volunteer activity can be found at the "getting involved" section of the BMC website.

Acting responsibly yourself in the outdoors is the key to preserving our mountain areas for future generations, but perhaps the most significant long-term contribution you can make is encouraging others to do so as well. The more we can raise awareness (on every level) about the vital importance of sustainable development and minimizing our impact on the mountains, the better we can achieve it. This is the fundamental ethos of IYM 2002, but I hope that the philosophy will continue into the future, allowing future generations to enjoy the wild places of the world in as natural a state as possible, as well as making an important contribution to the global environment.

For further information on the International Year of the Mountains, visit the website at:
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Hafod y Llan and Gelli Iago

Richard Neale, the National Trust's Property Manager for Llyn and Eifionydd

Article published in 'Snowdonia', the magazine of the Snowdonia Society – Spring 2002

Richard Neale, the National Trust's Property Manager for Llyn and Eifionydd, reports on progress on the Trust's most recent and high profile acquisition in Snowdonia.

It is almost four years since the National Trust's successful appeal to raise the funds to buy a good part of Wales' highest mountain. The appeal, with its alliterative slogan, 'Save Snowdon', captured the hearts of hundreds of thousands of people world wide, including the appeal's president, Sir Anthony Hopkins who dipped into his own pocket to the tune of £1m.

The high profile nature of the appeal stirred up a debate about the whole issue of how best to care for beautiful places in our countryside. Articles appeared in national newspapers with titles such as 'Snowdon doesn't need saving' and 'The peak of folly' and several local representatives of the farming community, who saw the whole business as 'English conservation colonialism' rubbing salt in the wound of the ailing hill-farming industry, rose to fame in the local media. Those of us caught in this maelstrom of publicity had to work hard to explain what the catchy but misleading slogan actually meant. Time and again we struggled with the question, what difference can the Trust's protection actually make?

Did you know?

The Hafod y Llan Estate includes:

- 4,118 acres (1,666 hectares) of mountain land rising to the summit of Yr Wyddfa, Snowdon
- 5 lakes
- 250 acres (100 hectares) of oak and ash woodland
- the Watking path up Snowdon and other low-level walks
- Part of the Snowdon National Nature Reserve
- 2 outdoor pursuits centres
- 4 cottages, 2 chalets and 4 bunkhouses
- Premises for tree-surgery contractor and training provider
- Nantgwynant Village Hall
- Flocks of Welsh Mountain ewes famous for their hardiness



Yr Wyddfa from Gelli Iago farm. The National Trust is now reversing decline in wildlife habitat by returning to less intensive methods of traditional farming.

Making a difference

So, now that the dust has settled and we have started to get to grips with managing the estate, what difference have we made? Ironically, the first and biggest difference the acquisition made was not specifically about the newly acquired land itself. Becoming the largest landowner and employer in the area changed our attitude towards the management of all our properties in the Beddgelert area. No longer was our work primarily to do with the practical management of scattered properties in isolation. We were in a position to influence the development of a large area of countryside and, to some respects, the economic and cultural wellbeing of a community. One example of how organisations can behave like people is that responsibility can lead to maturity; the creation of the Local Liaison Committee and the subsequent publication of our strategy plan, The National Trust in the Beddgelert Community was all part of this growing-up process.

Another consequence was our Nantgwynant Integrated Land Management Project. This major project was created to realise our strategy plan and, we hope its far-reaching vision. This involves projects

as diverse as the restoration of woodland and heathland habitats through the removal of hundreds of acres of rhododendrons, the restoration of Craflwyn Hall as a residential volunteer and education centre and a living history project to record the memories of the residents of the valley - both young and old.

Farming for the Future

"There's no point farming for farming's sake - whatever you do here must be new and it must be different..."

These were the words of Peter Nixon, the Trust's Director for Estates, when he visited to hear our plans for direct farming at Hafod y Llan.

For the first two years, under the management of Farm Manager John Till, we tackled the backlog of work to get the farm back into shape and drew up a plan to restore the habitats of the farm which now forms the basis of a management agreement with the Countryside Council for Wales. Under this agreement, sheep numbers have been cut by half and Welsh black cattle are to be reintroduced to graze the mountain pastures. Furthermore, the farm is in organic conversion and has been entered into the RSPCA Freedom Foods scheme.

One of the 'new and different' aspects of our plans is the Cwm Merch Experimental Project, which is being partly funded by the CCW and the Forestry Commission. This will involve enclosing a 500-acre section of the farm to encourage the development of heath and upland scrub whilst grazing it seasonally with Welsh Black cattle. Monitoring will show if this approach is the best way to restore the biodiversity of similar areas that have been heavily sheep-grazed for generations.

Many aspects of the Nantgwynant Integrated Land Management Project will be centred on Hafod y Llan and we would like the farm to become a sort of 'shop window' for the Trust's ideas and policies in Snowdonia. We are already considering ideas for small-scale renewable energy production, green tourism, direct marketing of farm produce and educational programmes.

With the hype of the appeal just a distant memory, we no longer have to struggle to answer the question: What difference have you made?

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The Nantgwynant Integrated Land Management Project

The valley of Nantgwynant is located on the southern flanks of Snowdon, and runs the length of the Glaslyn River to the lower reaches of the Aberglaslyn gorge. The area includes the active communities of Nantgwynant, Beddgelert and Nantmor. The National Trust is a major landowner in the valley, managing roughly one third of the community area. As such, it is in a unique position to act as a catalyst to bring everyone together into a partnership to restore and maintain the environment and in so doing, create a thriving rural economy.

The National Trust, in partnership project with the local community and other stakeholders, is undertaking a major integrated land management in the Nantgwynant valley. The project will encompass a wide range of environmental and heritage ideas into a single strategy and action plan. This will include the protection, conservation and rejuvenation of the countryside and built heritage, and also the community element within the Beddgelert community. The plan represents an innovative and exciting community-partnered strategy to initiate a sustainable, diverse and integrated future for the area.

The Nantgwynant Integrated Land Management Project is can be described simply as a valley management system or approach. The project embraces hundreds of individual elements, which are all developed under a single vision, with each individual project complementing the others. For example, footpath construction is planned in conjunction with education, community, training, landscape and eco-tourism in mind.

