

Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation

2007 Seminar Proceedings
of the
Countryside Recreation Network

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Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Geoff Hughes
Chairman

Countryside Recreation Network

Many outdoor pursuits take place in environmentally sensitive areas where public access has to be managed in order to protect nature. This can cause conflict but outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists share many of the same objectives.

Today's quest for new challenges and the growth in the range of outdoor pursuits sits well with the availability of new open spaces under the CRoW Act 2000, although the demand for outdoor activities and organised events can put unsustainable pressure on the environment. This can be appreciated all the more by the fact that SSSIs provide 56% of new access land, and that National Parks and AONBs contain 50% by area of all SSSIs.

However, there is a wealth of experience of managing public access on or near sensitive environments. Taking a 'best of both worlds' approach can promote better understanding of the issues, evidence, and perspectives of outdoor pursuit enthusiasts and managers of environmentally sensitive sites.

Whilst not denying potential for conflict, the concept of working together to find consensus and practical solutions can lead to increased opportunities for outdoor recreation of all kinds, but in a well managed way.

The Countryside Recreation Network (CRN) is a network of key Government departments and agencies and other national organisations in the UK and Ireland who:

- Share information and promote best practice through training and development in the provision for, and management of countryside recreation;
- Encourage cooperation in identifying coordinating and disseminating research related to outdoor recreation;
- Promote information exchange and foster debate about relevant trends and issues.

The aims of CRN are achieved by:

- Running seminars workshops and conferences such as the one you are attending today
- Publishing a free journal three times a year and if anyone would like to subscribe to the journal a proforma is included in your delegate pack
- Actively maintaining a website that includes information about member research and publications on topics such as the one you will hear about today.
- Commissioning research and disseminating widely.

Today's event aims to

- Develop an understanding of the demands for outdoor pursuits and future trends

- Afford an opportunity to hear about research into environmental impact of recreation on species and habitats
- To develop an appreciation of how different parties can benefit from positive access management agreements, based on first hand experience from case studies
- To outline complexities of access laws and how it affects recreationalists
- To explore how environmental disputes can be resolved by policy, consensus, and on the ground solutions
- To introduce the Best of Both Worlds website (www.bobw.co.uk) providing a resource of techniques and good practice examples

We need to continue to explore ways which enable nature and recreation to thrive together. I am reminded of a research project undertaken by Roger Sidaway in 1988 which said:

"If relations between recreationists and conservationists are to be less contentious in the future there needs to be a major improvement in communication and understanding and a moderation of claims on both sides and a much closer involvement of interest groups in management and planning."

Lets see how far we have we have come in the last 20 years!

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

NEW TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

Chris Gordon
Specialist - Recreation
Natural England

1. Introduction

Natural England has responsibilities for outdoor recreation in the natural environment.

Natural England's general purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We have translated our general purpose four strategic outcomes which are set out in 'Natural England – Strategic Directions 2006-2009'.

- **A Healthy Natural Environment**
- **Enjoyment of the natural environment**
- **Sustainable use of the Natural environment**
- **A secure environmental future**

This workshop particularly links to three of the outcomes, but all are interrelated.

2. Research

There are 3 recent pieces of research which are useful background when considering some of the trends in outdoor recreation. They are:

2.1 Henley Centre Headlight Vision Research which considers the question:

What are the main factors which will inform the development of Outdoor Recreation in England over the next 20 years and what are the implications of these for Natural England's outdoor recreation strategy between now and 2015?

This is available at:

www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Recreation/strategy_research.asp?printable=true

2.2 England Leisure Visit Survey

The main aims of the survey were to:

- Measure the extent of participation in Leisure Visits by the adult population (aged 16 and over).
- Estimate the total number of Leisure Visits and their economic value.
- Provide information on trip details: Characteristics of visitors; trip characteristics; activities undertaken on visits; destinations visited.
- Details can be viewed at:
<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Recreation/visits/index.asp>

2.3 Active People Survey

This survey was carried out by OpsosMori who carried out telephone interviews with 363,724 adults in England, looking at sport and active recreation in all 354 of England's Local authorities. The data from this survey can be accessed through: www.activepeoplesurvey.com

There is a huge amount of data within the above web sites and a visit to all is strongly recommended.

3. Some Major Trends & Issues

3.1 There are fewer of us out there enjoying the outdoors

The England Leisure Visit Survey (ELViS) fell from 5.4 billion in 2002/3 to 3.6 billion in 2005. Of those visits 20% were to the countryside (0.7 billion) and 2% to the seaside coast. Although this has occurred across the board where marketing initiatives have taken place, such as the Forestry Commission's "Wellies in the woods" this fall has been much less.

Some of the reasons for this fall include: the more sedentary lifestyles of the young, and a fear of taking risk.

3.2 Those that are out there are making more varied and sophisticated choices

There has been a rise in niche activities power gliding, jet-skiing, advanced mountain biking activities and a greater turnover of 'fad interests' that are here today and gone tomorrow.

- Of the top 74 activities, the 20 Outdoor Recreation ones were:
 - 1 Recreational Walking 20% population (8m)
 - 4 Recreational Cycling 7.8% population (3m)
 - 6 Running/jogging 4.6% population (1.8m)

- Horse riding 1%
- Fishing 0.7%
- Climbing 0.2%
- Sailing –dinghy 0.2%
- Rowing 0.2%
- Canoeing
- Surfing
- Sub aqua
- Shooting
- Shooting – Clay pigeon
- Archery
- Kayaking
- Motorcycling – motor cross
- Windsurfing
- Walking – hill walking

3.3 We need to play our part in increasing activity & understanding of the natural environment

People perceive a lack of time in their lives with 57% of people agree: 'I never seem to have enough time to get things done'. At the same time information is becoming more readily available to many through the internet. If decisions about outdoor recreation are being made in the wider context of competing leisure activities, outdoor recreation opportunities need to be easily found online as well; even if its just ideas for things to do.

Issues such as: increasing obesity; mental health problems (which outdoor recreation has an important role in alleviating); changes in the age structure of the population; and increasing ethnic diversity; means we need to work hard to consider how we can increase opportunities for all to enjoy the outdoors.

3.4 Climate Change

The Stern Report (October 2006) recommend 60% reduction in UK's CO2 emissions by 2050. If this target is to be met we need recreation choices to be environmentally sustainable. Opportunities for outdoor recreation closer to home and or without use of the car. This means we will need to look at opportunities to take part in outdoor recreation close to where people live.

It may mean that as these targets kick in and air flight becomes more expensive there will be less foreign travel, and more local demand?

4. The Challenge

We need to increase opportunities for outdoor recreation while sustaining and improving our valuable biodiversity resource.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

INTRODUCING THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCEPT

Doug Kennedy
Chairman
Best of Both Worlds Project

Origins of the Best Of Both Worlds Project

Earlier Research

The problems associated with outdoor recreation taking place in conservation areas was first investigated in the late 80s by Roger Sidaway and followed up in the 1995 House Of Commons Environment Committee report. The problem was not seen as a large one, but when issues cropped up, issues could be complex and difficult and evoked strong emotions. The desirability of some national means of dealing with or preventing issues developing into conflict was mentioned in the conclusion.

MSc Dissertation

The view that nature conservation itself was a major threat to outdoor pursuits triggered my choice of topic for an MSc dissertation, the title of which was "Conflict resolution and decision making for allowing access to conservation-sensitive open countryside to active leisure pursuits on foot." (Kennedy.D; Open University 2002)

Its conclusions, derived from interviews, a literature review and my own experience in tackling issues as British Orienteering Federation Environment Officer accorded with earlier studies: that conflicts were often rooted in ignorance and lack of communication between players rather than real conflicts of interest. However the perception that conservation itself is the problem persisted because protective measures, especially blanket bans on activities, were denying sports people some great recreational venues that may have been in use for many years without acceptable reasons being given. This was exacerbated by a feeling that the conservation Agencies were not willing to engage, but simply sent out letters denying access on the grounds that damage could result, usually citing The Sandford Principle (that when it comes down to it, nature conservation holds sway over outdoor recreation). Larger players sometimes had the attitude that they 'knew what is best', and simply handed down management plans and dictated access.

The balancing perspective, of course, is that enthusiasts can have a tendency to ignore inconvenient truths about the impacts of their activities on the areas they are using. The need therefore seemed to be more that of bringing the protagonists together rather than getting angry, writing letters and campaigning.

The BoBW Message

Optimum, not balance

An essential element of the BoBW message is that it is not a BALANCE between recreation and conservation that is sought, as this implies that one side's gain must be at the other's loss. BoBW's message is that it is possible to support and enhance recreational opportunities whilst also protecting and advancing conservation interests. In order to achieve this, all stake holders must get involved and be prepared to listen and learn. The manner of dealing with such problems is very well covered in Roger Sidaway's presentation within this seminar, and in his book *Resolving Environmental Disputes* (Earthscan, 2005). Suffice to say here that tensions tend to erupt into conflict when people feel that they have not been listened to, or refuse to engage with other stake holders.

The Best of Both Worlds Principles

The BoBW Principles were developed over a 2 year period of discussion, drafting and consultation.

They apply equally to a small group planning a weekend out, and to Government Agencies exercising their powers in policing conservation. These can be down-loaded from the web address <http://www.bobw.org.uk/default.aspx?page=bobw%20basics>

It is hoped that those signing up to the BoBW principles will always seek good outcomes in preference to taking up positions and seeking conflict. The Principles accept that we share rights and responsibilities for the land we enjoy and need to understand the full picture, taking into account the interests and needs of other interested parties. For sports governing bodies, this usually includes publishing best practice guides and codes of conduct.

Openness and inclusiveness have been at the core of the project's success, and are also at the core of avoiding unproductive disputes and conflict.

The BoBW Web Site

The Internet Opportunity

The Internet is a uniquely democratic and open means of publishing a framework like this: in 1995, it would have been a great deal more expensive and limited in its distribution being paper-based, and may well never have taken off. Every dog has its day! The web site is comprised of a set of principles, advice, information and links which enable people to pick what they need at the time.

A Portal and Helper, not a Broker

The BoBW web site is a portal and a helper. The Working Group have never tried to set themselves up as brokers or arbitrators for disputes. In fact as the project advanced, the one area that tended to arouse negative criticism was the mistaken idea that BoBW was attempting to become some sort power broker in situations.

I hope that those looking at, and using the web site will find it informative and a help to people in structuring their approach to sporting events.

The Future

The Working Group

The core group, comprised of the author as Chairman, two representatives from Natural England, one from the Central Council of Physical Recreation, one from the Countryside Council for Wales and Ken Turner of Asken Ltd., meets 3-4 times a year and reviews:

- Web site content,
- Web site activity
- Feedback,
- The need for development work in the coming months.

There is a wider group who are kept informed, and who attend meetings occasionally. There is funding sufficient to cover the coming year's maintenance and limited development. As things stand, future funding at this level is regarded as far from secure, but should be secured whilst the project continues to deliver something useful at an affordable price.

The main area for new work currently is the proposed expansion of the web site into cultural heritage and landscape, but this is likely to require additional funding and is under discussion.

Change in the Countryside, the outcomes of which are very unpredictable

Urban Development

Rather than each other, I believe that the main enemies of both conservationists and outdoor recreationists, especially in highly populated areas, are industrial, infrastructure and housing developments which jeopardise the land on which we run or watch wildlife. Although Central Government declares that it wants to get more people out of towns into the countryside and that global warming is urgent and inescapable, new airports, roads and urban development are seen as a higher priority as they attract votes. Therefore, the further covering of fields and woods by concrete may be inescapable and vigilance is essential by those who enjoy the green countryside.

Global Warming

Global warming seems to be a reality and it is already resulting in changes in our plants and wildlife. No-one can predict the outcomes in 5 or 10 years, let alone 20 or 50, but the resulting changes will create new threats to existing ecologies that will challenge the very concept of 'conservation' as we know it and may well change the landscapes we enjoy. Protecting and conserving an ecology that has become unsustainable owing to climate changes is a waste of time, but efforts to be prepared and buffer negative effects are more likely to be beneficial.

Working together to protect our joint interests

It will be essential that we who enjoy the countryside, whether for nature or for recreation, work together to protect what we love and make the best of whatever situation eventuates. Land managers, recreationists and conservationists all have a lot to gain from cooperation, and will need all the help they can get in making their voices heard as the pressures grow.

The Best Of Both Worlds, Outdoor Recreation and Conservation, is a small piece in the jigsaw of countryside management, but the concepts it espouses have a place in protecting the countryside we love and the activities we pursue.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTES

Roger Sidaway
Independent Research and Policy Consultant

My brief is to explain how and why conflicts occur and the contribution that consensus building can make to conflict resolution and to conservation and recreation management.

Reference has already been made to my report *Sport, Recreation and Nature Conservation* which was published in 1988 by the Sports Council. It included case studies of the environmental impacts of caving, cliff climbing, access to moorlands, orienteering, sub-aqua diving, inland water recreation and canal restoration. On reflection I observed that in different locations there could be either conflict or co-operation over the same impact and concluded that the roots of conflict must lie in the relationships between the interest groups rather than the nature of the impact *per se*. There is a marked contrast in the aims of interest groups and how they handle differences in beliefs, uncertainty about the effects of the impact, whether they communicate directly and their attitudes towards each other. These are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Contrasting Aspects of Conflict and Co-operation (Source: Sidaway, 2005)

CONFLICT	CO-OPERATION VIA CONSENSUS
Differences in Belief **Issues are elevated to matters of principle on which there can be no negotiation	**Differences in beliefs are respected and principles are laid to one side
Interests **Each side is in competition and aims to win	**Efforts are made to accommodate everyone's needs
Data and Understanding **There is uncertainty over a contentious issue which is not fully understood **Information is withheld and used as power	**The issue is understood **Information is freely shared
Relationships and Procedures **There is a lack of direct and regular communication **A confrontational approach is taken towards the other side within an adversarial system of decision making	**There is frequent contact and networking between partners **A conciliatory approach is taken towards partners within a collaborative form of decision making

Others have commented on the confusing nature of environmental conflicts that are marked by complexity and uncertainty - with many issues and lack of clarity over who is actually involved (Brown and Marriot, 1993). Most participants believe that they represent the public interest and history plays a prominent part in their debates. Typically one group is attempting to control the actions of others and limit their access to a natural resource; in other words there is a power struggle.

My analysis in 1988 (long before I had studied the theories of social conflict) recognised many of these factors: the divergent philosophies, the lack of basic understanding of the impacts of recreation activities on species and habitats; poor communication and unwillingness to respond to changing circumstances. Prominent among these theories is the proposition (advanced by Coser, 1956) that there is a positive side to conflict in that it provides the vital function of allowing society to adjust to change. Another of his insights - that the outcome of social conflict is determined by the balance of power and the form of decision making - gives us a vital clue to potential ways of resolving conflict. When decision making is 'rigid' (adversarial in nature) the power struggle can only result in one side winning at the expense of the other. When it is 'flexible' or collaborative, negotiation can achieve a mutually acceptable solution. Put another way, rather than diverting energy and resources into determining who is right or who is more powerful in a court of law, direct negotiation between interest groups can achieve reconciliation and resolution. Direct negotiation (with or without the assistance of an impartial mediator) also allows the parties to make the final decision instead of an adjudicator or a judge.

The resolution of conflict requires the issues between the interested parties to be clarified; the communication to be improved; and for them to develop a solution that everyone can live with. The process of consensus building during a negotiation fits the bill as it improves relationships and engenders trust. The voluntary and less formal procedures allow the parties to explore the problem and consider a range of possible solutions. Having worked together in this way, they feel they are in control and become committed to putting the solution that is agreed into effect. Time and money are saved, when compared to the time and effort that are so often put into struggling through conflict.

However, consensus building does have its limitations. Differences between deeply held beliefs cannot be negotiated away. Some interests are not easily represented in negotiations (one thinks of unorganised recreation user groups such as jet-skiers or dog walkers). Power differentials can become an issue and the less powerful need safeguards to protect their rights. Undoubtedly reaching consensus is time consuming and may be difficult to sustain over time.

The principles of consensus building can also be used to prevent conflict through effective participation in planning as well as to resolve conflict by mediation. I have identified four key principles, which I have labelled: Initiation, Inclusiveness, Information and Influence. These are set out in Figure 2.

Figure 2: The Principles of Consensus Building (Source: Sidaway 2005)

INITIATION

Terms of reference and agenda

- The purpose and form of the exercise should be agreed by all the parties.
- The agenda should be balanced to cover the full range of issues and not constrained by a pre-emptive policy or proposition made by powerful interests.

INCLUSIVENESS

Representation

- The representation of interests has to be balanced at each level of decision-making.

Accountability

- The representatives have to be accountable to their constituencies.

Openness of and involvement in decision-making

- All phases of the process should be open to all interest groups with the degree of involvement that they desire.

INFORMATION

Information should be

- freely available to all interests;
- perceived as objective and preferably gathered by independent sources; and
- the information coverage of issues should be evenly balanced.

INFLUENCE

Delegation of authority in decision-making

Clarity is required on

- who holds the power to determine and/or execute decisions, and any imbalances of power between the parties should not hinder the process; and
- the extent to which authority has been delegated to the group.

The ultimate decision-makers must be committed to implement and resource the outcomes agreed in this process.

Now let us look at how these principles can be applied in practice. I was asked to provide a case study from Scotland. Naturally I have taken one from my book: *Resolving Environmental Disputes* because it contains several longitudinal case studies spanning many years. These studies are particularly revealing about relationships between agencies and communities and they illustrate how trust can be developed by acting consistently with integrity and mutual respect. I have chosen the development of Upper Deeside Access Trust (UDAT) in north-east Scotland.

The Upper Deeside Access Trust

The initial problems over access in this area stemmed from the diversion of recreation users from the grounds of the Royal Palace at Balmoral to the neighbouring valley of Glen Muick. The good intentions of the scheme foundered. It became too successful as the parking and trails provided in the glen created a 'honey pot', easily accessible throughout the year, particularly by mountaineers attracted to the peak of Lochnagar. The facilities proved inadequate as the high levels of traffic, including tourist buses in the summer, congested the narrow road with its few passing places and the car park for 60 vehicles occasionally overflowed with more than two hundred cars sprawled onto the road verges.

Recognising the problems, the Balmoral Estate formed the Lochnagar Advisory Committee and invited neighbouring estates, government agencies, and Aberdeenshire Council to

become members. In 1997, it commissioned consultants to study Glen Muick, and they recommended the formation of an independent trust to manage the area and their report set out a range of options about the road. This nearly backfired when local tourism interests in Ballater formed the impression that the road might be closed to the detriment of their businesses.

However the appointment of an experienced Project Manager in April 1998 with funding proved decisive. He gained local credibility by negotiating with landowners to provide much needed short walks and cycle routes for tourists around Braemar which were well publicised. He also set in train a programme of upland footpath repairs. He was then able to conduct a review of traffic management in Glen Muick and the Trust published a Consultation Paper in December 1999. The Trust identified its preferred options: a modest extension to the car park; charges for parking with the revenue being dedicated to footpath repair; permits for coaches to use the road and landscaping around the car park. Significantly (and unusually in my experience) the consultation paper set out the Trust's reasons why it was rejecting the other options on the consultants' report. Seventy responses were received, most favouring the Trust's proposals. In February 2000 the Trust convened a traffic management workshop, run by an independent facilitator. After presentations from the Trust and a question and answer session, the 40 people attending joined small groups to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred options. Consensus was reached on the main proposals (including the contentious issue of car park charges). Ironically there was more disagreement on the proposals to landscape the car park. The improvements were put in hand and the work completed in 2001.

In 2002-3 the car park charges raised £30,000 for paths repair. Another workshop was held to discuss the restoration of mountain paths and this agreed the priorities for further work. The success of the Trust in attracting funding for and undertaking a major programme of mountain and lowland path restoration encouraged other estates to join and the area managed by the trust to be expanded. One of the crucial factors in UDAT's success has been the open way in which it has operated, taking key players and the mountaineering community into its confidence by creating an affiliate membership and using its annual meetings to report progress and sound out views. Figure 3 shows how UDAT follows consensus building principles.

Figure 3: Upper Deeside Access Trust - Assessment using consensus building principles
(Source: Sidaway, 2005)

INITIATION: The need for collaborative management on Upper Deeside was identified by an advisory committee established by the Balmoral Estate. It commissioned a consultative study which identified the major issues of concern to the local and mountaineering communities and recommended the formation of the UDAT.

INCLUSIVENESS: While membership of the Trust and its management committee is limited to funding sponsors, the establishment of an open Affiliate Membership has proved to be an effective way of involving local organisations and individuals. Participatory workshops have been used to engage with particular interest groups on potentially contentious topics.

INFORMATION: The UDAT has taken care to explain the reasoning behind its policy proposals and, in particular, why certain options were not favoured. It communicates regularly through its website, its annual reports and open annual meetings.

INFLUENCE: The sponsoring partners have delegated a range of responsibilities to the Trust, provided core funding and supported bids for project funding. The emphasis on programmes of concern to its stakeholders has given considerable credibility to the Trust.

Key Points from the Case Study

- The openness of the Trust in its working is evidenced by representation, Affiliate Membership, annual meeting and preparedness to involve stakeholders in discussion of things that mattered to them (e.g. the workshops on traffic management and footpath restoration).
- Delegation of responsibility for projects to a dedicated team by the partners, notably the landowners who could see the benefits of work being done on their land for which they did not have the resources, project staff and experienced management. This started early in the life of the Trust so that it gained local credibility and has regularly met its annual targets.
- A notable factor has been the presence of team players among the agency representatives who are committed to making the process work. (Sidaway, 2005)

Returning to the findings of Sport, Recreation and Nature Conservation nearly 20 years later, one inevitably asks 'have we moved on'? One comment made then probably still applies.

"Greater understanding presupposes a willingness to listen and learn on both sides and while good links have been established in many parts of the country, they are notably absent in others." (Sidaway, 1988, p 95)

In the main, it seems we are largely dealing with manageable problems and recognising the affinities of interest that are the basis of co-operation. Certainly the 'Best of Both Worlds' is following the principles of consensus building in its programme of collaborative planning and management; thereby preventing conflict. One approach that appears to be largely untried and untested in this context is environmental mediation. Let us hope that when we reconvene in another twenty years' time we can recount successful stories of conflict resolution using this approach.

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Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

THE WORK OF A NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY

Cath Flitcroft

Access and Conservation Officer
British Mountaineering Council

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) is the National Representative Body for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers in England and Wales. Amongst the BMC's aims is to promote cliff and mountain conservation, and the BMC helps fund conservation projects and actively promotes environmental awareness amongst participants.

The BMC have a national network of over 80 access and conservation volunteers who have regular contact with the climbing world, landowners and conservation bodies. This means that local people are ideally placed to respond to problems that may occur on the ground. Many of the local access and management agreements at key climbing areas are negotiated and operated through the BMC network of volunteers.

General Conservation Issues (some examples)

The BMC endeavour to ensure that the impact of climbers and hill walkers in our upland environments is small and offer suggestions on how to help minimise potential adverse affects. Some examples of this are outlined below;

Transport

Like the rest of the population, climbers and walkers love their cars. They get us to the crags and mountains quickly and in relative comfort. However, increasing car use is having an adverse effect on our lives and on the environment. How can we, as concerned users of the mountains and hills, reduce our impact?

Here are some possible solutions:

- **Use public transport**
Not only as a means of getting to a destination but as part of a day out. This frees you from only doing circular walks and is more relaxing than sitting in a traffic jam.

If you need to use a motor vehicle:

- **Reduce the need to travel**
Find alternatives to the National Parks and popular crags. Other suitable countryside may be closer to home, needing less travel time, less fuel, being less crowded but just as enjoyable.
- **Try alternatives**
Investigate car share through friends, clubs or web sites. If there are more than a couple of carloads, consider hiring a mini bus or organising coaches.

- **Car parking**

Use designated parking spaces - these should be designed to reduce visual impact and conflict with other users. Parking your car in a remote area will spoil the wildness for others. If you do need to park in a remote spot, particularly in a mini bus, park carefully.

- **Support the area**

A pay and display ticket may be the only money you put into the local economy for a whole days visit. Money from car parks is often used for environmental work in the area. Car park attendants are usually local people needing jobs, and they can also offer some security for your car and belongings.

Sanitation

There is a reluctance amongst people to talk about what is one of our most natural functions! And yet, in not thinking carefully about this we can endanger human health and potentially poison the mountain environment.

Protect fresh water. A mountain stream is a vital source of fresh water for hill farmers and for campers. It will also be a home or water source for wildlife.

- Ensure you are at least 30 metres away from running water when you defecate.
- When camping, defecate downhill from your campsite; collect drinking water from above your camp.

Leave no trace. There are few things worse than coming across human waste on the mountainside.

- Dig a hole 15 cm (6") deep to bury your excrement. If this is not possible, keep well away from paths and spread the excrement thinly to increase the rate of its decomposition (squashing it under a boulder will slow decomposition).

Other general issues include winter mountaineering and vegetation damage, wild camping and the use of fires, cairns (building cairns can exacerbate erosion); litter, consideration of footwear, dogs and gates.

Climbing and Scrambling

Good Practise advice for Groups of Climbers

Large numbers of climbers at certain cliffs can increase the impact on wildlife as well as detracting from the experience. Organising groups requires special planning. Some landowners have restrictions on group size, and dominating an area will antagonise other climbers. The BMC can provide guidance on organising group visits. These include plan your day – venue choice and options; access information; group size; liaison with other users; timing visits; transport and parking; and briefing sessions.

What are the BMC doing?

The BMC have, over the last 20 years, addressed many of the issues that face the environment as a result of climbing, hill walking and mountaineering. As a result, a number of effective and well-respected initiatives have been developed.

Seasonal Restrictions

The seasonal restrictions in place today have been developed over the last 20-30 years. The BMC publishes annually a list of agreed climbing restrictions considered necessary to protect wildlife - usually nesting birds. They are based on consensus, partnership, flexibility, site-by-site assessment, and as far as possible, scientific fact and evidence. The current 'system' works because climbers respect restrictions that are agreed between the BMC and conservation organisations on the basis that they are justified and reasonable. Once the BMC has agreed to a restriction, conservation bodies and land managers can be very confident that it will be respected by climbers.

The key to successful restrictions is regular interaction and consultation between ornithologists, climbers and land management organisations. The BMC's regional access representatives maintain close links with land managers and conservation bodies at a local level and in many cases, site specific restrictions are simply agreed between these parties and the information relayed to the BMC office for wider dissemination. In some areas, formal 'mountaineering liaison groups' have been set up to oversee regional climbing and mountaineering issues including negotiating and reviewing seasonal restrictions.

The BMC have well developed mechanisms for informing climbers and hill walkers of restrictions and conservation, and plays a key role in promoting observance. For instance:

The Regional Access Database

The Regional Access Database (RAD) at www.climbingcrags.co.uk holds the definitive record of seasonal restrictions affecting climbers in England and Wales. It was set up by the BMC in 2000 and contains information on over 700 climbing sites where special access arrangements apply.

A wide range of literature and Publications

Used for publicising the conservation message - including annual Access and Conservation leaflets along with the Lake District Green Climbing Guide and the Yorkshire Green Climbing Guide.

Partnership Approach

The BMC recognise the importance of partnership working. The BMC has worked closely with conservation organisations and landowners for over 30 years to manage access to sites in ways, which permit public enjoyment of the land whilst protecting other interests. Experience clearly shows for example, that where restrictions on access are necessary to safeguard wildlife or land management interests, these are most effective where the public can appreciate the rationale behind the restriction.

Climbers and Conservation –Community led action

For conservation bodies and land owners, local volunteers can provide a skilled and rapid response that could not be obtained by working through specialist companies. Climbers provide this service in good will and this interaction increases understanding and communication between parties to deal with other climbing related matters.

A number of BMC volunteers recently worked by thinning-out the woodland below Hen Cloud in Staffordshire. The woodland contains a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees and unfortunately demonstrates many effects of neglect, including limited ground flora and canopy shading. In partnership, the BMC and the PDNPA forestry team identified measures to improve the local habitat for wildlife, and so set about thinning the dense conifers stands and felling other dead/dying trees.

Codes of Practice

The BMC has well-developed mechanisms for informing climbers and walkers of restrictions on their activities, and plays a key role in promoting observance and education. In particular a number of codes of practise have been developed and are widely promoted. For example: Codes for Group Use: a new poster featuring '10 Commandments' for bouldering good practice: a Southern Sandstone Code of Practise and the Leave No trace principles.

Formal Management Agreements

The BMC own or manage a number of key climbing sites – in particular the BMC have created a formal management agreement at Holwick Scar, Upper Teesdale, at Stone Farm Rocks, West Sussex and at Craig Pant Ifan, Tremadog.

Holwick Scar forms part of the Upper Teesdale Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the rich diversity of rare species and relict arctic-alpine plants. The site (including the other Whin Sill crags) is also of European importance with Special Area for Conservation and Special Protection Area designations.

The BMC, the Countryside Agency and English Nature created a Managed Access Regime in 2006 and access to the area was permitted for the first time in over 30 years. The site is monitored carefully every 12 months and climbing is permitted only on certain buttresses. Access comes with a number of concessionary guidelines negotiated by the BMC to ensure climbing does not damage the important nature interests. The area also has a high level of legal protection, and anyone damaging conservation interests is jeopardizing future access and can be punished by a large fine and/or imprisonment.