For ease of management, the project has been divided into three distinct groups: Environmental Enhancement, Sustainable Business and Development and Access for All.

WILDNESS AND MOUNTAINS

John Mackay, Scottish Natural Heritage

Wildness is one of the fundamental elements of mountain landscapes, which we should celebrate in International Year of the Mountain 2002. For an early lead in celebrating and also protecting wildness, we have first to look to North America. Perhaps because European civilisation was laid on land of immense scale and outstanding natural character, the sharp contrast thereby led nature philosophers there – such as Thoreau, Muir and Leopold – to argue for the care and appreciation of nature, wildness and wilderness. These three advocates (and others too) were as much publicists as philosophers, and wilderness was an idea which fell on fertile ground, especially in a country where the sense of nationhood founded on the idea of 'frontier' as a touchstone of how the new nation grew, along with its outstanding and iconic natural wonders.

National Parks took the lead in protecting many of these wild places in North America but concern to widen the scope of care for wilderness continued until 1954, when the US Wilderness Act was passed. This was seminal legislation, which led to the designation of extensive areas of wilderness on Federal lands, mainly in the Western USA, and it fostered adoption of the idea on a wider international basis. But the ideas here have been more difficult to apply than the more crowded and industrialised nations of Western Europe. By the time of the 1954 Act, nations in Europe had evolved their own distinctive systems for natural heritage protection; the scale of wild places in the industrial countries of Europe is much more modest – Scandinavia apart; and the continuity of human use of wild terrain is more settled, such that wild places are never quite as pristine as can be found in the more natural areas of the globe.

But we do have in Britain land of considerable wild qualities. Hardly any of it is wild in an international

sense of being untrammelled by past and present human uses; its scale is modest as compared with the much more extensive natural landscapes in remoter parts of the globe; and it is a relatively safe wildness, in terms of objective hazards. Thus life-threatening fauna doesn't lurk around the next corner, nor are there climatic or physical challenges to quite the same degree of risk to human life.

Most wild land in Britain is mountainous in character, and most of it lies in Scotland – which is not to say that there are no areas in England and Wales which do not have considerable elements of wildness in their character. However, extensive areas distant from motorised access, either on public or private road, are now confined to the north and west of Scotland. There is also around Britain considerable wildness in the coast and adjacent seas and, in the far north, the extensive near-tundra blanket bogs are equally wild in their natural character – and also in their impenetrability to the visitor on foot.

But all these caveats do not diminish the quality of what we have, nor its value to a mainly urbanised society, especially for recreations dependent on extensive areas of near-natural terrain, where challenge and a sense of sanctuary and solitude can be experienced. Indeed, it is the recreational interests which have led the way in Scotland in the protection of wild places. The National Trust for Scotland acquired the idea through the Unna principles, which are part of their management framework for its mountainous properties; the mountaineering bodies and Scottish Wild Land Group emerged as vocal lobbying interests for care of Scotland's wild mountain landscapes, following growing concern about attrition to these places, especially through the expansion of private bulldozed road into the hills, through the 1970s. And the John Muir Trust, which

has a UK remit (but inevitably a focus on Scotland) has an important role in acquiring and caring for wild places.

How well have we done in protecting wild places: not as well as we should have done. The higher-profile debates over cause célèbre cases tend to obscure that remaining sections of wild and remote countryside have been progressively under pressure from small-scale and often localised attrition – a new forestry plantation here, or the extension of a bulldozed track there, or a new telecommunications mast. We have systems for the protection and care of the natural heritage, which value but treat separately concerns about natural beauty and nature conservation. The former has strong recreational roots (as also does nature) but somehow we haven't managed quite to combine them and to celebrate sufficiently the aesthetic for the wild and natural, which should bind these constructs together. Even as we edge towards more concern about protecting wild places, the approach north of the Border has a stronger recreational and aesthetic drive in halting adverse change to these areas, as compared to the re-wilding approach to wilderness (a word much avoided in Scotland), south of the Border which takes its lead from habitat restoration.

Can we do better in this International Year of the Mountain to protect wild places in our upland landscapes? We ought to, because pressures on these valued resources augment: in part the continued attrition, and in part the oncoming of new and unusual developments – some of which seek space in the less populated parts of the nation, simply because they are either unacceptable or a bad fit in more settled landscape settings. Yet, out of sight and out of mind should not be a basis for development policy planning: indeed, in thinking about the protection of wildness, we should be essentially asking the question as to what amount of this kind of relatively untrammelled countryside does the nation wish to safeguard, and how best can we do this.

SNH will shortly be publishing a policy paper on wildness and wild land in Scotland. It will identify the

value of wildness, debate the pressures on the wilder parts of our countryside, and identify how best we should safeguard these places. There already is public policy support for this concept in (NPPG14, 1998) in which local authorities in Scotland are required to identify wild land as part of the landscape character of their areas. The approach proposed here is not about creating another designation, but it is about identifying a value which can be found widely in parts of our remoter countryside and coast, and which is part of its landscape character. It is also a major stimulus to public enjoyment, with considerable economic significance, as part of what is distinctive and attractive in Scotland to our tourist visitors.

References

The Scottish Office, 1998, National Planning Policy Guidelines. NPPG14: Natural Heritage, The Scottish Office, Edinburgh

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The Cost of Raising Charity Cash

Clare Coxon, Lake District National Parks Authority

Recreational use of mountains has long been an accepted part of daily life in the Lake District National Park, but in recent times questions have been raised as to the appropriateness of some types of recreational use, particularly Mountain Charity Challenge Events.

The Three Peaks Challenge is one of the most well-known of these events and involves the climbing of the three highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales (Scafell, Ben Nevis and Snowdon) in 24 hours or less. The challenge attracts hundreds of people from all over Britain to the Lake District during the months of May, June and July. Other similar challenges in the Lake District National Park bring similar numbers of people to the Blencathra, Threlkeld, Ennerdale, Buttermere, Newlands, Ullswater and Borrowdale areas.

These challenge events raise many thousands of pounds for deserving charities and introduce many to the fells for the first time, but unfortunately the cost of this cash in environmental and social terms has been rising over the past few years.