Through consultation with the Countryside Agency and English Nature, the BMC have produced the following guidance for climbers

- Do not remove/clean cliff vegetation - this is an illegal (and punishable) offence under the Wildlife and Countryside and CRoW Acts
- Climbing is only permitted on buttresses numbered 1 to 5 on the photos (under the white bars)

- Do not climb on the buttress between lines A-B identified opposite (between and including Great Chimney and Charlie's Chimney), or on rock under the lines C & D on buttress 3 or other voluntary restricted routes as shown on the enclosed crag guide.
- Avoid climbing onto the large vegetated ledges
- Do not abseil from trees
- Descend from buttresses 1 - 3 down the back. When topping-out from buttresses 4 and 5 descend via the large grassy gully on the right
- When moving between buttresses stay on the obvious 'sheep-track'
- Do not walk on ANY of the scree slopes
- Only approach the crag by the designated access point
- No instructional groups
- Follow the Countryside Code
- If you spot Ring Ouzel's in early-mid March, call English Nature

BMC Research

The BMC has facilitated research projects to investigate a number of conservation and recreational based issues. For example, in 2004 a study into the effectiveness of seasonal access restrictions to protect cliff and moorland nesting birds in England and Wales was undertaken. More recently, a number of ecological studies have been commissioned to monitor and assess the nesting and behavioural ecology of birds at some of the more popular climbing areas. The BMC are also in the process of producing a publication focusing on the management of woodland and vegetation on and around cliffs used by rock climbers in England and Wales. This good practice publication will include a series of case studies from around the country; its purpose will be to educate and inform landowners and countryside managers about the types of work that can be undertaken (and how the BMC can support this work), and the ecological and recreational benefits that such work can bring. The BMC are also working alongside the Ramblers Association and Roger Sidaway to look at the effects so far of the CRoW Act and the Scottish Land Reform Act.

All of these Research Projects are supported by the BMC Access, Conservation and Environment Group and by the Access and Conservation Trust. The Trust has funded over 13 projects in 2006 whose aims have been to promote sustainable access to cliffs, mountains and open countryside by facilitating education and conservation projects that safeguard the access needs of climbers, hill-walkers and mountaineers.

In Conclusion

The BMC fully endorse the 'best of both worlds' principle, striving to educate, inform and encourage our members to access the outdoors and experience, quiet, responsible recreation. An awareness of our environment and conservation issues at particular sites is crucial to the future of climbing, hill walking and mountaineering, and the BMC will endeavour to publicise codes of conduct and support conservation initiatives that help educate the public to this end.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

MANAGING RECREATION IN BRITAIN'S LEAST VISITED NATIONAL PARK

Paul Hawkins
Recreation Manager
Exmoor National Park Authority

Exmoor achieved National Park status in 1954. It is around 700 km² in size with over 1000 km of Public Rights of Way. 470 km of public bridleways make this one of the premier areas in Britain for horse riding. This was recognised as being one of the features leading towards Exmoor's designation as a National Park, although in recent years this network has also brought great benefit to off-road cyclists.

The purposes of the National Park Authority can be summarised as conserving the natural beauty, wildlife & heritage of the area and promoting opportunities for the enjoyment and understanding of the area. There is also a duty placed on the Authority to foster the social and economic well being of local communities. A recent change has been the removal of the caveat that this duty should be carried out 'without incurring significant expenditure' (NERC Act 2006). This may be seen as a small change in the wording of this duty, but for areas such as Exmoor which receive reasonably low visitor numbers and has declining numbers of agricultural workers, this does have an impact on the expectations on the Authority from the local population. It is interesting to note that National Parks in Scotland have four equal aims, one of which is 'to promote sustainable social and economic development of the communities of the area'.

Exmoor's economy and social fabric is built around agriculture and tourism, as with most rural areas in Britain. Agriculture brings in around £8.5m p/a of direct support payments (2004 State of Farming Study) whilst in tourism £32m p/a is spent on accommodation (STEAM 2006). Agriculture has long been overtaken by tourism as providing a larger income to the area. This is demonstrated further by looking at the percentage of Exmoor residents employed in both industries. In the 2001 census Hotels and catering employed 15.0% whilst all of agriculture, hunting and fisheries 13.9%

Considering the shift in emphasis of the duty by the NERC Act, and the historically reasonably low level of visitors to the area, Exmoor National Park Authority has been working on initiatives to boost the visitor spend to the area in sustainable and suitable ways. Tourism Market Intelligence from South West Tourism (November 2004) has told us the following.

Key growth areas: Short Break Holidays up 53%, Visits to Friends & Relatives up 24% but Long Holidays show a 0% increase.

The emerging growth markets have been identified as 'Relax & Recharge', 'It's Cool', 'It's Adventure' and 'Discover'. Taking away the jargon these are non-traditional markets that involve interaction between the visitor and the landscape, often for short periods but in intensive ways such as kayaking, caving and orienteering.

To 'tap into' these new trends and markets Exmoor National Park has been a key partner in re-focusing and extending Active Exmoor, an existing highly successful three year project. The previous 3 year project was coming to an end and had the remit of encouraging Exmoor's population to get out and use the 'outdoor playground' on its doorstep. To this end it encouraged local people to train as instructors in suitable activities. The project has now been continued for a further three years and expanded its activity towards sports tourism and encouraging visitors to the area to get out and explore.

Active Exmoor's new focus on the tourism market capitalises on Exmoor's capacity to deliver outdoor activities and sports to the wider regional and national population, to the benefit of the local community, activity suppliers and other tourism related businesses in the area. The project is being hosted by the county sports partnership, SASP (Somerset Active and Sports Partnership), with joint funding from Sport England South West, Exmoor National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, Somerset Rural Renaissance, along with West Somerset, Somerset County, Devon County and Dulverton Town Councils.

Since the project began in 2003, Active Exmoor, which received a £70,455 award through a Sport England Lottery fund, has been committed to increasing participation in outdoor activities and sports on Exmoor, within the local community, through promotion of existing opportunities and events, as well as pioneering its own clubs and activity programmes. In its first few months working with the tourism providers Active Exmoor helped secure the IRONMAN 70.3 European qualifying event for the world finals. It has been estimated that in 2006 this brought £250k direct spend to the area coupled to £3.5m equivalent advertising spend.

For 2007 Active Exmoor has secured Exmoor as host to the Tour of Britain road cycling race. This will bring in an estimated £150k of direct spend and around 3000 new visitors as well a potential 5000 cyclists in the pre-event ride for club riders.

Both of these events have been carefully managed to ensure that they will not have a detriment to the special qualities of the area whilst proving exceptionally good vehicles for raising the profile of Exmoor and increasing visitor spend to the area. Many of the traditional large events coming to Exmoor spent very little in the National Park and were keen to use sensitive areas of the Park in unsustainable ways. By attracting positive events this has lessened issues with potentially negative ones and helped ease pressure from local businesses looking to promote any event regardless of sustainability.

The Coleridge Way has been a multi-agency project to link the National Park with a neighboring Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Quantock Hills. Looking again at the latest tourism trends it was decided that the current suite of promoted routes in the area were too long for the average short stay visitor. The Coleridge Way is 36 miles making it achievable in 2-3 days (a long weekend) and taking visitors into the less-know areas of the Park, away from the main 'honey-pot' sites. It takes in many minor settlements that have not traditionally attracted many visitors and has an average of one pub every four miles. These new visitors arrive and depart on foot and have to purchase their food, drink and accommodation in the settlements.

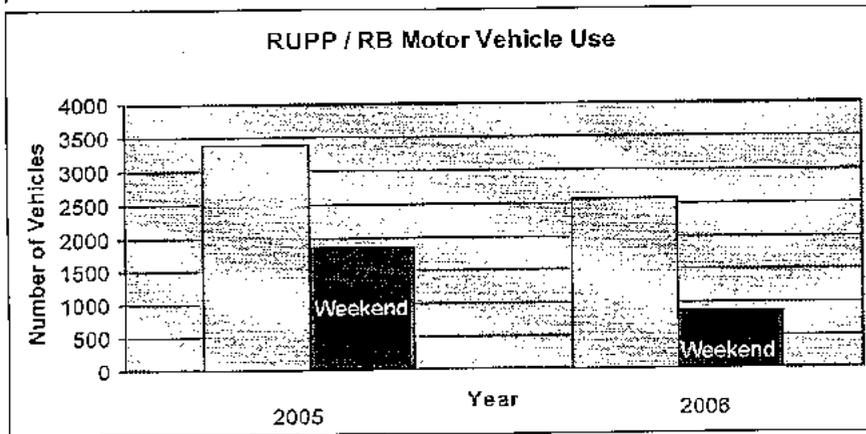
Businesses along the route are receiving significant benefit from walkers enjoying the new route, in particular the small rural village pubs and B&Bs on the Brendon Hills. On the back

of its success one new B&B has started up, enterprising B&Bs are offering baggage transfer and small hotels and walking holiday companies are now featuring the walk as part of their programme of guided or self guided walks. A few new small businesses have been encouraged to start with the success of the route. This route has proven that many members of the public really do like 'packaged countryside' that isn't too remote and gives a real sense of achievement within a short period of time. In the first year the route achieved over £100k of equivalent advertising spend and a separate £120k of equivalent television advertising spend for the area.

Horseriders and local equine businesses are also set to benefit from the Coleridge Way when a horse riding route from Nether Stowey to Exford is launched in May 2007. With the support of local landowners new bridleways will be opened to improve riding opportunities for those wishing to visit the area with a horse as well as local riders. The route takes in two newly established equine businesses and many settlements housing stabling.

On the more negative publicity side Exmoor is now home to 42 Restricted Byways (ex Roads Used as Public Paths). 26 of these Definitive Map Modification Orders were made before the NERC Act cut-off date. There has been general confusion amongst legitimate users whilst local people are confused at the continuing potential to upgrade these routes to Byways Open to All Traffic. Graph 1 shows the reduction in use of 13 Restricted Byways on Exmoor since the NERC Act. These routes were monitored for two months in 2005 before the commencement of Restricted Byways and for the same two months in 2006 after commencement. The figures show that overall use has fallen considerably, particularly at weekends which tend to be the peak time for recreational use.

Graph 1:



One of the issues leading on from this change in legislation has been the reporting of fewer, faster motorcycles. This appears to have been caused by uncertainty as to the legal status of these routes. Those motorcycles that are venturing out are keen not to be stopped and hence are riding faster.

At present Exmoor National Park Authority is considering writing management plans for each Restricted Byway. Trial public consultation on one contentious Restricted Byway has yielded some useful information but mostly this has been very one-sided and has not suggested creative solutions to the current issues.

Through the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Exmoor National Park Authority is looking at how best to provide for off-road driving enthusiasts in the region. There are lots of off-road driving schools on the internet but most only allow use of their own vehicles which does not appeal to the general enthusiast. There are three formal motor-cross practice sites in Devon but no trail bike sites. From the first meeting of different partners to identify suitable sites to fulfil this need the big issue appears to be the diversity of users needs.

Water Access has been another issue that may cause contention for some time. There are 135km of river on Exmoor, around 49km of these rivers are of a 'useable' size but only 15.8km of Rivers have some canoe access.

This limited water access appears to have lead in recent years to an increase in 'illegal' access runs. The British Canoe Union national open water access campaign has not been supported by Exmoor's Local Access Forum who support more access agreements. The South West is a pilot Environment Agency project area in 2007 to identify Canoe Access gains and Exmoor National Park Authority will be working closely with all partners to seek reasonable gains in sustainable access.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

RECONCILING GROUND NESTING BIRDS AND ACCESS

David Slater
Project Manager
Natural England

When dealing with the often emotive issues associated with conflict between access and nature conservation it's easy for both sides to lose sight of the bigger picture. The intensification of land use in England has forced vulnerable species to share the same space with 'recreationalists' and left the majority of the countryside undesirable for both parties.

This was illustrated well when open access was bestowed on our extensively managed land through the CRow Act resulting in most of it being protected for ground nesting birds.

The challenge for Natural England, as a statutory body responsible for both protected sites and species and access to the countryside is to reconcile these interests in a way that benefits both. The law often requires pre-emptive action for wildlife, and government policy requires minimum impact on the public's ability to enjoy the countryside. This requires good evidence if closures are to be avoided.

Evidence of recreational disturbance on birds

We know that birds fly away when people approach but what does this mean at the population level? It is important to understand where they go and what effect this has on their ability to breed and survive. This will depend on many other factors and proving that recreation was to blame is notoriously difficult.

The evidence is patchy to say the least, however we can reasonably conclude based on studies across a range of species that with those birds that nest on the ground on sites where breeding habitat is in short supply we are duty bound to take action to prevent this happening.

How to reconcile conflicts without closures?

The principles of access management are well understood. On well managed sites with good signage, wardening and well surfaced routes can allow relatively large amounts of visitors to enjoy sites where very rare and sensitive birds breed. On particularly busy sites the provision of alternative areas and an education strategy may be necessary.

This all costs money of course, sometimes quite a lot of money, It is more often or not, for Natural England, a case of not how we manage potential conflicts but where. In order to make the best use of available resources, management must be targeted.

Case Study: Open Access on Moorland Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

A third of new English access land under CRoW is moorland and all of this is protected for ground nesting birds including golden plover, curlew and merlin. These are huge areas with relatively low levels of visitor use on them. Natural England carried out an assessment of all moorland with Local Authorities and with a combination of local knowledge and spatial modelling was able to map out where local land managers should target their access management and wardening to enable walkers to enjoy their new rights without fear of disturbing breeding birds. This carefully planned approach has avoided the need for widespread closures.

Case Study: Housing development and heathland in the South East of England

Where to put 400,000 new homes in the South East? The government has placed a priority on building affordable homes. There are 40, 000 planned close to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA which is protected for its populations of nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warblers.

There are a lot of concerns about visitor pressure resulting from new housing and there is evidence that these species are vulnerable to disturbance. The ability to manage these sites and provide alternatives for visitors depends on the ability to target that effort. The wildlife legislation also requires evidence that this management is likely to prevent any impacts on bird populations. To gather this evidence and avoid unnecessary delays to badly need housing, Natural England has commissioned detailed research.

This research has involved visitor surveys and spatial modelling of likely visitor pressure in relation to suitable breeding habitat. This work is ongoing but it is likely that it will enable planners to advise where new housing can go ahead and where alternative green space needs to be provided.

In Summary

Disturbance to birds, for the purposes of access management planning is fairly well understood. The effects of access management are not. We need a better understanding of visitor flows and what determines them. More information will enable us to provide maximum public benefit from access management techniques to reconcile visitors and breeding birds.

And what about addressing the fact that natural accessible environment is lost to land use intensification?

Natural England will be producing an Access Toolkit to assist with reconciling nature conservation and outdoor recreation in the near future. Keep an eye on their website for further information www.naturalengland.org.uk

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

CASE STUDY - CASTLEMARTIN, WALES

Richard Brooks
Head of Access and Recreation
Ministry of Defence
and
Lynne Ferrand
Castlemartin Ranger
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Access on MOD Land

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) set out its presumption in favour of public access to the Defence Estate in its Estate Strategy in 2000. In the strategy refresh "In Trust and On Trust – 2006" MOD confirms that this continues to be the policy driver whilst ensuring that this presumption takes into account the defence requirement of any site, public safety, security and conservation issues.

Traditionally MOD has not been regarded as a significant provider of public access despite providing vast opportunities across the estate. To improve this MOD has been dedicating additional resources to public access as well as ensuring that it is taken into account in all land management planning.

Policy continues to develop through the publication of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) Strategic Statement on Public Access and Recreation which is currently being revised to form the new MOD Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate Strategic Statement on Public Access and Recreation.

An internal policy document covering all areas of the MOD is being drafted to give clear and concise guidance to estate managers and service personnel on the issue of public access and recreation. A database of all existing access provision across the estate is being pursued by the newly created Defence Estates Access and Recreation Team within their Environmental Support Group.

Recent initiatives and developments include the commitment to Integrated Land Management plans across the estate which take into account not only the military requirement for each area of land but also conservation, landscape, public access and the interests of tenants.

The old Defence Estates Public Access website has now been replaced with a much 'friendlier' version at www.access.mod.uk - work on this site continues to develop as MOD continues to increase the amount of information available online.

There are many on the ground projects being undertaken – often in partnership with local authorities, statutory bodies and representative groups such as the British Mountaineering Council and British Horse Society. One project that demonstrates how the MOD is working

with others to improve access in the spirit of the 'Best of Both Worlds' initiative is the work at our Castlemartin Range detailed below.

Castlemartin Range – A Case Study

A case study of the relationship between access, recreation and nesting birds; on a military training estate.

Military aspects

Castlemartin Range is part of the Defence Training Estate within South Pembrokeshire and is 6000 acres in size. It was formerly owned by the Cawdor Family who didn't want the MOD to have the land as it was renowned for its fertility and Castlemartin Black cattle. The war office requisitioned the land in 1938 evicting 53 tenant farmers. The Range was created in order to train British troops to fight against the Federal German Army.

The land returned to farming for a short period at the end of WWII but was reverted back into a Range at the start of the Korean War. It has remained a Range since this date.

In 1961, less than 20 years after the end of WWII, the German army moved to Castlemartin in order to train with the British troops against the Soviet Block. The Germans remained here for 35 years until the collapse of the 'Wall' which opened up training opportunities in their own country.

The Range is currently used for training in tanks and helicopters, plus beach landings and village attacks. Training takes place all year round except weekends, bank holidays and a month over Christmas.

Conservation aspects

The carboniferous limestone coastline, grassland edges and associated dunes are designated a SSSI for their geological and biological quality. There are 20 primary features including the silver studded blue butterfly, maritime grassland and the seabird colony.

The same area is designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SPA is primarily to protect the chough population but also for the peregrine, razorbills and guillemots. There are approximately 20 breeding pairs of chough, 12,000 guillemots and 1000 razorbills. The peregrines have failed to nest for 4 years. The SAC is to protect the feeding habitat for the chough and also the population of wintering and feeding greater horseshoe bats.

The Range coastline is also part of a larger Marine SAC which has recovered remarkably from the Sea Empress disaster which occurred only 11 years ago.

Access and Recreation

Pre-1950's there was limited public access due to health and safety, the training of troops, military debris and targetry. Today however, the main reason is due to unexploded ordnance. Before the 1960s the ammunition fired was not monitored so it was not known if

it exploded or not. Today all ammunition is monitored and if it doesn't explode it is self-detonated; but this still leaves a legacy of 20 years of unknown debris.

In 1952 the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park was designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. The whole of the Range is within the National Park.

The idea of a Pembrokeshire Coast National Trail was first thought of in 1951. It was designated in 1953 and took 150 individual creation orders and 17 years before it was opened in 1970. The path runs around the eastern half of Castlemartin Range but then heads inland. It cannot enter the western half of the Range due to the risk of unexploded ordnance.

The coast path improved access for walkers to part of the Range but MOD bylaws stated that there was to be no deviation from the line of the path. This meant that neither fishermen nor climbers could visit the cliffs or beaches. This caused some conflict as Castlemartin is renowned for having some of the best sea-cliff climbing in Europe.

So, how do you balance military training with access, recreation and conservation?

The flora and fauna have lived with gun fire and explosions for many years but could they cope with an increase in people and their recreational activities? The Military own the land and have priority for training – but what about when they are not training?

The Way Forward

In 1974 the Nugent Report was produced. This reviewed all MOD holdings and what was needed for training purposes. The report made recommendations on how to improve public access to MOD land as well as making provision for Range Conservation Officers. This led to the development of Conservation Groups and Castlemartin was the first Range in Wales to have its own group.

During this time the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), local and visiting climbers were putting pressure on the National Park Authority and MOD to improve access; though the climbers were climbing regardless of the bylaws.

The increased pressure and the creation of the Range conservation group led to the first cliff climbing liaison meeting in 1978. This was held to discuss the impact of climbing on sensitive bird species and it eventually led to the introduction of climbing restrictions. The restrictions protected the chough, peregrine, guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes during their nesting period. Although the restrictions are based throughout Pembrokeshire the majority are within Castlemartin Range.

Then in 1986 there was a huge breakthrough – the MOD reviewed their bylaws allowing people to legally visit the cliff edges and beaches.

Current Day

Thirty years later and the climbing restrictions are still in place. There is a cliff climbing liaison meeting held annually with representatives from the National Park, National Trust,

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), BMC, MOD, local climbers and Coastguard. The restrictions are reviewed, the bird nesting results analysed and health and safety issues discussed. One of the main points to be highlighted after 30 years is that the provision of accurate information is paramount.

An annual 'Cliff Climbing Leaflet' is produced which includes a map showing the location of the restrictions and the start and end date of each restriction. These are available from every car park leading to the climbing areas, from TIC's, campsites and from the local Café and Pub. There are also cliff top markers which show the actual location of the restriction on the ground. Information is also available on the National Park and BMC websites.

The use of restrictions to protect nesting birds from climbing disturbance is working. This is firstly because of the continual liaison and the fact that it is a two way partnership: the climbers often report birds nesting outside of the restricted areas and some assist CCW with bird-ringing and the conservationists ensure that the restrictions are lifted when either the birds fail to nest or when the chicks have fledged. And secondly because of the credibility and legitimacy of the restrictions – they are all in place to protect a particular bird during their nesting period.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

WORKSHOP A: SUSTAINABLE RECREATION

Facilitated by Bob Cartwright
Director of Park Services
Lake District National Park Authority

What does sustainable recreation look like in a sensitive environment? What is the role of special landscape qualities and countryside managers in the design of managed access solutions? How do we reconcile the importance and fragility of the historic environment with its attraction to charity and challenge events? Should event organisers be asked to "give something back" or does that imply that access is always OK as long as you pay? We will explore practical experience of managing mass recreation in the living, working, cultural landscape that is the Lake District and exchange ideas on how best to share good practice.

The workshop reached six principal conclusions:

1. We need to review regularly the means by which we share best practice.

New approaches such as the web-based Best of Both Worlds (BoBW) are valuable, but people learn in different ways; experiential learning, for example, personally sharing experience, and engaging in dialogue and action with other practitioners and users.

2. Natural England needs to help countryside management practitioners and users come together to share learning at national and local level.

There is a particular role in bridging the gap between Local Access Forums and the National Countryside Access Forum (NCAF) and restoring/ reinforcing NCAF's valuable role.

3. Codes of conduct have their place, and are particularly effective when they are produced collaboratively.

They become really potent when credible representatives of recreational users take the lead and champion responsible activity, backed by explicit support from relevant agencies and organisations.

4. Marketing principles are invaluable in securing effective management and promoting behavioural change.

A strategic approach; audience segmentation; appropriate communication channels and 'catching them young' are essential concepts.

5. Charity challenge events have a place in sensitive landscapes if they are promoted and managed responsibly.

But work is needed to make more accessible areas attractive and available to event organisers.

6. We should explore and pilot an accreditation system for responsible sustainable recreation providers.

Summary

What's the best way to share best practice?

Do we need another Roger Sidaway report? Best of Both Worlds is a very accessible website with good links. If the question is 'what is sustainability?' we need increasing understanding and interest, then we can educate. We need to promote and target the website, but remember we all learn differently, not just from websites. BoBW has a crucial and novel benefit in that the process of 'signing up' to the principles actively engages signatories in thinking carefully about what they're signing up to.

We need to shout out about successes. There are opportunities to 'boast' on the Local Government Association website. Perhaps we're too modest. BoBW is on the look out for successes and we should let them know of them. But we should acknowledge that practices might need testing over time. They could be modified or improved by engagement with a wider group of stakeholders or by adaptation in other circumstances.

But there are no shortcuts: relationships need to be nurtured to find out what works and what makes it work.

The Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) in Northern Ireland brings together different interested parties. Conferences are a good way to share and develop understanding. NCAF and the National Activities Forum have potential. Local Access Forums could broaden out and embrace more. We should approach issues with humility and really engage; sports and conservation workers working together; liaising rather than laying down the law.

We should advertise particular websites as exemplars – a possible direction for Natural England's strategy? This would save wasting time in finding good practice sites and would release more time for developing good practice.

NCAF was thought to have lost its way a bit and not all Local Access Forums are effective, though in the south west, Natural England have paid for coordinators to build capacity. Perhaps Natural England might do more to help and encourage LAFs, through training, perhaps. CAAN seems to be a model for how to get LAFs together on a regional scale, though it was acknowledged this is easier in a geographically smaller region.

How patient can we be in sorting out conflict affecting sensitive areas?

Do time scales need setting to focus attention on delivering change – or trying an alternative course of action? Some felt the decision rested on individual circumstances, but there was a view that we do need a marker of some sort, beyond which a type of recreation would be considered unsustainable.

Collaboration

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Natural England need to communicate in sharing best practice and securing more regional cross-cutting work. There are examples of some agencies and groups networking effectively e.g. Wildlife and Countryside Link and its sister organisations and sub-groups. A very useful way of bringing groups together;

there is also a need to involve the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR). These are useful vehicles for lobbying too.

But actual meetings are time consuming and one advantage of BoBW as a virtual meeting place is its reduced demand on time and travel.

Do Codes of Conduct work?

Too often they seem designed to help officers achieve their objectives, rather than the sport or the user. They can be too authoritarian and poorly targeted. We felt Authorities were often reluctant to use external mediation or seek outside help in problem solving.

We also felt there was little evidence that codes get to the target audience; that the people getting them weren't the people who needed them. There was a need for people, usually responsible users to act as the messenger and advocate for the code's message.

There is value in working with community groups and users, including non-traditional countryside users. The Mosaic Project was cited as good practice. We also need to engage non-users to identify new ways of working.

We need to identify the positives of accessibility, rather than emphasise the 'don'ts'. The National Trust, for example, is looking for better ways of explaining restrictions to people online and through downloadable MP3 messages from the ranger. Other forms of communication can reach non-traditional users and possibly the problem causers. The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) tries to celebrate positives and provide useful information on its website. Organisations need to listen and learn from these advances. Credibility is an issue and organisations can harness the commitment and credibility of activists to act as moles or champions.

In marketing and spreading information effectively, there's a need to segment the public, decide on the key messages and choose the best communication channels. We need a professional marketing approach. We should learn from the approach adopted by the more formal sports associations (e.g. rugby, football, and cricket) that get into the schools system early to develop awareness and enthusiasm. The principle applies too with recreation modules in Higher Education courses. Natural England are working with BoBW to better understand current course content. The new Countryside Code was quoted as an example of effective targeting at young people; they might not be able to recite the words but would appreciate the concept and demonstrate or articulate appropriate behaviour.

Charity Challenge Events

Examples were shared of codes of practice and the active involvement of the Institute of Fundraising on a charitable events code. It seemed, however, they were preparing to reinforce responsible practice through industry-enforced sanctions.

We briefly discussed the blurred line between professional and commercial events management and the trend towards charging for access e.g. Forestry Commission and United Utilities. But the discussion turned more to the strategic concept of striving to make more accessible areas of the countryside e.g. urban fringe, more attractive for such events, thus reducing demands on more fragile landscapes and communities. There would be

added benefits in a reduced carbon footprint. This could be an opportunity to explore as part of Natural England's accessible natural greenspaces ideas.

There was a feeling that we need a clearing house that promotes closer strategic thinking and working, which could refer organisers to alternative sites or use other areas for some services and facilities e.g. car parking. I could also promote currently under-used sites and promote good practice. It's worth remembering that some small local events are occasionally pushed into more sensitive green spaces because of onerous regulations insisted upon in urban areas e.g. traffic regulation regarding road races.

We noted that in any case, mass events don't always represent a means of supporting the local economy; little is often spent locally as organisations come fully equipped and provisioned. But we did see opportunities for identifying and creating a conduit for event participants to contribute to the environmental enhancement of the venue area – a variation on the 'visitor payback' concept.

Accreditation

We felt we could promote some form of accreditation scheme for responsible recreation providers who could demonstrate their credentials in planning, management, and ability to clean up post-activity, leaving the area in pristine condition for future activity.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

WORKSHOP B: UNRESOLVED CONFLICTS

Facilitated by Roger Sidaway
Independent Research and Policy Consultant

Workshop Aims

To identify:

- Examples of Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation cases might be mediated.
- Additional skills and resources that would be required; and
- Training needs

Most of the 23 participants had prepared a Case Study of an Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation conflict in advance with information on its key features, namely:

- What it was about
- Whether it had a history
- Who was involved - individuals and organisations; and its apparent cause - whether it was based on
 - Misunderstandings: lack of information or poor communication between the parties;
 - Interests competing for the same resource, e.g., financial gain or control
 - Differences in Fundamental Beliefs

If the participants' conflict contained the elements of Misunderstandings, competing Interests and differences in fundamental Beliefs, they were asked to write the title of their conflict on one or more post-it(s). These were then arranged on a wall chart with the aim of identifying conflicts based entirely on differences in beliefs and eliminating them from further consideration on the (theoretical) grounds that they could not be negotiated or mediated. In the event, no conflicts of this type were identified.

Conflicts containing only one factor:

Misunderstandings	Competing Interests	Differences in Beliefs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog walking and ground nesting birds• Upper Moss Side farm (wading birds and visitors)• Model flying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riverside walks – urbanising access in limited natural environment• Blubberhouses (motor bikes)	

Combinations of Factors

Misunderstandings/ competing Interests	Misunderstandings/Beliefs	Misunderstandings/com peting Interests/Beliefs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing on Walthamstow Marshes • Stone Curlew and open access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance by dogs on breeding wader habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog walking and fouling on urban wildlife sites • Sustainability protocols over byways • Kite buggy use on National Nature Reserves • Bredon Hill • Dog walkers versus fencing for grazing • Commons: fencing and grazing of s193 LPA and schemes of regulation • Malvern Hills: people and dogs versus grazing • Access to water: canoeing versus fishing • Mountain bikes on areas heavily used by elderly walkers

[Roger Sidaway comments: Given more time for discussion, a more consistent classification could have been prepared for certain types of conflict, e.g. dog walking and grazing. NB 9 of the 17 cases contained the combination of all three factors, which is consistent with my experience from other workshops.]

The workshop then split into four groups to consider a Case Study from those presented by members of the group. The groups were asked to consider:

- the information on misunderstanding, competing interests and fundamental beliefs;
- whether there was external pressure to reach a solution and whether it was within the parties' power to settle or whether the conflict was part of a wider dispute;
- whether the group considered that negotiation is feasible and if so whether the assistance of mediator is required;
- who would initiate the negotiations and what would be the purpose and scope of the negotiation; and
- what skills and resources would be required.