Peace and quiet are the fundamental qualities of the Lake District which led to the area receiving National Park status in 1951; remote and sensitive areas like this are simply not suitable for mass invasions of people. The concentrated use of paths adds to erosion problems that are already estimated as requiring five million pounds worth of investment, whilst other pressures like traffic congestion, night-time noise nuisance, litter, and overuse of facilities alienate local communities.

Hotel and self-catering business in the Lake District report reduced bookings as visitors avoid hordes of challenge competitors. For instance, studies of

challenge events in 2000 recorded up to 600 vehicles per day in the Wasdale valley, 99 in a single five hour period between midnight and dawn. The largest event, organised by a commercial company on behalf of a charity, involved 1,083 people.

This disruption to rural life has attracted criticism from the ICFM (Institute of Charity Fund Managers), local communities and the National Park Authority and led to the development of a voluntary code of practice for organisers and participants.

The Code of Practice gives advice on respecting the natural environment, considering the impact of large numbers of participants on local facilities, avoiding disturbance and inconvenience to local people, good marshalling and communications, and contingency plans for extreme weather or emergencies.

The code of conduct is even more relevant this year as the National Park recovers from foot and mouth disease. Extra pressure is expected as the events return to the fells following the closure of the area last year. But the recommendations of the code are not enforceable, and awareness of it is still limited.

Initially the code, which was introduced in 1998, seemed to have brought some improvements but the situation worsened and the last report to Lake District National Park Authority Members in autumn 2000 was highly critical of the events and damage caused over the summer.

The Three Peaks Challenge attracts not only large commercial organisers who have largely accepted the code, but many small groups such as youth clubs and school parties who are much harder to reach. As authors of the code the National Park Authority and ICFM must find ways to reach these participants too.

NPA Rangers will work hard again this summer to minimise disruption from participants, but they can do little to control the pressure on Search and Rescue services. Organisers of large events often expect mountain rescue to be on hand to offer assistance to people with little or no experience of mountain walking, inadequate instruction and equipment and poor physical condition. The code gives excellent advice on safety and conduct for participants, marshals and organisers that could combat these unnecessary pressures.

All these factors have led to the belief that more imaginative and less intrusive ways of fund raising must be found. Charities can improve the organisation of events and the behaviour of participants whilst seeking alternative venues for fundraising activities.

Whilst the authors of the code do not wish to spoil people's fun, organisers and participants must realise that fundraising should not be at the expense of the environment. It is vital that organisers continue to have a responsible attitude and follow the Code of Practice to minimise damage and disruption to the countryside and its communities. Simple steps like the restriction of start times until after 5 am and provision of their own water and toilets can ensure that local opinion does not remain firmly opposed to these events.

Charities have shown that they can raise a lot of money for good causes without damaging the environment and local goodwill. If organisers follow these guidelines the special qualities of our National Park can be appreciated and protected too.

National Parks are designated not only to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of these exceptional places but also to promote opportunities for their understanding and enjoyment by the public. The National Park can accommodate a great range of activities and in most cases manage any conflicts that arise, but only in co-operation with those involved.

*Copies of the Mountain Challenge Code of Conduct can be obtained from the Lake District National Park Authority, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7RL Tel: 01539 724555.
Or, from the ICFM, Market Towers, 19 Elms Lane, London, SW8 5NQ Tel: 020 7627 3436*

The Author

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Further information about the National Park and the work of the National Park Authority can be found on the website at: www.lake-district.gov.uk

The Lake District is one of a family of 11 National Parks. The others are Brecon Beacons, Broads, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Northumberland, North York Moors, Peak District, Pembrokeshire Coast, Snowdonia, and Yorkshire Dales.

The Future for Scotland's Mountains

Reflections on IYM

John Donohoe, Mountaineering Council of Scotland

News from the Future

Strathspey residents welcomed the extension of the Cairngorm Mountain railway to the summit of Ben Macdui. With the renovation of the Shelter Stone Gondola, visitors can now enjoy the delights of the area in total comfort.

The Grampian Development Corporation has agreed to fund the installation of an artificial ski surface for Coire Cas. Global warming scientists have confirmed that there is no prospect of significant natural snow coverage in the foreseeable future

There were celebrations in the South Harris Gaelic Autonomous Region with the signing of the treaty that will lead to the removal of all EC nuclear waste to the abandoned quarry. The last major leak from Sellafield had destroyed the shell fish industry and the casino industry had failed to provide suitable jobs for local people. A disappointed Glensanda Depository manager insisted that they would remain in business, probably specialising in non-nuclear toxic waste.

Delighted tourists flocked to the new Nevis Railway. The restaurants at the summit and Halfway Lochan have been refurbished and the viewing galleries give dramatic close-up views of the North Face and the intrepid climbers.

With the final separation of English and Scottish political systems the Borders Windpower Authority have announced plans to double the number of installed generators from 10k to 20k. The Company is ideally placed to react to variations in power demand and prices in the two countries.

It couldn't happen here

Well, are we sure? There is no clear vision of the way forward for our mountains and other wild places. This

is mirrored in a more general issue of urban/rural relationships. Foot and mouth disease, access legislation, wildlife protection, and fox hunting have all exposed deep fissures not only between town and country, but within these constituencies. People interested in wildlife conservation just cannot understand the apparent willingness of many country people to allow an organisation like the Countryside Alliance to link the many genuine issues of rural life to maintenance of hunting. Many in traditional rural activities consider city dwellers as hopelessly ignorant of the realities of country life, and more concerned about the preservation of wild birds than of sustainable human activity.

Are people the problem? We are exporting jobs from our towns and country to the Third World, while the desperate inhabitants of those countries are desperately trying to migrate to Western Europe and the United States. In past centuries we encouraged people to move to the cities for industrial work. Many rural and small town communities were similarly established for work activity like mining that has disappeared. Our mountains were never pristine unpeopled wildernesses. They supported large communities, albeit at levels of comfort unacceptable today. The depopulation of remote areas is only partly explained by lack of economic opportunity and many complex social factors are involved. We need to consider whether we want to change the pattern of human life in and round our mountain areas and whether we can build any consensus on what that new mountain community could look like.

The International Year of Mountains is an appropriate opportunity to start to talk about that. To have any meaningful debate we need both listening skills and a common language.