CASE STUDY 1: Grazing in the Malvern Hills

- **Misunderstandings and Information:** (combined by the group as lack of information leads to misunderstanding)
 - *Fears – arising from ineffective consultation early in the project*
 - *Lack of baseline data*
 - *Lack of clear objectives (boundary fence versus compartments)*
 - *Lack of knowledge about cattle grids*
 - *Who should pay and the availability of external funds*
- **Interests** competing for the same resource
 - *Conservation value*
 - *Commoners rights*
 - *Capital and Revenue Funding*
 - *Cattle grids (local residents)*
 - *Site users and Local users*
- **Other material factors**, such as
 - *Government policy (SSSI Targets)*
 - *Legislation*
 - *Funding (capital and revenue)*

Conclusions

- *Negotiation is feasible*
- *Mediator not required*
- *Has short-term fix made problems for long term?*
- *Need a funding solution*

CASE STUDY 2: Dogs on Dunes (NNR)

- **Conflicts**
 - *Dogs versus conservation interests (disturbance to birds not breeding)*
 - *Dogs versus other users (bird watchers, other walkers, school visits, disabled users)*
- **Issues**
 - *Dogs range away from paths,*
 - *Up to 200 dogs a day, increase over 30 years now more pressure/problem*
 - *Visitor use up by a quarter*
 - *Information on dog impacts*
- **Management (unresolved problems)**
 - *Dog poo bins, dog obedience classes*
- **Recent changes**
 - *dogs restricted elsewhere - therefore more pressure*
 - *professional dog walkers bring packs of dogs*

- **Options**
 - *Dogs must be on leads – but lose local support*
 - *Wardens to talk to visitors (but volunteers don't like conflict)*
 - *Local mediation*
 - *Clear scrub to provide more dog walking areas*

- **Conclusions**
 - *50% dog walkers are local so negotiation is feasible*
 - *Natural England, Wildlife Trusts (MOD) own land*

- **Aims**
 - *to reduce impact*
 - *not ban dogs*
 - *spotlight NNR and encourage visitors*
 - *need to provide other places for dogs to go*
 - *Skills/resources/ training*
 - *Specific information on impacts*
 - *What are dog walkers needs/wants*
 - *Build up evidence that change is needed*

CASE STUDY 3: Dogs and Disturbance to Breeding Birds in the New Forest

- **Misunderstandings**
 - *history of miscommunication, dog owners lose their rights*
 - *slippery slope to [gather?] constraints*

- **Information**
 - *differing views on ecological impacts of dogs versus breeding bird success*

- **Interests/Beliefs**
 - *Both Forestry Commission and New Forest Dog [owners] have rights over the land.*

- **Conclusions**
 - *Negotiation seems feasible*
 - *The assistance of a mediator is required*
 - *Who would initiate a mediated negotiation? The new National Park Authority is a fresh face, has minimum baggage and both nature conservation and access roles.*
 - *Who might be the mediator – an organisation or an independent individual? Professional skilled competent mediator is required to emphasise neutrality;*
 - *Joint funding – again promotes no single axe to grind*
 - *Approval of Authority members would be required, joint interviews*
 - *What skills and resources would be required?*
 - *Takes time and money*
 - *Changes in organisational mindsets*
 - *[Government agenda for community engagement]*

CASE STUDY 4: Bredon Hill – Farm diversification

- **Issues**
 - *Change of land use: 4x4 driving on private land for income*
- **Misunderstandings and Information**
 - *Locals fear of:*
 - *noise*
 - *frighten wildlife*
 - *ruin landscape*
 - *what next?*
 - *Local press have got hold of story and blown it up out of proportion*
- **Conclusions**
 - *Two parties not talking*
 - *Need an independent mediator – someone locally respected and recognised as being impartial*
 - *Fact finding is essential – are locals' fears justified?*
 - *Hold an open day on the farm.*

Overall Conclusions and Comments by Roger Sidaway

- Negotiation was required in all the case studies and the need for impartial mediation was identified in two of them.
- Fact finding in some form to reduce uncertainty (particularly on the impacts of recreational activities in conservation) was needed in all four cases.
- Financial resources were also required to research the impacts, pay for any mediation and the implementation of an agreed solution.
- Although training needs were not explicitly identified, implicitly they were required as in the case of getting 'changes in organisational mindsets' in the New Forest.
- One of the training needs that I have identified is to develop a real understanding of mediation, so that agency staff can recognise when they need external help and can act as an 'internal advocate' for the use of mediation.
- Events – such as a farm open day – can help to break the ice and improve communication.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION'

WORKSHOP C: LEGISLATION OR EDUCATION?

Facilitated by Andrew Hanson
Head of Policy
Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)

Purpose of workshop

The workshop explored the respective roles of legislation and education in creating an environment in which outdoor sport and recreation participants adhered to accepted good practice in activities. Participants were drawn from a range of backgrounds including statutory agencies and voluntary organisations such as National Governing Bodies.

Legislation

The workshop first considered the range of legislation which impacts on the level and nature of access to outdoor environments. In general terms some legislation was considered to be enabling (for instance the Land Reform (Scotland) Act), whilst other legislation was considered to be restricting. When considered more fully however it was apparent that much legislation occupied a place on a sliding scale of which 'enabling' and 'restricting' were opposite ends. Some legislation was in fact supportive for particular activities, whilst also restricting others.

The group agreed that legislation had a role in establishing the basic framework for access to the countryside. However, in order for this to be effective the law needed to be clear and well communicated so that people fully understood their rights and responsibilities. In addition to this it was important that law is in fact enforced, otherwise tensions simply grow as some people abide by it and others do not.

Finally it was felt that in many instances the perception of law-breaking was far greater than the reality. Most countryside recreation takes place without incident or conflict and therefore goes un-remarked. Where conflicts do occur these often gain exposure disproportionate to their scale.

Education

There was clear support in the room for the role of user-groups in defining good practice and educating individual users in applying this. As with legislation however, there were a number of pre-requisites to ensuring that education fulfilled its role effectively.

The starting point for a successful education campaign was agreement of the key principles of good practice. The ability of user-groups to do this depends on a number of factors including:

- Maturity – where an activity is long established and has a widely recognised governing body there is a stable base from which to develop and disseminate good

practice. However where there are emerging activities and representative bodies it is harder to establish a single view of good practice;

- Statutory recognition of representative body – some governing bodies enjoy statutory recognition for aspects of their operation. For instance the British Model Flying Association is recognised by the Civil Aviation Authority for its role in agreeing use of airspace;
- Acceptance of the current legal situation – in some activities there is agreement between agencies and user-groups with regard to the legal situation governing access. In others user-groups may dispute the level of access they currently enjoy by law.

Assuming that user-groups are able to agree on good practice amongst themselves and with agencies, the next step is to encourage their members and ultimately non-affiliated participants to abide by this practice. Governing bodies can employ a range of tools to do so:

- Incentive – National Governing Bodies (NGBs) are able to offer a number of membership benefits to encourage participants to join, a classic example being third party liability insurance. Once a participant has joined the NGB it is in a position to influence the individual's behaviour;
- Standard setting – NGBs define standards for technical performance, coaching etc. By building environmental good practice it becomes embedded in participation practices – the 'blue green' initiative supported by the Royal Yachting Association is an example of this;
- Peer sanction – peer groups are powerful influencers and where an individual is found to be breaching good practice, informal sanction may change practice. Clearly the NGB also has formal disciplinary processes to hand if required.

Other channels

During discussion it became clear that independent media can influence participant behaviour. There are many activity specific magazines and websites, with no links to the relevant national governing body. These may promote practice which does not fit with the NGB view. Whilst this may at first appear negative it does enable the NGB to engage in the debate regarding practice with non –members. NGBs are encouraged to engage with non-affiliated participants through these media

Conclusion

Workshop participants concluded that a clear and enforceable legal framework was required to govern the extent and nature of access at a fundamental level. Beyond this user-groups had a massive role to play in defining, disseminating and promoting good access to affiliated and non-affiliated participants. The group recognised that there were a number of challenges to overcome in doing this, but that a range of tools existed to assist the process.

In addition to this the group felt that tolerance was a key ingredient to promoting good practice and preventing conflict. In comparison to many countries, Britain has a small

amount of countryside for its population to visit. This space is used by a large number of people for a variety of activities. The more people are willing to engage with those who enjoy other activities, the more they will understand them and their needs, thus leading to reduced conflict between countryside users.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

'OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE 'CONSERVATION'

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Geoff Hughes
Chairman
Countryside Recreation Network

Although those attending the event will take away their own conclusions it falls to me as the chairman of the day to reflect on some of the issues we discussed.

My overall impression is that if we face declining participation in outdoor recreation and as explained by Chris Gordon we need to work hard to provide exciting opportunities to stimulate demand to be able to resist the temptation of sedentary lifestyles in an urban setting. It seems to me that there are far greater threats to the countryside than the wave of recreation that was seen by many as the threat to fabric of the countryside and fragile ecosystems in the 70s and 80s. We need to respond to the demand for a wider range of activity in the outdoors to meet the future needs of diverse communities many of whom will be living in tightly packed towns and cities.

Doug Kennedy reflected on the origins of the "Best of Both Worlds" and the need for conservation and recreation to work together. Roger Sidaway reinforced my belief that with good planning and management there is a place for all activities in the countryside.

The fears that were expressed by some about "open access" particularly those who earn their living from the land in more traditional ways have largely proved to be groundless. Many of the issues about protection of habitats have been resolved through the management techniques conservationists and those who take part in outdoor recreation have learned, planning not banning seems to have taken root over the last 20 years. Cath Flitcroft spoke about the work of the BMC which has a long track record in seeking to protect the environments that we should all be encouraging people to come and enjoy.

Paul Hawkins talked about initiatives that are being taken to encourage people to come and visit Exmoor, repackaging the countryside to respond to changes in society and taking the pressure off the remoter more sensitive environments by encouraging visitors to parts of the Park that will maximize the economic benefit and attract new types of tourism. Walks between pubs seemed to stick in my mind – I can't understand why!

I was also impressed by the enlightened approach being taken by the Ministry of Defence. Historically my own view has been one of "no go areas". But Richard Brooks and Lynne Ferrand explained the approach being taken to accommodate visitors in ways which protects habitats and operational requirements and most importantly of all poses no problems of visitor safety.

I can't sum up the workshops as I only attended one and anyway rapporteurs did an excellent job on the day. My overall impression was one of excellent networking and sharing of good practice, consensus building even!

I hope everyone enjoyed the day. The feedback forms seem to suggest you did.

APPENDIX A

**Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation Seminar
PROGRAMME**

- 09.30 *Registration*
- 10.00 **Welcome by Chair** (*Geoff Hughes, Chairman, Countryside Recreation Network*)
- 10.05 **New Trends in Outdoor Recreation** (*Chris Gordon, Natural England*)
- 10.25 **Introducing the Best of Both Worlds Concept** (*Doug Kennedy*)
- 10.35 **Resolving Environmental Disputes** (*Roger Sidaway, Independent Research and Policy Consultant*)
- 11.05 *Refreshments*
- 11.30 **The Work of a National Governing Body** (*Cath Flitcroft, BMC Conservation and Access Officer*)
- 11.50 **Managing Recreation in Britain's Least Visited National Park** (*Paul Hawkins, Exmoor National Park Authority*)
- 12.10 **Question and Answer Panel session**
- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 13.15 **Reconciling Ground Nesting Birds and Access** (*David Slater, Natural England*)
- 13.35 **Case Study - Castlemartin, Wales** (*Richard Brooks, MoD and Lynne Ferrand, Castlemartin Ranger*)
- 13.55 **Workshop Session** (Choice of A, B or C)
- 15:00 *Refreshments*
- 15.15 **Feedback from Workshops**
- 15.30 **Question and Answer Panel Session**
- 15.50 **Summary**
- 16.00 **CLOSE**

WORKSHOP CHOICES

A – Sustainable recreation in sensitive environments and the role of special landscape qualities in the design of managed access solutions. The importance of the historic environment and the attraction to charity and challenge events of these sensitive sites. Should event organisers be asked to "give something back"?
Facilitator: Bob Cartwright, Lake District National Park Authority

B – Unresolved conflicts and their challenges to conservation/recreation/land manager relations. Different examples of unresolved situations/conflicts. What skills and resources are needed for conflict resolution? Is there a need for training?
Facilitator: Roger Sidaway, Independent Research and Policy Consultant

C – Legislation or education. Where do self regulating codes of conduct and education work best? For the freedom loving 'ragged fringe', who are not members of governing bodies, is legislation the only option for resolving problems?
Facilitator: Andrew Hanson, CCPR

APPENDIX B

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

**Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation Seminar
The Centre in the Park, Norfolk Park, Sheffield
Wednesday 24 January 2007**

CHAIR

**Geoff Hughes BSc, DMS, MRTPI
Chairman
Countryside Recreation Network**

Former policy lead officer for Sport England on countryside and water recreation and for 3 years a Director of his own leisure, planning and open space consultancy.

Independent Chairman of the UK and Ireland Countryside Recreation Network, CABE Space adviser, Chairman of the Durham County Local Access Forum and Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute for 30 years.

SPEAKERS

Chris Gordon
Specialist
Social and Economic Evidence Team
Natural England

Chris Gordon is the Specialist in Recreation in the Social and Economic evidence team of Natural England. Chris originally trained in Geography and Countryside and Recreation Management. Apart from a brief interlude in banking, throughout most of his career he has worked on projects linking the natural environment and peoples lives. He has worked for a diverse range of organisations including Groundwork in Salford and Trafford, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, The National Trust, Sheffield City Council, The Wildlife Trusts UK national office, The Countryside Agency, English Nature and now Natural England. Chris is also a long standing Green Flag Parks judge; and panel member for the Community Foundation Lincolnshire's Local Network Fund. He also enjoys running (marathons slowly), Tai chi, is married with two children and enjoys the odd pint of Guinness!

Doug Kennedy M.Sc.
Chairman, Best Of Both Worlds

A life-long environmentalist and outdoor enthusiast, Doug Kennedy has participated in hill running, walking, orienteering and skiing since his youth, starting Sheffield University Orienteering Club in 1968. He became a biology teacher in the early 70s and has been an environmental activist ever since, although he has since switched from teaching to computers. In 1999, he became the Environment Officer for the British Orienteering Federation and as a result, represented that body on the CCPR Outdoor Pursuits panel. This post inspired him to select conflict between outdoor sports and conservation bodies as his topic for an M.Sc. dissertation (Environmental Decision Making through the Open University) and this work lead to the Best Of Both Worlds project which he now chairs. He continues to run and to write letters and is currently looking for a new project.

Dr Roger Sidaway
Independent Research and Policy Consultant

Having worked in recreation and tourism planning for the Forestry Commission and the Countryside Commission, Roger Sidaway became an independent research and policy consultant in 1987. Since then he has worked on environmental conflicts and conflict resolution in assignments for a wide range of organisations in the UK. His seminal work on the environmental impacts of recreation and tourism for a wide range of government and voluntary organisations included the first 'good practice' guide on the topic. This work led to his appointment as a Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment when it reported on the Environmental Impacts of Leisure in 1995.

He has trained in the USA and Britain as an environmental and community mediator and holds certificates in public participation planning and techniques. The combination of research and practice experience has contributed to his post-graduate teaching and training at the University of Edinburgh, where he is an Honorary Fellow of the School of Geo-sciences. In addition he has conducted training courses in consensus building and public participation for IUCN Pakistan, Coillte Eire, the University of Maine and the Irish Fisheries Board; and in conflict management for the Department for International Development. He has regularly conducted workshops at conferences of the International Association for Public Participation in Canada and the USA. He is a director of the Scottish Mediation Network, chairing its environmental mediation initiative.

His recent practical experience of participatory work in the UK has included the design and facilitation of workshops on visitor management with local communities and recreation groups, ranging from the Highlands of Scotland to the City of Edinburgh. He worked for English Nature on the Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve participatory Planning Project and is currently advising the City of Edinburgh Council on the formation of a green space partnership for the city.

His book - *Resolving Environmental Conflicts: from conflict to consensus*, published by Earthscan in April 2005, draws on this research and his doctorate in environmental conflict resolution at the University of Edinburgh. It utilises relevant theory in the evaluation of case studies of conflict, mediation and partnerships from the UK, USA and the Netherlands. The analysis focuses on the issues of consensus building, power and the political process.

Dr Catherine Flitcroft
Access and Conservation Officer
British Mountaineering Council (BMC)

Having completed a BSc in Environmental Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, Cath spent many years in the Scottish wilderness as an archaeologist. She began her PhD at Edinburgh in 1998 looking at Blanket Peat initiation in south west Scotland. Her student days were cut short however, when she was unable to complete fieldwork as a result of foot and mouth. Consequently, she obtained employment with the Environmental Charity Groundwork as an Education Officer and then with the Peak District National Park Authority (Moors for the Future) as Research Manager and Blanket Bog expert.

In 2006, Cath joined the BMC as their Access and Conservation Officer and also completed her PhD having done so part time. Her work covers a wide range of areas, in particular policy and legislation (currently working on coastal access), CRoW related issues, commenting on numerous consultation documents, campaign work, writing articles for various magazines, environmental policy work and regional / partnership projects.

**Paul Hawkins
Recreation Manager
Exmoor National Park Authority**

Paul Hawkins works as the Recreation Manager for Exmoor National Park Authority for delivering projects such as a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the National Park and the CRoW Act Part One right of open access on foot for 18000 Ha. Prior to this Paul worked as an outdoor education worker on Exmoor.

**David Slater
Specialist Advisor
Natural England**

After studying Zoology at Nottingham and completing a Masters in Ecology and Environmental Management at York, he spent 2 years as a researcher at the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford. Dave has also spent 6 years in Africa, most recently in Botswana where he helped establish and run some of the first community based bush camps for foreign tourists.

Based in the Yorkshire Dales, Dave is a national specialist for Natural England providing advice on the reconciliation of access and nature conservation. Previously with English Nature, his work covers a wide range of areas including off road vehicles on the moors, bridleways on beaches and houses on heathlands. Dave strongly advocates positive approaches to reconciling potential conflicts, preferring education to restriction and sees statutory measures as the very last resort.

**Richard Brooks
Head of Access and Recreation
Ministry of Defence**

Having worked for 3 years in the clothing industry Richard made a complete career change in 1991 when he joined Seale-Hayne Agricultural College. Graduating in 1994 Richard then joined Exmoor National Park Ranger Service undertaking various projects for 3 years. Subsequently he joined Dartmoor National Park Ranger Service as an Area Ranger where he happily wallowed in the bogs and mires for 7 years.

Richard joined the MOD 3 years ago as the sole Access and Recreation Adviser for the Defence Estate. He now heads up a small team of other Access Advisers and is the Head of Profession for the Ministry of Defence offering support to other MOD staff involved with access management. His team advise on all issues in relation to public access, recreation and interpretation on MOD sites across the UK and abroad and are responsible for all statutory access provision.

**Lynne Ferrand
Ranger
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority**

Employed by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and funded by the Park (25%), Countryside Council for Wales (25%) and Defence Estates (50%). Lynne's patch includes the 4 military training areas in South Pembrokeshire which vary in size and use. She is involved with the access, recreation and conservation aspects of the Ranges and has been in the role for 3 1/2 years.

**Bob Cartwright
Director of Park Services
Lake District National Park Authority**

Bob has been at the forefront in developing effective planning and management techniques both in the Lake District and on behalf of the wider family of National Parks. In reconciling the interests of land and water management, recreation and conservation, local people and users have always been at the heart of his approach.

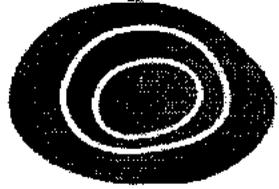
He has forged a range of partnerships to secure high standards of countryside management, ranging from promoting access for people with limited mobility to ensuring the sensitive management of osprey breeding sites. He has championed measures to combat the damaging effects of path erosion, large-scale recreational events, mountain biking and 'green road' motorcycling and four wheel driving. Bob played a key role for the Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) as the Countryside and Rights of Way Act found its way onto the statute book, and established the Lake District's Local Access Forum. He represents ANPA on the National Countryside Access Forum.

Bob was a founder member of the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership in 1993 and is an adviser to the Board of Directors.

**Andrew Hanson
Head of Policy
Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)**

Andrew Hanson is Head of Policy at CCPR which is the representative body for 265 national sport and recreation organisations. CCPR's policy priorities include developing sustainable access to land and water for recreation, and supporting good practice in outdoor and adventurous activities. When Andrew has the opportunity to escape London he enjoys white water canoeing and hill-walking, and therefore understands fully the need to balance recreation and conservation interests.

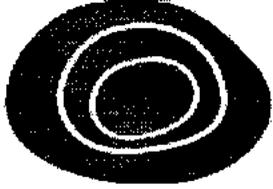
APPENDIX C



Countryside Recreation Network

Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation Seminar
24 January 2007
Delegate List

Janet	Baguley	Natural England
Roger	Bellingham	British Model Flying Association
Nick	Birkbeck	Environment Agency
Sarah	Boyd	Environment Agency
Katrina	Brown	Macaulay Land Use Research Centre
Emily	Bryce	National Trust
Daniel	Buck	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Antony	Burns	Cumbria County Council
Sam	Chapman	Environment Agency
Richard	Cooke	Natural England
Justin	Cooke	The Ramblers' Association
Catriona	Cooke	Byways and Bridleways Trust
Simon	Cooter	Natural England
Rachael	Cranch	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Matthew	Croney	Peak District National Park Authority
Bridget	Dales	Scottish Natural Heritage
Gwyn	Ebdale	Cornwall County Council
Saira	Evans	New Forest National Park Authority
Doug	Fraser	Sheffield Hallam University
David	Giles	Trail Riders Fellowship
John	Griffin	Forest Service Northern Ireland
Rob	Havard	Malvern Hills Conservators
Jenny	Heskett	Cornwall County Council
Chris	Hogarth	Natural England



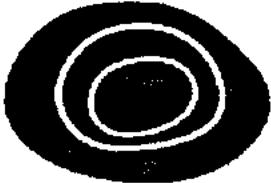
Countryside Recreation Network

Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation Seminar

24 January 2007

Delegate List

Andy	Jones	Peak District National Park Authority
Katharine	Longden	Penny Anderson Associates
Andrew	Mackintosh	Natural England
Sarah	Manchester	New Forest National Park Authority
Mike	McClure	Sports Council for Northern Ireland
Judy	Merryfield	Peak District National Park Authority
Bob	Milton	Open Spaces Society
Neil	Oxley	Witton Country Park Visitors Centre
Simon	Pedley	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Susanna	Perkins	Natural England
Dave	Phipps	British Model Flying Association
Claire	Quigley	Environment Agency
Julia	Rand	Natural England
Mike	Rhodes	Peak District National Park Authority
Joe	Roberts	Countryside Council for Wales HQ
Ian	Rowat	Malvern Hills Conservators
Sarah	Skinner	Natural England
Colin	Slafor	Harrogate Borough Council
Chris	Smith	Natural England
Matt	Strickland	Environment Agency
Graeme	Stringer	Forestry Commission
Sheila	Talbot	Natural England
David	Taylor	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
Ken	Taylor	Asken Ltd



Countryside Recreation Network

Outdoor Recreation and Nature Conservation Seminar

24 January 2007

Delegate List

Rosalind	Taylor	Asken Ltd
Julian	Taylor	National Federation of Anglers
Hugh	Tyler	Natural England
Christie	Webster	Environment Agency
Heather	Whetter	Natural England
Henry	Whittaker	The British Horse Society
Simon	Wightman	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Bruce	Wilkinson	Moors for the Future Partnership
Geoff	Wilson	Land Access & Recreation Association

APPENDIX D




Countryside Recreation Network

For information on seminars, publications and to download the latest copy of the Journal: VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.counsiderecreation.org.uk](http://www.countryside recreation.org.uk)

New Trends in Outdoor Recreation



Chris Gordon

Introduction



- Recent research
 - Henley Centre/ Headlight Vision
 - England Leisure Visit Survey
 - The Active People Survey

Henley Centre Headlight Vision Research




What are the main factors which will inform the development of Outdoor Recreation in England over the next 20 years and what are the implications of these for Natural England's outdoor recreation strategy between now and 2015?

www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Recreation/category_research.asp?printable=true

England Leisure Visits Survey



The main aims of the survey were to:

- Measure the extent of participation in Leisure Visits by the adult population (aged 16 and over).
- Estimate the total number of Leisure Visits and their economic value.
- Provide information on trip details

Characteristics of visitors

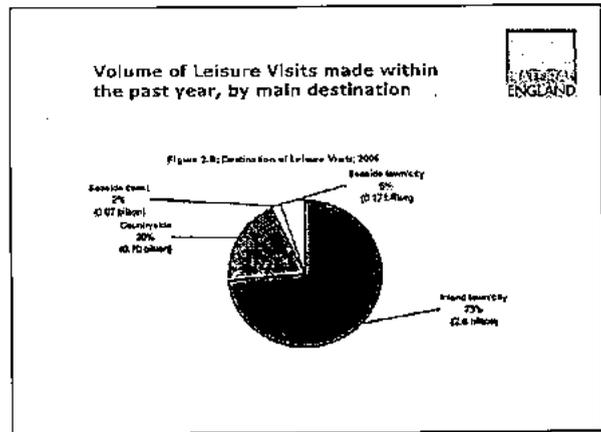
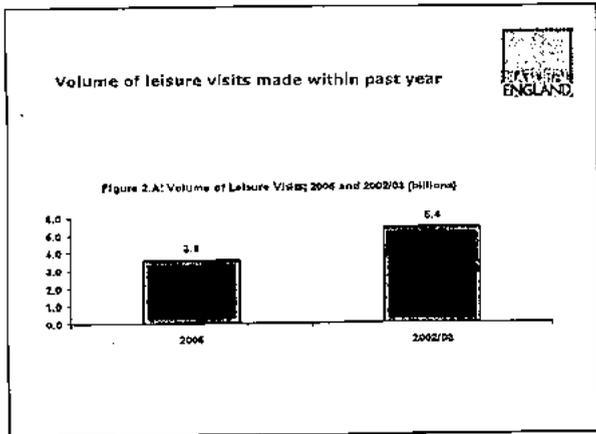
- Trip characteristics
- Activities undertaken on visits
- Destinations visited

<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Recreation/details/index.asp>

Active People Survey



- Telephone survey 363,724 adults in England
- Participation in Sport and active recreation for 354 Local Authorities in England
- Min 1000 interviews in each LA from 15 Oct 2005
- Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England
- www.activepeoplesurvey.com



Destination of Leisure Visits (2005)

	Number millions	
	2005	2003
Open access land	19m	
National Parks	35m	
Water without boats	86m	129
Water with boats	65m	129
Woodland/forest	170m	246

- Fewer people say they have made a leisure visit in the last week
 - (63% in 2005 = 74% in 2002/3 an 11% decrease)
 - Average number of trips decrease from 3.3 to 2.8
- Why not? Too busy 40%
Poor health 22%

Ageing population

- People are living longer
 - By 2011 life expectancy will have increased to 82 for women & 77 for men (from 79.6 and 74.6 in 1997 respectively)
- Agelessness, a growing trend
 - Older generations enjoy activities not traditionally associated with 'someone of their age'

35
25
15
5
% of UK population over 65 years of age
1950 1970 1990 2010 2030 2050

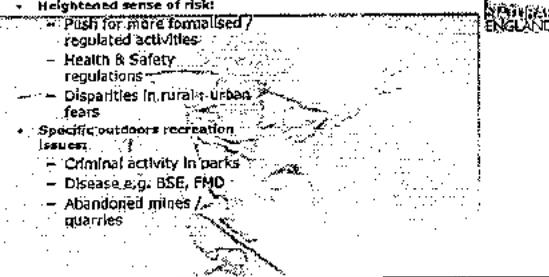
Catering for a changing demographic
Growing retired population with growing leisure needs, in terms of frequency, intensity and variety

Young People

- Young People are less active than previous generations
 - Obesity 2-10 yr olds 9.9% in 1995 to 14.3 2004
 - 2010 20% ?
- The Lost Cohort?
 - Henley Centre research
- Wild Adventure Space
 - Outdoor environments potential to confer numerous benefits

Risk Society

- Heightened sense of risk
 - Push for more formalised / regulated activities
 - Health & Safety regulations
 - Disparities in rural-urban fears
 - Specific outdoors recreation issues
 - Criminal activity in parks
 - Disease, e.g. BSE, FMD
 - Abandoned mines / quarries



Increasing concerns around safety and sensitivity to risk
Outdoors recreation presents a variety of risks to participants

Source: Natural England, 2002 and 2003



- There are less of us out there enjoying the outdoors

Fragmentation of leisure

- Expansion of the tourism industry leads to greater diversification of leisure
- There has been a rise in niche activities
 - power gliding, jet-skiing, advanced mountain biking activities
- Tides of 'fad interests'
 - 'all terrain boarding'
- Potential conflicts added to current tensions
 - Anglers : canoeists, Horse-riders : ramblers



Outdoor recreation has become more fragmented
People are demanding more variety of outdoor activity

Source: CBE, 2002 and 2003



Sport & Recreation Activities: Active people Survey

- Top 74 activities 20 Outdoor Recreation
 - 1 Recreation Walking 20% population (8m)
 - 4 Recreational Cycling 7.8% population (3m)
 - 6 Running/jogging 4.6% population (1.8m)



- Those that are in recreating in the outdoors demand more & are making more sophisticated and varied choices



Social inclusion

- Polarisation of Incomes:
 - The rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer
- Growing disparities in participation of outdoor recreation:
 - 55% of ABC1s have taken a leisure trip in the past 2 weeks, compared with 44% of C2DEs*
- Growing political will:
 - "Diversity review of how we can encourage...more people from inner cities to visit the countryside and participate in country activities." Rural White Paper, 2000

	% share of total income by household	
	Top 10%	Bottom 10%
1979	4.4	20
1990	5.2	25
1995	5.5	24
2010	5.5	30

Source: 2000 'The Income Gap: A Review of Income' 2000; based on the 2002 8th - City Life Survey
* This table compares population for ABC1s (2001)

Social exclusion in outdoor recreation
Greater income disparity leading to outdoor recreation dominated by higher income groups

Source: 2000 'The Income Gap: A Review of Income' 2000; based on the 2002 8th - City Life Survey

The Best Of Both Worlds Project

An Update

Origins

- "Conservation is the biggest threat to the future of outdoor pursuits." (Chairman of the CCPR Outdoor Pursuits Division, 1999)
- "Evidence on the impact of leisure on the environment suggests that it is not as bad as often made out..." (The Environmental Impact Of Leisure Activities, House of Commons 1995)

The BoBW Message

- It is possible to support and enhance recreational opportunities can be whilst also protecting and advancing conservation interests.
- This is not a 'balance' between conservation and recreation.