There will inevitably be areas of conflict. The pressure to build renewable energy projects in the countryside will be matched by a pressure to keep that countryside attractive to visitors. The greater the success in protecting and reintroducing rare wildlife the more they will impinge on existing and new human activity. It is inevitable that radical changes to the Common Agricultural Policy will be introduced, albeit against strong opposition from the farming lobby. The poisoning of the seas and sea lochs by fish farming industries will lead to the same confrontations as have been happening with GM experimental plantations. There could even be political change affecting the supply of rich individuals prepared to spend the significant sums needed to make traditional sporting estates break even.

One of the real engines for building consensus and common purpose was the Letterewe Accord, which built to the Access Concordat and into the Access Forum. Until it succumbed to the pressures caused by some of its members fighting factional positions in the access legislative process it had a good record of creating trust and mutual confidence among traditional and new landmanagers, environmental, recreational and political interests. It is vital that these same interests re-engage in the process of building a new future.

We cannot go back to any period in the past. There never was a Golden Age. The future will only be a better place if we want it to be and are prepared to work together to make it so.

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Protecting the Botanists' Mecca from Munro's Pilgrims

David Mardon, The National Trust

Introduction

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) owns 46 of Scotland's Munros (1 in 6). NTS properties are held for the benefit of the nation, and the mountain properties such as Ben Lawers are open for public access at all times. Managing the current pressure of

the many thousands of feet on our hills is one of our most significant challenges, and our approach to it is the theme of this paper. While based mainly on work at Ben Lawers, the paper includes some points that relate to the wider context.



Photo taken by David Mardon, The National Trust

The summit approach path on Ben Lawers, showing a wide erosion scar up to nearly 20 metres wide. With an altitude range of 1000-1214 metres asl, this section presents the greatest challenge for both manual track work and vegetation restoration. Work has recently progressed up towards the summit area.

Ben Lawers NNR

Ben Lawers is one of the ten most important nature conservation sites in the UK, and within various boundaries, is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) and candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the government agency responsible for these designations, generously supports the Trust's work programme which is jointly planned to meet objectives of both organisations.

Ben Lawers has long been known to naturalists as the Botanists' Mecca because of the outstanding assemblage of species of arctic-alpine plants, including a significant number of rare species, and their habitats. It is also the tenth highest Munro and the 'magnet' for hill walkers in the Tayside area, and accessible within a day trip to most of the population of Scotland. The recreational use of the hills contributes greatly to the local economy, as was made clear during the foot and mouth disease crisis of 2001 when visitors largely stayed away. However, the public pressure over the last quarter of the 20th century has scarred the landscape and inflicted serious but localised damage to some of the botanical interests of the Reserve.

Trust ownership & promotion

The Trust bought the southern slopes of the Ben Lawers range in 1950, supported by the benefactor Percy Unna, and the southern slopes of most of the Meall nan Tarmachan range in 1996, supported by a successful public appeal. The land held in both areas is between the head dyke at around 300-400m altitude up to the watershed at the summit ridge. There are six Munros on these ridges, normally reached from the Trust land, and a seventh Munro outwith the Trust land on the north side of the Lawers range. There is and has been considerable publicity for the walks on these ridges in mountaineering literature and they are promoted as attractions by the local tourist industry. However, in recognition of the escalating problem of landscape damage by visitors, the Trust and the former Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) ceased active promotion of the property some 15 years ago.

Practical issues of management

The reasons for the special properties of Ben Lawers include the lime-rich mica-schist rocks of which the hills are built. These are soft and friable rocks, which, in many areas, are particularly vulnerable to weathering and breaking up. While this property leads to good soil properties for the rare plants, some of which have their biggest British populations at Ben Lawers, it renders the management of walking surfaces more difficult. Some of the very special habitats, such as lime-rich alpine grassland and areas of surface water seepage at high altitude are designated in the European Habitats Directive as requiring protection in EU member countries. Both of these habitats include several of the most extreme rarities in the Ben Lawers flora. These habitats are also particularly vulnerable to trampling damage, and can be totally destroyed by the current visitor pressure in some areas. While some localised damage results from botanically interested visitors, the greatest problem results from hill walking to summits and along the ridges. This has developed enormous erosion scars on some routes, especially the western approach to Ben Lawers, which had already reached a maximum width of 18 metres (around 60 feet) by 1980. Even where the width of such erosion scars may be limited by topography, as on the narrower ridges, the severity of damage may progress over time by deepening gully erosion.

With our objectives of maintaining the landscape quality and conserving the plants and their habitats, we seek to minimise the area damaged, e.g. by reducing the width of paths as far as is practical, and restoring the surrounding vegetation. While accepting the principle of parsimony or minimal intervention, this very often requires intensive work on site. The altitude, gradient, terrain and sensitivity of the site require work by hand rather than by machine, involving a high level of skill and commitment from the workers. Since 1989 much of the work has depended on specialist contractors, while volunteers continue to make valuable contributions to managing some of the more accessible problems. Techniques involve drainage, redefining paths by subtle use of rock or landscaping,

resurfacing by introducing gravel material, and in extreme situations, revetments and pitching. In such cases there may be insufficient rock on or near the site, requiring its import by helicopter. The material used is of local origin, thus geologically related to the bedrock on site.



Photo taken by David Mardon, The National Trust

Bristle sedge, a vascular plant species with its entire British range & population on Ben Lawers NNR. With other rare sedges and rushes, this plant grows in a soft, wet flush habitat extremely vulnerable to trampling damage

At high altitudes such as over 800m, restoration of adjacent vegetation presents additional challenges. High mountain vegetation is particularly fragile, often composed largely of lower plants such as mosses and lichens which may not withstand even a single footprint. The flowering plants that do occur (e.g. viviparous fescue, matt grass, stiff sedge, alpine lady's mantle, dwarf willow) may be sparse, and all these plants grow very slowly in the harsh climate, which also hampers other parts of the regeneration process. Transplanting sods, which works well at lower altitude, may require the import of turf from distant sites, as the nearby grass is often sparse, non-existent or within a protected habitat. At Ben Lawers we are testing techniques with biodegradable mesh to stabilise mineral soils, and the introduction of numerous small plugs of grass from nearby snow-bed matt-grass, or plants reared in the nursery from natural propagules. These include viviparous fescue, stiff sedge, alpine lady's mantle, all of which grow naturally in adjacent vegetation. Turf has also been flown up from low altitude, and successfully established to stabilise path-side verges. All this work is still in development, with the results being monitored.

Costs/Finance

Annual path management work has been carried out at Ben Lawers since 1980, and for most of this time has been constrained by limited resources available. The work at high altitude, with its logistical problems, the need for specialist contractors and frequent use of helicopters, is especially expensive. The work programme at Ben Lawers over the period 1997-2001 cost £135,000, requiring fund raising by grants from other agencies (50% EAGGF; matching funding SNH, Scottish Mountaineering Trust and NTS). Over the last 15 years, the total spend on mountain paths by NTS has been around £2 million. With a long-term requirement for funds to continue this programme, including the maintenance of paths previously repaired, the Trust has launched an ongoing appeal 'Sole Trading - give something back' by which individuals are invited to donate specifically to mountain path management. Further supporting grants are also being sought.

Conclusion

Nature conservation is the primary aim of the Trust at Ben Lawers, while providing unrestricted public access to open land is a corporate aim of the Trust. Combining these potentially conflicting aims is one of the major challenges for the Trust in managing Ben Lawers. The principal mechanism is the practical management of the footpath system, in order to reduce the impact of recreational use to the minimum, which it is hoped will ultimately be an acceptable price for the benefits of public enjoyment of the property. This requires continuous monitoring of the development of impacts, implementation of remedial measures where rapid deterioration occurs or high priority natural features are threatened, and perpetual, ongoing maintenance. The aim of these is not to make the hill easier to climb, but rather to optimise compatibility between two primary but conflicting aims of the Trust. While we aspire to the highest possible standards in our work, progress is and always has been limited by resources, and efforts to raise funds will continue to be necessary.

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News

SUPPORTING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW CROW ACT

The National Assembly for Wales has allocated £2.4million to local authorities in Wales to help them implement Countryside and Rights of Act 2000 (CRoW). These new duties are mainly connected with improving public rights of way, and managing some aspects of the 300,000 hectares of new 'access land' that will be available after 2005, in partnership with CCW.

Gareth Roberts, Head of Recreation, Access and European Affairs Group said: "Maximising the benefits that will flow from the new legislation requires the support of the local and national park authorities. The Countryside Council for Wales is committed to working closely with these authorities to raise awareness of their new responsibilities and opportunities that are available to them, so that we can, in turn, deliver the new access provisions effectively, and on time."

For further information visit the website at:
<http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

CCW News Release 12/03/02, Supporting Local Authorities to Implement the New Access Act – CCW Council to discuss options

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE – SOUTH DOWNS

The East Hampshire Integrated Access Programme was launched last May and since then has been successfully improving access to the countryside from urban areas. It is a national pilot scheme run by Hampshire County Council and the Countryside Agency. The South Downs Explorer is a new bus service which aims to encourage people to visit in a sustainable way, the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The service ran successfully during the summer of 2001 and it is expected that it will continue in 2002.

For further information contact Jo Hale, Programme Manager.

Tel: 01962 847717

E-mail: jo.hale@hants.gov.uk

South Downs Focus, Issue 3, February 2002

COMMUNITY RENEWABLE INITIATIVE

Creating electricity and heat from energy crops, solar and hydro power, waste, woodfuel or wind, is a challenge that even local people can now take on, thanks to the Countryside Agency's Community Renewables Initiative.

The Countryside Agency, DTI, DEFRA, The Forestry Commission and the The Energy Savings Trust are providing over £1.6 million to support the Community Renewables Initiative. Ten major partnerships will work across the country to help local people and groups set up environmentally sensitive renewable energy schemes, and tap into a variety of regeneration funds. The aim is to create environment friendly developments and to enable community groups to directly benefit from the income generated.

For further information visit the website at:
www.countryside.gov.uk/communityrenewables
Countryside Agency Newsletter 28/02/02

WORKING FOR THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE – DEFRA REPORT

This publication shows what motivates DEFRA, what has been achieved and what DEFRA plans to do in the future. Achieving those parts of the Government's programme for which DEFRA is responsible, will need action between a range of organisations: across government, in business and in community groups. The publication sets out DEFRA's overall contribution to the Government's programme and it's aim to continue the constructive working arrangements which already exist with other Government departments and agencies. DEFRA's main aim is 'sustainable development, which means a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come'.

For a copy of 'Working for the Essential of Life' report please quote reference PB6740 and contact : DEFRA Publications, Admail 6000 London, SW1A 2XX, Tel: 08459 556000, E-mail: defra@iforcegroup.com

ADFYWIO - A NEW GRANT SCHEME TO HELP STIMULATE THE RURAL ECONOMY

'Adfwio is a £5.2 million new match-funding scheme - will help projects across Wales that integrate tourism business more closely with open air recreation and leisure and the natural environment. These projects will include ones that:

- Set and raise standards for routes and provide information on the local environment
- Provide up to date and useful information about opportunities to enjoy the Welsh countryside
- Help integrate recreational routes and public transport.
- Improve catering facilities and other services used by outdoor users
- Celebrate our cultural, historical and archaeological heritage
- Provide new opportunities to enjoy the countryside and coast'

The Countryside Council for Wales and the Wales Tourist Board jointly manage the scheme, with support from the Forestry Commission. Their expertise will be used to ensure that the money is used effectively as possible, securing the future of many businesses, as well as improving the facilities for those who enjoy the Welsh countryside. The scheme was developed as part of the rural recovery funding package, announced by the National Assembly for Wales last year.

Jonathan Jones, Chief Executive of the Wales Tourist Board said: "The scheme will run until 31 March 2004, and applicants will be able to apply for up to 50% match funding on capital costs and 80% on revenue costs. Whilst we encourage partnership applications between sectors, any public, private or voluntary body or private individual can apply."

For further information about the Adfwio scheme visit the website at: adfwio@tourism.wales.gov.uk. Guidance notes for the scheme can be viewed on www.ccw.gov.uk or Tel: 0845 6024604

PENNINE BRIDLEWAY NORTHERN EXTENSION

On 10th April 2002 Alun Michael, Minister of State for Rural Affairs approved the proposal to create a northern extension to the Pennine Bridleway. The extension will add 141 miles to the Pennine Bridleway National Trail that is already in progress. It will provide new opportunities for horeseriders, off-road cyclists and walkers. By 2004 the Countryside Agency hopes to have the whole of the first section open (206 miles). It runs from Derbyshire to Krikby Stephen in Cumbria. The first stage, the Mary Townneley Loop was opened on 23rd May. The

circular route is 42 miles passing through Calderdale, Rochdale and Lancashire. The project has benefited from a £1.8 million grant from the Sport England Lottery Fund.