The Web Site

- BoBW Principles
- Framework
- Advice
- Links
- Sample agreements and codes of practice

The Future

- Threats:
 - Development
 - Global warming
- Answers:
 - Be vigilant
 - Work together

Resolving Environmental Disputes



- Roger Sidaway
- Outdoor Pursuits and Nature Conservation Seminar
- CRN Sheffield 24 January 2007

Resolving Environmental Disputes



- How and Why Conflicts occur
- The Contribution of Consensus Building to Conservation and Recreation Management

Sport, Recreation and Nature Conservation (1988)

Case studies of the impacts of

- caving,
 - cliff climbing,
 - access to moorlands,
 - orienteering,
 - sub-aqua diving,
 - inland water recreation and canal restoration
- Conflict or co-operation?*

Two sides of the same coin? Same impact/different situations

Conflict

- Misunderstanding
 - issue contentious
 - information as power
 - adversarial approach
 - little direct contact
- Interests
 - winner takes all
- Beliefs elevated to matters of principle

Two sides of the same coin? Same impact/different situations

Conflict

- Misunderstanding
 - issue contentious
 - information as power
 - adversarial approach
 - little direct contact
- Interests
 - winner takes all
- Beliefs elevated to matters of principle

Co-operation

- Understanding
 - issue understood or taken on trust
 - information shared
 - conciliatory approach
 - frequent contact
- Interests
 - all needs met
- Beliefs: differences respected

Nature of Environmental Conflict

- Complexity and Uncertainty: many issues; boundaries and participants unclear
- Social/Political change from competing and changing Values
- Many Participants believe they represent the public interest
- History: past overshadows the future
- Typically one group is attempting to control the action of others and limit their access to a natural resource (i.e., power struggle)

Elements of conflict (Based on CDR, 1993; Amy, 1987)

Relationships, emotions and misunderstandings

Data: lack, relevance, interpretation, assessment

Procedures: unfairness and mis/trust

Interests : competition for resources

Beliefs: differences over what is right or wrong or how the world should be

Sport, Recreation and Nature Conservation (1988)

Analysis of conflicts (p790)

- Divergent philosophies - *beliefs*
- Lack of basic understanding of relationships between species and habitats and recreation activities - *data*
- Unwillingness to respond to dynamic situations - *beliefs/interests*
- Poor communication - *relationships*

The Function of Social Conflict

(based on Weber, Coser, et al)

- The outcome of social conflict is determined by the balance of power and the form of decision making
- Decision making options
 - *Rigid (adversarial)*
 - outcomes limited to maintenance or transfer of power
 - *Flexible*
 - negotiation to achieve mutually acceptable solution
 - Flexibility allows for adjustment to change - tectonics
- Unwillingness to respond to dynamic situations (SRNC)

Ways of dealing with conflict

(Moore, 1986; Ury et al 1988 and Stalkeu, 1988)

- Avoidance of the issue
- Reconciliation of underlying interests
- Determining who is right
- Determining who is more powerful

Ways of dealing with conflict

- Avoidance of the issue
- Reconciliation of underlying interests
 - Decision made by the disputing parties, unassisted by third party NEGOTIATION
 - Parties assisted by neutral third party MEDIATION
- Determining who is right
- Determining who is more powerful

Aims of Conflict Resolution (Ertel, 1991)

- Clarifies interests
- Builds a good working relationship
- Suggests and considers options
- Is perceived as legitimate
- recognises that the parties have an alternative to negotiation
- Improves communication
- Leads to wise commitments

Consensus Building

- Premise: a generic approach can be used
 - to prevent conflict through *effective participation* in planning
 - to resolve conflict by *mediation*
- Proviso: each application has to be tailor made to the situation - *process design*

Process Design: Participatory Planning or Mediation

- Initiation
 - Agreement to process; coverage of agenda
- Inclusiveness
 - Representation and accountability of representatives; open process and degree of involvement
- Information
 - Equal access to objectively gathered information
- Influence
 - Commitment of decision-makers to implementation

Participatory Planning: underlying concepts

- Gain commitment of decision makers – influence
- Involve people early – ownership
- Clear aims for each stage and level of involvement – process design
- Select most effective techniques to secure involvement
- Allow plenty of time

Mediation: underlying concepts

- Role/value of Impartial/neutral 3rd. Party
- Initial assessment/situational analysis – building on ideas of stakeholders
- Ground rules of respectful discourse
 - Listening and contributing not shouting
 - Moving to mutual understanding
- Focus on problem solving
- Looking into the future not to the past

Environmental Mediation Stages in the Negotiation process

1. Initiative to identify an acceptable mediator
2. Preparation
 - deciding whether to negotiate and how
3. Negotiation
 - identifying the basis of agreement
4. Implementation
 - making the agreement binding

Mediation (Consensus Building) Advantages

- Increased understanding of issues
- Voluntary and less formal procedures allow the parties to explore the problem and consider a range of possible solutions
- Improved relationships engendering trust
- Commitment and control of outcome
- Savings in time and money, in the longer term

Mediation (Consensus Building) Limitations and Constraints

- Deeply held beliefs are non-negotiable
- Informal process can be manipulated by the powerful - less powerful need safeguards
- Not all interests are easily represented in negotiations
- Reaching consensus is time consuming and may be difficult to sustain over time



Case Study: Upper Deeside, Scotland

- Initial problems
 - Diversion of visitors from Balmoral (Royal palace) to Glen Muick creates a 'honey pot' with accessible parking and trails
 - Year round use – mountaineers and tourist buses - congestion on narrow road and inadequate car park
 - Multiple land ownership
- Opportunity
 - Balmoral Estate forms the Lochnagar Advisory Committee (estates, agencies, Aberdeenshire Council)



Formation of UDAT

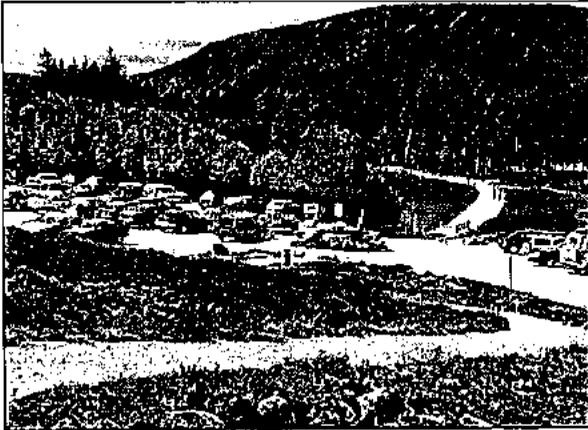
- 1997 Consultants' Study of Glen Muick based on stakeholder interviews and Ballater workshop .
- Key Recommendations
 - Formation of Trust
 - Appointment of Project Officer + Budget
- Concerns in Ballater about 'road closure'

Early Action established credibility

- Appointment of experienced Project Manager (April 1998) + Budget
- Who establishes credibility with projects
 - Short walks and cycle routes around Braemar + leaflets
 - Footpath repairs
- Before conducting review of traffic management in Glen Muick

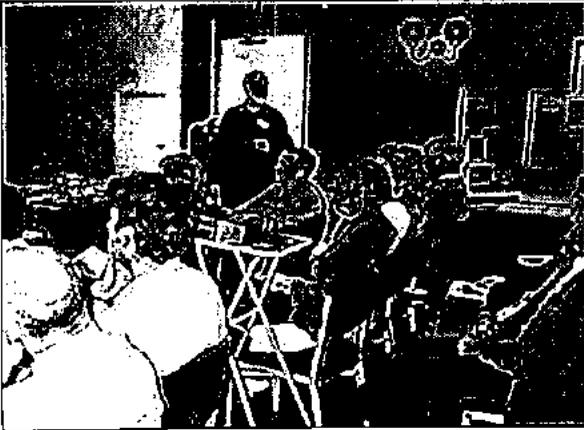
Traffic Management in Glen Muick - Consultation Paper (December 1999)

- Preferred options
 - Car park extension
 - Charging (funds to footpath repair)
 - Coach permits
 - Landscaping
- Sets out reasons why other options rejected
- 70 responses, most favouring proposals



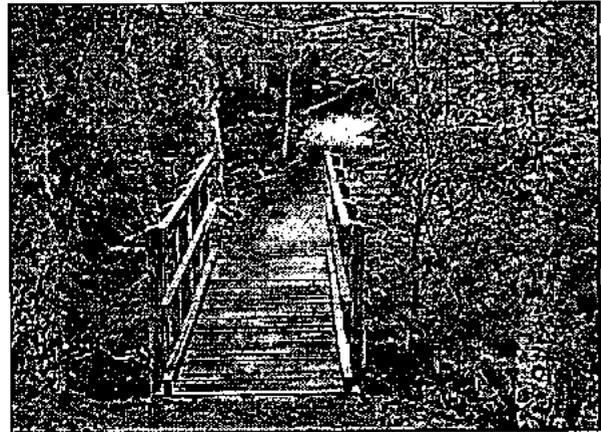
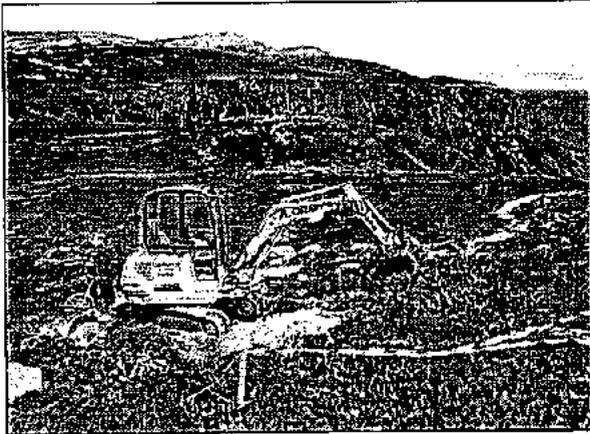
Traffic management workshop (February 2000)

- Presentations from UDAT
- Question and answer to Board
- 40 attending into 6 groups
- Matrix – preferred options x advantages, disadvantages, other options, conclusions
- Consensus on main proposals
- Report back and work completed 2001



UDAT 2002-3

- Mountain paths restoration workshop agrees priorities
- Car path charges raise £30,000 for paths repair
- 10 km. mountain and 28 km. lowland paths resorted to date
- Eastward expansion of trust area



Governance of UDAT 1998 onwards

- Trust replaces LAC
- Board of Aberdeenshire Council, Balmoral Estate, Cairngorm Partnership, SNH. Independent Chair
- 40+ affiliate members
- Open decision making
- Annual accountability

UDAT: evaluation of decision making on consensus building principles

- Balance
 - *Initiation: top down initiative with narrow focus*
 - *remit established via independent research which specified partnership approach*
 - *Inclusiveness: funding partners represented on trust with open affiliate membership; accountability hard to measure*
 - *Influence: partners have delegated decision making authority to Trust*

UDAT: evaluation of decision making on consensus building principles

- Openness
 - *Information: Trust undertakes research and provides information and feedback to stakeholders*
 - *Inclusiveness: Trust discusses programmes at annual meeting and holds workshops to involve stakeholders in decision making*

Sport, Recreation and Nature Conservation (1988)

Have we moved?

"Greater understanding presupposes a willingness to listen and learn on both sides and while good links have been established in many parts of the country, they are notably absent in others." (SRNC, 1988, p 95)

In the main, we are dealing with manageable problems recognising affinities of interest that are the basis of co-operation

Best of Both Worlds – following principles of collaborative planning and management and demonstrates

Mediation untested

Resolving Environmental Disputes



- Contains longitudinal case studies (spanning many years)
- Trust is dependent on consistency, honesty, integrity and respect



BMC: The Work of a National Governing Body

Catherine Flitcroft
Access & Conservation
Officer



BMC Membership

- BMC has >64,000 members
 - England & Wales
 - The BMC is the representative body for climbers, hill walkers & mountaineers in England and Wales
- BMC Access & Conservation Work
- Top priority of our members
 - Network of 30+ local access volunteers
 - Access, Conservation & Environment Group



Access: a brief history

- 1884 The first attempt to introduce an Access to Mountains Bill fails.
- 1932 Sunday 24 April, 400 ramblers gather at Bowden Bridge Quarry, Hayfield to trespass on Kinder Scout.
- 1939 After 55 years the Access to the Mountains Act finally succeeds.
- 1949 16 December, the Government passes the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act setting up the Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency), the Nature Conservancy Council (now English Nature) and 10 National Parks.
- 1951 The establishment of the Peak District National Park on 17 April. First access agreements in the country for the public to walk on private moorland.



Access: a brief history

- 1965 24 April, The Pennine Way is opened. The country's first National Trail stretches 256 miles from Edale to Scotland.
- 1981 The Wildlife and Countryside Act is passed, the first comprehensive protection of listed species and habitats.
- 1990 The Rights of Way Act is established by a Private Member's Bill.
- 2000 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is passed. The Countryside Agency begins the process of mapping open country.
- 31 October 2005. The right of access came into effect across the whole of England. 855,000 hectares are now classed as 'open access'. The rights of access were phased in on a region-by-region basis.



Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000

- Gives a statutory right of access (on foot) to mountains, moorland, heath & down
- Climbing is included within the statutory right of access to 'natural features'
- Reduces occupiers liability
- Improved nature conservation law & strengthens wildlife enforcement law.
- Dedication





Access: today?



Statutory

CRoW, Commons Act, Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s193 of Law & Property Act

Partnership / Voluntary Agreements

RSPB, NPA, NE, CCW, NT, WT, individual landowners etc.

Voluntary Restrictions

Campaigns

MPs/ Lords -lobbying and campaigning

Campaign groups -WCL, CNP, CCPR etc.



Are there any problems?



Specific Problems



Rock damage

Growing popularity of bouldering / climbing

- deliberate chipping
- 'aggressive' cleaning
- mechanical wearing
- disturbance to vegetation
- avoid climbing on frozen turf or thin ice



Specific Problems



Group Use

Growing popularity of the sport

- ground erosion
- rock polishing
- crowds
- conflict?



www.bobw.co.uk



Voluntary closure of climbing sites



Agreed between BMC and those with conservation remit to protect :

- rare nesting birds
- rare plants
- heritage and public safety





How do I find out?
Check the BMC Regional Access Database (RAD)

Search Results

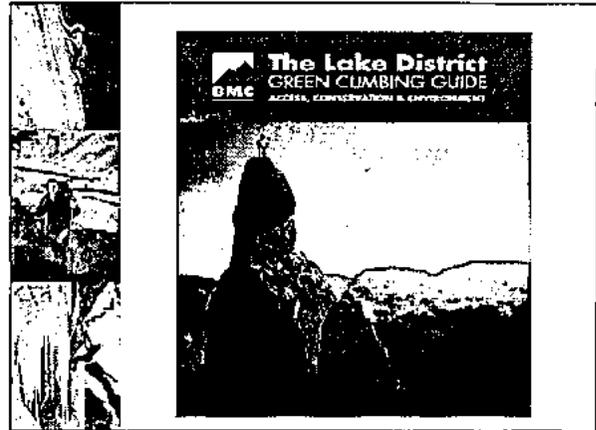
Your search results are listed in each column headed as per the search criteria on the far right (where relevant) You can click on the individual map name to view full details. Click here to print a summary of the search results information for all the results in your postcode.