*For further information visit the website at: www.countryside.gov.uk
Countryside Agency Newsletter 10/04/02*

NEW WALKING TRAILS AROUND ENGLAND'S HERITAGE

New walking trails giving visitors an insight into England's heritage are being opened this year, thanks to the Local Heritage Initiative, which is run by the Countryside Agency with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nationwide Building Society. This grant scheme is designed to help local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, culture and traditions. 'The aim is to celebrate the past, to inform the present and encourage thought and action for the future.'

*For further information contact the LHI Information Line: 0870 9000401, or visit the LHI website at: www.lhi.org.uk
Local Heritage Initiative Newsletter, 19/03/02*

FUND SCHEME BOOSTS WOODLANDS FOR ENGLAND'S NATIONAL PARKS

Funds have been allocated to plant more than 385 hectares (nearly 1,000 acres) of new native woodland, consisting of trees like oak, ash and cherry. This is part of the Forestry Commission Challenge Fund scheme which is now in its fifth round. Forestry Minister, Mr Elliot Morley said:

"These new woodlands form important networks of habitats for our wildlife and enhance our unique landscapes. Not only do they increase woodland cover which the Government is committed to, but they also encourage community support, public access and recreation ... The Forestry Commission has worked particularly closely with the National Parks and English Nature, and this Challenge Fund is an excellent example of partnership working at its best."

*Forestry Commission News Release No: 4721
28/03/02*

COUNTY FLOWERS

To commemorate HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee, Plantlife is co-ordinating a project which will get people out into the countryside again and put wild flowers on the map. Plantlife are being helped by partner organisations including the Countryside Agency, Environment Agency, the Civic Trust and the Women's Institute.

The nation is being invited to vote for their favourite wild flower that symbolises the county where they live and all the counties they visit in 2002. The projects aims to get people to visit the countryside again, post foot and mouth disease, to celebrate the natural beauty to be found in every part of the UK and to contribute to the rural economy.

For further information and to register a vote through the website visit: www.plantlife.org.uk
Plantlife Newsletter 13/03/02

UK'S LARGEST COMMUNITY FORESTS CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Mersey Forest and Red Rose Forest celebrated the achievements of ten years working in greening Merseyside, North Cheshire and Greater Manchester at a conference held on 21st May. Nearly nine million trees have been planted in the region. This is an area four times the size of Delamere Forest and represents a tree for every single person in the North West. Tony Hothersall, Red Rose Forest's Director said, "The Involvement of local people in the Forests are a key feature of our success. Events and campaigns such as Forest Fever, Green Streets, the Community Contracting Initiative, Woodland Wildflowers, the School Grounds Development Project and Trees of Time and Place have involved thousands of local people every year in local environmental activities." Future plans for the forest will aim to deliver additional benefits to local people across a wide policy agenda. This will include regeneration, community development, health, biodiversity, education and training for young people and recreation and leisure and employment.

For further information visit the websites at: www.merseyforest.org.uk or www.redforest.co.uk
Press information, 21/05/02, 'Community forests celebrate 10 year achievements'.

GREEN-FINGERED SCHOOLCHILDREN RECEIVE MONEY FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency is to fund environmental projects by presenting cheques to three schools in Cumbria. Schools across the county were invited to bid for money. Officers from the Agency inspected the schemes and chose the winning entries.

North Lakes School in Penrith was handed a cheque for £2,500 by Environment Agency. The school planted an area for environmental studies at the top of its playing fields and will use the cash to improve its 'wild area.' Part of the cash will enable the school to plant more wild flowers and rare species. The rest of the money will be spent on improving wheelchair access to the 'wild area.' Herron Hill School in Kendal is going to revamp a pond with the £2000 given to them. Stoneraise School, Durdar, Carlisle received £2500. The cash will be used to buy and install a solar panel which will heat the school's water. This is a state of the art environmental initiative as only a couple of schools in the country have solar panels in place.

Environment Agency News Release 22/04/02

QUEEN OPENS MILLENNIUM LINK

The Millennium Link was opened by the Queen on May 24th at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre. The Falkirk Wheel is the world's first rotating boat lift and opened to the public at the beginning of May. The £84.5 million project to restore the waterways between Glasgow and Edinburgh is backed by the The Waterways Trust Scotland, the Millennium Commission, the European Regional Development Fund, Scottish Enterprise Network and seven local authorities and communities across lowland Scotland

BW Monthly, April 2002

£1.2 MILLION SCHEME LAUNCHED IN SNOWDONIA

A £1.2 million grant from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) will fund the second phase of a National Trust sustainable management project. The scheme will boost the economy while protecting the landscape of Snowdonia. The money will be spent on a variety of projects including the management of native woodland, creation of new footpaths with disabled access and environmentally sensitive farming.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk/wales/newsid_1951000/195186.stm
26/04/02 Euro cash injection for Snowdonia

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

A new guide on carrying out Landscape Character Assessments published on 24th April 2002 by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage is an essential tool to help policy makers and planners to set the right conditions for new development. It shows how to identify and express elements which give a place character, making it different from neighbouring areas. For example, countryside features, building styles etc.

For further information please contact:

Landscape Character Assessment. Guidance for England and Scotland is free.

Tel: 0879 120 6466 for a copy (Quote ref CAX 84) or it can be accessed on the web at:

www.countryside.gov.uk/ccl/guidance or

www.snh.org.uk/strategy/LCA

Countryside Agency News Release, 24/04/02

REVIEW OF WILDLIFE TOURISM

The results of the 'Review of Wildlife Tourism' were launched at Scotland's first ever national wildlife tourism conference, organised by the Tourism and Environment Forum, . The Review of Wildlife Tourism gathered together the views of wildlife tourism businesses across Scotland. It highlighted the key issues concerning this sector of the tourism industry. It maps Scotland's wildlife tourism sector providing information of its growth as well as formulating the view and aspirations of nearly 300 wildlife tourism businesses.

Research shows that over 3000 people are now employed within the wildlife tourism sector. New research has highlighted the importance of wildlife businesses, parks and reserves in sustaining local economies through out Scotland. The Tourism and Environment Forum is calling on other wildlife tourism businesses to have their say on key issues affecting them and Help Scotland realise its potential to become a world-class wildlife tourism destination.

Those interested should contact:

Caroline Warburton, Tourism and Environment Forum, Thistle House, Beechwood Park North, Inverness, IV2 3ED OR email caroline.warburton@visitscotland.com

For more information visit the website at:

www.greentourism.org.uk

Tourism and the Environment, Wildlife Tourism Roars into Action, May 02 press release

£2 MILLION TO CREATE MOUNTAIN BIKE CENTRES IN SCOTLAND

The 'Seven Staine' partnership's £2 million injection of funding will create seven mountain bike centres in the South of Scotland. The Tweed Valley, Mabie, Ae, Dalbeattie, Glentworth, Kirroughtree and Newcastleton forests will be transformed and be turned into a mecca for mountain bikers and other visitors. It is estimated that once the project is completed in 2004 over 500,000 new visitors could be heading to the area, bringing in £15 million to the economy.

For further information and to keep up to date with developments at each biking centre, visit the website at: www.forestry.gov.uk/sevenstanes Forest Life, Spring/Summer 2002

'BALCHDER BRO - PRIDE OF PLACE' PROJECT IS LAUNCHED

Balchder Bro, which means pride of place, is a two year pilot scheme which will be managed in partnership with the Countryside Council of Wales and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Balchder Bro is a project which will provide communities in Wales with the support, skills and resources to ensure the future of their local heritage. The scheme has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The aim is to encourage and enable local people to understand, enjoy and learn more about their local heritage and community. The project managers have also identified that in order for there to be future in local heritage, it depends on the motivation, interest and enthusiasm of local people to appreciate and care for it. The scheme involves nine communities in Wales and if successful, could potentially develop into a larger scheme across Wales. This could involve more than 500 communities, worth more than £10 million pounds.

For further information contact the Countryside Council for Wales or visit the website at: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk> News from the Countryside Council for Wales, Spring 2002, Issue 32

'WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY' CIRCULAR TRAIL OPENS IN LANCASHIRE

A 3km of waterside track links the parking areas at Clow Bridge and Limey Lane and has been designed and built by Lancashire County Council's Countryside Service in consultation with 'Broadening Our Horizons', a local off-road wheelchair group.

The £40,000 scheme has been supported by United

Utilities, the Millennium Commission, the Countryside Agency and Lancashire County Council.

County Councillor Ormrod said, "The County Council is keen to encourage people with disabilities to access and enjoy our countryside and we are currently working with the Countryside Agency to look at the existing footpath networks, find out from disabled people at first hand what they would like to see and work with them to improve the way we promote information about the countryside."

For further information visit the website at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/news 02/CEI/239, 17/05/02, A Trail For All

THE MANAGEMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION PROVISION

The Audit Commission has published a new report that examines local authority management of sport and recreation services – particularly in the context of a diverse range of other sports providers. Based on the analysis of 80 best value inspections reports, the report presents a picture of how services are currently managed. It identifies the key areas in which authorities need to take action if they are to provide cost effective, relevant and user focused sport and recreation services.

The main focus of the report is:

- ♦ Sport and leisure centres
- ♦ Sport and recreation in parks
- ♦ Sports development

*For further information contact::
Audit Commission Publications, PO Box 99, Wetherby LS23 7JA, Tel: 0800 502030, Fax: 0870 1414217, Email: audit-publications@twoten.press.net*

HADRIAN'S WALL BUS

A new bus service is now running the full length of Hadrian's Wall from Wallsend to Bownes on Solway. This new daily service provides a direct link out to Hadrian's Wall for local people and visitors throughout the summer. It is the first time since Roman times that transport will be on offer from one end to the other of Hadrian's Wall.

The new service is funded by the Countryside Agency through the Rural Transport Partnership Wider Welcome scheme and the DTLR through Rural Bus Challenge.

Miles Middleton, Chairman of the Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership, said, "After the poor season last year due to Foot and Mouth we hope that these improvements to the bus services will enable people to get back out into the wonderful countryside around Hadrian's Wall, whether it's to go for a walk, visit a fort or a museum or simply sit back on the bus and enjoy a guided tour."

*For further information contact the Hadrian's Wall Information Line, Tel: 01434 322002 or visit the website at: www.hadrians-wall.org.
Hadrian's Wall News Release 28/05/02*

GREEN GATEWAY INITIATIVE

The National Urban Forestry Unit (NUFU) has launched its Green Gateway initiative to afforest the Thames Gateway area. Thirteen boroughs across east London, Kent and Essex are included and it is backed by the Government Office for London, Thames Gateway London Partnership, the Greater London Authority and other local authorities and by key regeneration and voluntary sector organisations in the region.

Managing existing trees and woodland will take priority and planting in specific locations. These include: areas of depreivation; on brownfield development sites; along transport corridors; new residential; school grounds; industrial and commercial developments ; and large expanses of poor quality amenity grassland.

*For further information visit the website at: www.nufu.org.uk or Tel: 01902 828600
English Nature, Urbio, May 2002*

NEW AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

On Monday 10th June the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) management plan, required by the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 was published by the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. AONB's in England and Wales have a new statutory duty to produce these management plans, which aim to ensure that AONB's are protected and managed for future generations.

Head of the Countryside Agency's finest countryside team, Marian Spain, said, "AONB's are very special places which need careful conservation for current and future generations. Having a good management strategy is an important part of conservation because it sets a vision for the future, helps decide what needs

to be done and encourages everybody to play their part. We were extremely pleased to see that the CROW Act gave production of these plans statutory backing and are even more pleased to see the first one published. I congratulate the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB on being the first in the country to publish its new plan. The Countryside Agency looks forward to working with everybody in the area to implement the plans so we can see some of their existing ideas become reality."

Countryside Agency Newsletter 10/06/02

To order a copy of 'The State of the countryside 2002', please contact:

*Countryside Agency Publications, PO Box 125,
Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7EP*

Tel: 0870 120 6466

Fax: 0870 120 6467

E-mail: countryside@twoten.press.net

*Alternatively you can download the full report, or the chapters that interest you from the website at:
www.countryside.gov.uk*

'THE STATE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE 2002' REPORT

The Countryside Agency's fourth 'State of the Countryside Report' examines 20 key indicators that measure the state of rural communities, the rural economy, the landscape and access to the countryside. It also briefly covers the known impacts of the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

It is hoped that the report will help DEFRA, and others, with key facts and analysis on which to ground policy decisions. The 20 indicators range over wide issues, in an attempt to assess the condition of rural life. The Countryside key rural indicators are:

1. Public concern for the countryside
2. Community vibrancy
3. Health and special needs
4. Rural crime levels
5. Geographical availability of services
6. Access to affordable housing
7. Education and training
8. Rural childcare
9. Rural mobility
10. Traffic effects
11. Change in countryside character
12. State of natural resources
13. Biodiversity
14. Sustainable land management
15. How people use the countryside
16. Business health
17. Market towns prosperity
18. Employment characteristics
19. Income levels and distributions
20. ICT in rural areas.

The report shows that 2002 was a year of relative stability for the English countryside. However, worrying trends are also highlighted, including, rural homes becoming less affordable than those in urban areas.

Countryside Recreation and Training

CRN EVENTS FOR 2002

Provisional CRN Conference/ Workshop dates for 2002:

- **Funds for Social Projects**

Date: 9th October
 Venue: Coventry Hill Hotel, Coventry
 Cost: £85 (£75 CRN member agencies)

- **Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans**

Date: 6th November
 Venue: Gloucestershire Cricket Club, Bristol
 Cost: £85 (£75 CRN member agencies)

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

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

August 2002

5 – 9 August
Introducing Rights of Way
 (Losehill Hall)
 Venue Peak District
 Cost: £550/£495

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

Venue: Cardiff
 Cost: Please ring for details

9 – 13 September
Moorland and Heath Management
 (Losehill Hall)
 Venue Peak District
 Cost: £550/£495

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

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

19 September
European Funding for Environmental Organisations
 (Environmental Trainers Network)
 Venue: Doncaster
 Cost: £100/£150

September 2002

2 - 6 September
Monitoring for Nature Conservation
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £350

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)

19 September
Integrating Cycling with Public Transport
 (University of Nottingham)
 Venue: University of Nottingham
 Cost: £110/£95/£25

19 - 23 September
GIS and RS in Mountain Environment Research
 (Jagiellonian University)
 Venue: Krakow - Zakopane
 Cost: please contact for details

20 – 22 September
Managing Wetlands for Wildlife
 (Field Studies Council)
 Venue: Suffolk
 Cost: £125/ £97

25 September
Executing Environmental Projects on the Ground
 (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)
 Venue: Poole
 Cost: £45/£90

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

October 2002

2 October
Working with Rivers
 (SNH)
 Venue: tba
 Cost: £50

9 October
Raising Funds from Companies and Trusts
 (Environmental Trainers Network)
 Venue: Bristol
 Cost: 100/£150

14 - 18 October
Environmental Interpretation
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £365

16 October

Environmental Education and Interpretation
 (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)
 Venue: Pitlochry
 Cost: £45/£90

16 - 18 October
Managing your Team, Time and Budgets
 (Losehill Hall)
 Venue Peak District
 Cost: £365/£311

30 - 31 October
Nature Conservation - Who Cares?
 (English Nature)
 Venue: Leicestershire
 Cost: £150/£90

November 2002

6 November
Visitor Survey Techniques
 (Environmental Trainers Network)
 Venue: York
 Cost: £100/£150

6 - 9 November
Nature and People: International Conference on conservation and management in the mountains of Northern Europe
 (SNH)
 Venue: Pitlochry
 Cost: tba

13 - 15 November
Community and Environment
 (Losehill Hall)
 Venue Peak District
 Cost: £435/£372

18 - 22 November
Management Planning in the Countryside
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £350

27 November
Greenspace for Communities or Communities for Greenspace?
 (Scottish Natural Heritage)
 Venue: tba
 Cost: £50

December 2002

2 - 6 December
Access and Public Rights of Way, Law and Management
 (Plas Tan y Bwlch)
 Venue: Snowdonia
 Cost: £345

5 December
Community Consultation Techniques
 (Environmental Trainers Network)
 Venue: Manchester
 Cost: £100/£150

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 Evironment 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.

How to advertise events through flyers sent out with CRN journal

What we will include as flyers:

We are happy to include flyers of events/courses that are relevant to countryside recreation issues and that would be of interest to our readers. We do not include adverts for companies e.g. advertising a brand of walking boot.

The Journal:

The journal is sent out quarterly, roughly March, June, September and December (but exact timing may vary due to the workload of the office). It is received by approximately 3,000 professionals in the field of countryside recreation, both individuals and organisations, including government agencies, voluntary and private organisations, universities and colleges, local government and private consultants. We can not separate out certain categories of groups.

Costs:

CRN will normally levy a charge to distribute flyers with the Journal. The cost is dependent on size and weight of the flyer.

Organisation:

If you are interested in distributing flyers this way, please contact the Network Manager to arrange details.

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

Tel: 029 2087 4970
Fax: 029 2087 4728
E-mail: crn@cardiff.ac.uk

Visit the Countryside Recreation Network Website at:

www.CountrysideRecreation.org.uk

Current Events:

To find up to date information about events being held by CRN. You can see:

- ◆ Background and objectives for Workshops
- ◆ Programme
- ◆ Flyer for the event, which you can print
- ◆ Booking form to book you place online

Sponsors:

See a list of our sponsoring agencies with useful links to their specific web pages.

Publications:

See a list of our publications, including Conference and Workshop Proceedings. You can order your copies online.

Journal:

Visit this page to access previous journal editions and to see how to submit articles to Countryside Recreation.

Research Directory:

The entries in this directory represent a selection of the research carried out by the CRN sponsoring agencies. They are all concerned with countryside and related recreation matters.

Links:

Links to other useful websites.

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 Honeypot 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		
Opening Up Access In and Around Towns (2002)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visitor Payback Schemes (2002)	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.