Key:

General information Seasonal restrictions Parking restrictions

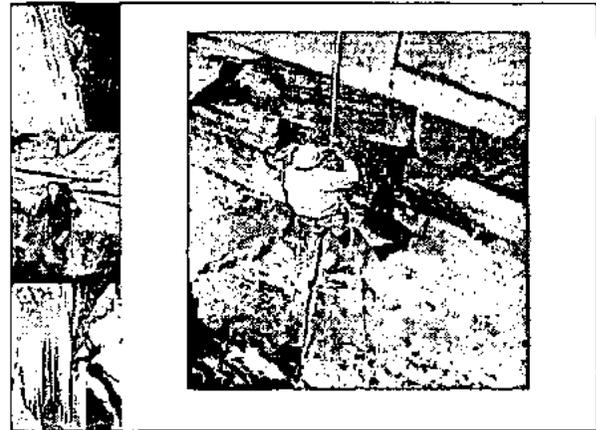
View the general information for this climbing area

Climbing Area	Area	Restrictions	Access	Advice
Blacksmith's Zouan	Water	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brookwater Quarry	Water	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Housewife's Zouan	Water	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pardon RAD	Water	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	




Co-Operative Ventures; Climbers & Conservation

- Climbers and bird / peregrine ringing
- Creation of nesting ledges
- Conservation initiatives at popular sites eg; woodland clearance, litter picks
- Action to reduce the Environmental Impact of Bouldering
- ACT donations




Codes of Practise

- Group Use
- Bouldering 10 Commandments
- Southern Sandstone Code of Practise
- Green Climbing Guides
- Leave No Trace principles
- Environmental Policy



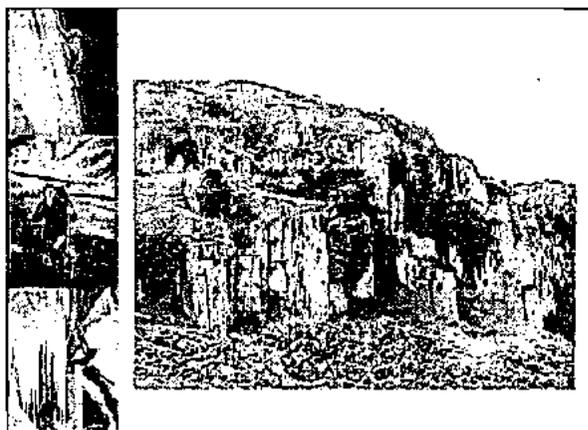
Leave No Trace Principles

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Transport
- Camping
- Be Considerate of Others
- Respect Wildlife
- Leave what you find
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Minimise the effects of Fire



**Best Practise: Holwick Scar
Management Agreement**

- Popular climbing area in Upper Teeside & SSSI / SAC / SPA now under CRoW




**Best Practise: Holwick Scar
Management Agreement**

- Popular climbing area in Upper Teeside & SSSI / SAC / SPA now under CRoW
- Partnership Working
- Managed Access Regime
- Guidance for climbers
- Access & Conservation Reviews e.g photo monitoring



BMC Research

- Impact of CRoW so far
- Woodland & Vegetation Management in Climbing Areas
- Seasonal Access Restrictions To Protect Cliff and Moorland Birds – assessment of management systems
- Ecological Surveys



Practical Projects:

Access & Conservation Trust 06

- Inventory of coastal climbing sites
- Edge Rocks Information project (working with Sussex Wildlife Trust, production of signs and leaflets explaining the botanical & geological features).
- Disabled access to Millars Dale, Peak District
- Everest Litter Pick
- Woodland Clearance Day, Durlston Park, Swanage




What are the BMC doing?

1. Green Guides / Seasonal Restrictions
2. Guidebooks
3. Group Use codes
4. Access Volunteers
5. Land Management Group
6. Practical Projects – ACT
7. Best practise campaigns
8. Web news reports
9. Climbing / Walking Press
10. Local area meetings and liaison groups
11. On-site signs



Other Access & Conservation Work
Continued negotiations - Vixen Tor



Campaign letter
Mass Trespass?



Thank You

www.thebmc.co.uk



Paul Hawkins
Recreation Manager

~~Massive Recreation in Britain's Least
Visited National Park
It Affects Traditional Landists?~~

As Paul Hawkins Says 2008

Paul Hawkins - Exmoor National Park Authority



Exmoor National Park

- Achieved National Park Status in 1954
- 700 km² in size
- 1000 km of Public Rights of Way
- 470 km of public bridleways



Paul Hawkins - Exmoor National Park Authority



National Park Status

Purposes:

- Enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and heritage of local communities
- Promote opportunities -- enjoy & understand

National Parks in Scotland – 4 equal aims:
To promote sustainable economic development of the communities of the area.

Paul Hawkins - Exmoor National Park Authority



Exmoor's Economy

- Agriculture = £8.5m p/a direct support payments
2004 State of Exmoor Study
- Tourism = £32m p/a spent on Accommodation
£1 total 2004

% of Exmoor workers:

- Hotels and catering 15.0%
- Agriculture, hunting, fisheries 13.9%



Paul Hawkins - Exmoor National Park Authority

EXMOOR
2006-2007

Tourism Market Intelligence

From Paul Huxley, Exmoor National Park Authority

Key growth areas

- Short Break Holidays UP 53%
- Visits to Friends & Relatives UP 24%
- Long Holidays STATIC

Emerging Growth Markets:

- Relax & Recharge
- It's Cool
- It's Adventure
- Discover

Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

EXMOOR
2006-2007

The Successes? Coleridge Way

Promoted Routes Enhancement:

- The Coleridge Way – 36 Miles
- 1 Pub every 4 miles!
- Tadon Trail – 180 Miles
- Over £100k of E.A.S.
- TV Over £120k

High levels of use throughout the year

Merfords - Overalls on Coleridge Way

Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

EXMOOR
2006-2007

The Successes? Coleridge Way

Coleridge Way --- "Hotspots" ●

Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

EXMOOR
2006-2007

The Successes? Active Exmoor

www.ActiveExmoor.com

IRONMAN 70.3 TRIATHLON UK
MIDDLEHALL - ENGLAND

The Tour of Britain
SUMMER 2007

Sport England / Rural Renaissance

- £250k direct
- £3.5m E.A.S.
- £150 000 spend
- 3000 new visitors

Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

EXMOOR
2006-2007

The Failures? Restricted Byways

- 42 Restricted Byways
- 26 Definitive Map Modification Orders before NERC Act cut-off date
- General confusion amongst legitimate users
- Locals confused at potential upgrades - BOAT

High Street, Central Exmoor - Somerset

Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

EXMOOR
2006-2007

The Failures? Restricted Byways

RUPP / RB Motor Vehicle Use

Example of 23 Restricted Byways for 2 months

Number of Vehicles

Year

- Fewer, faster motorcycles leading to more complaints
- Writing management plans for each route

Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

The Failures? Restricted Byways

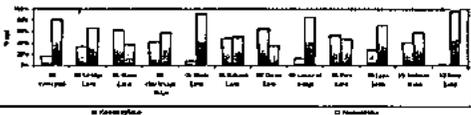
- Public consultation on one contentious Restricted Byway
- Some useful information but mostly very one-sided



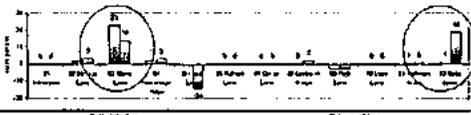
Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

The Failures? Restricted Byways

PRIORITISED VEHICLES



VEHICLE OF CHOICE



Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

MPV Use

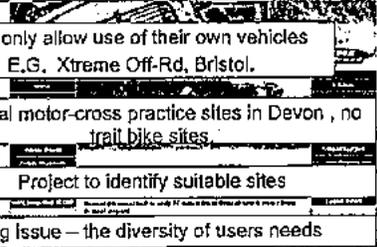
There are LOTS of off-road driving Schools on the internet.

Most only allow use of their own vehicles
E.G. Xtreme Off-Rd, Bristol.

3 formal motor-cross practice sites in Devon, no trail bike sites.

Project to identify suitable sites

Big Issue – the diversity of users needs



Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

The Failures? Water Access

15.8km of Rivers have some canoe access

Rivers Suitable for Kayaks / Canoes Access



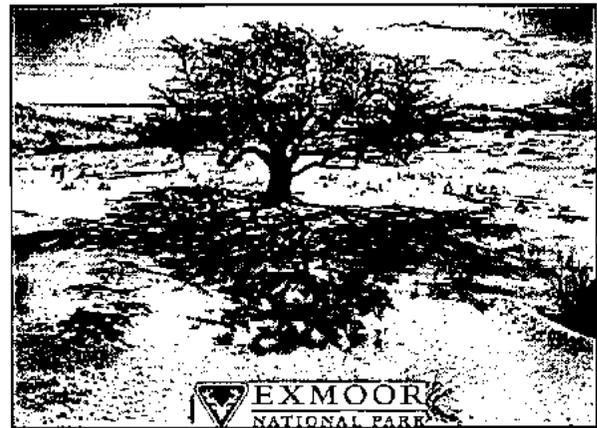
Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority

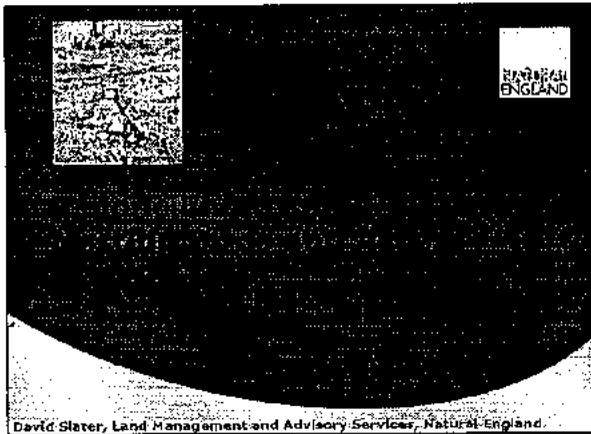
The Failures? Water Access

- Limited access to water – increase in "illegal" access-runs
- BCU National Campaign – are some canoeists keen to see access agreements fail?
- The South West is a pilot EA project area in 2007 to identify Canoe Access gains



Paul Huxley - Exmoor National Park Authority





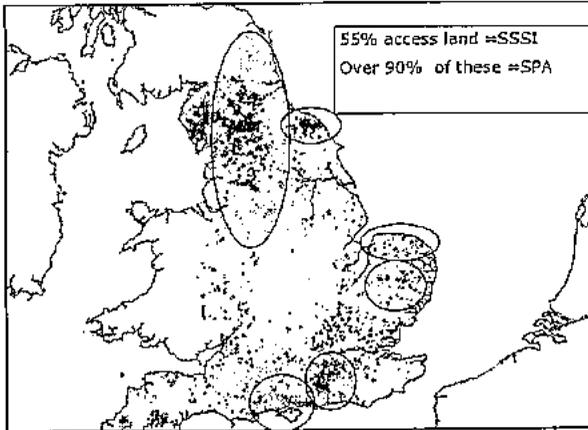
David Slater, Land Management and Advisory Services, Natural-England.

Reconciling Ground Nesting Birds and Access



In England, recreation and nature conservation have been forced to share the same space through:

- Intensification of agriculture
- Housing development
- Open access legislation



Special Protection Areas (SPAs):



"Member States are obliged to take necessary steps to avoid deterioration of natural habitats and disturbance of those bird species for which the site is internationally important, where this disturbance would be significant having regard to the objectives of the Directive."

Pre-emptive action is required by law...
How do we make sure both interests are catered for?



Research into disturbance suggests that when disturbed:



Behavioural effects:

- Birds stand up
- Birds alarm call
- Birds fly away



Life cycle effects

- Adult birds may fail to settle
- Adults may fail to breed
- Less hatchlings may survive

Does it matter?



Population effects

- Important populations
- Lack of alternative sites
- Density dependant effects
- Reduced population over time

Pre-emptive, evidence based action that maximises public benefit?



How to reconcile conflicts without closures?



- Better linear routes
- Car park provision
- Education/engaging users
- Provide alternatives
- Habitat management

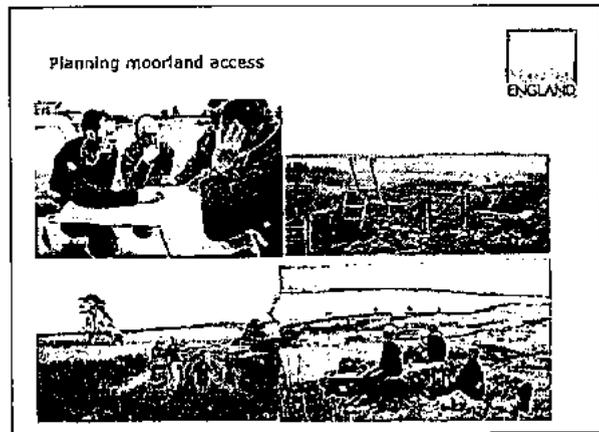
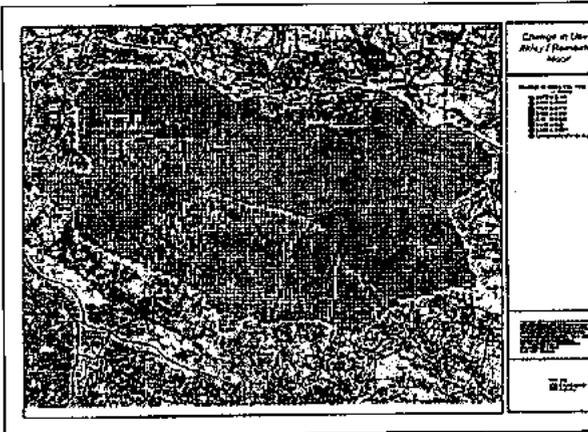
Not a question of how, but where?

- How to target resources?
- Where to monitor?

Case study: Open access on moorland SPAs



- A third of new English access land under CROW is moorland
- All of this is protected for ground nesting birds
- Low levels of access predicted
- Widespread concerns about access from landowners
- Pre-emptive action required by law
 - How to target resources?
 - And avoid restrictions.....
 - And realise the benefits



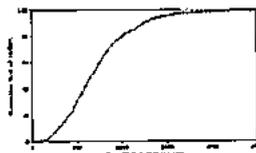
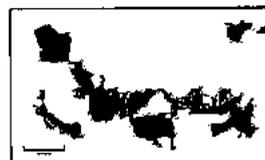
Case study: Housing development and heathland in the South East of England

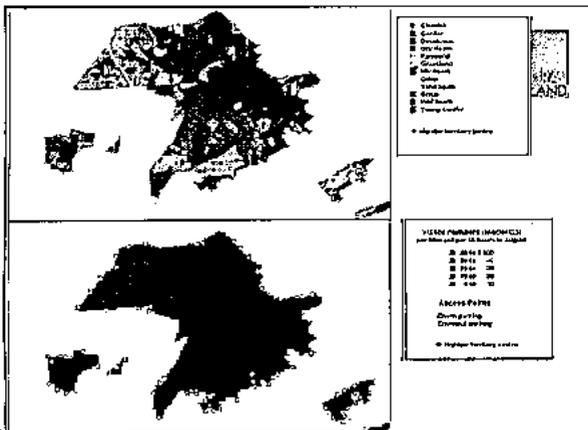
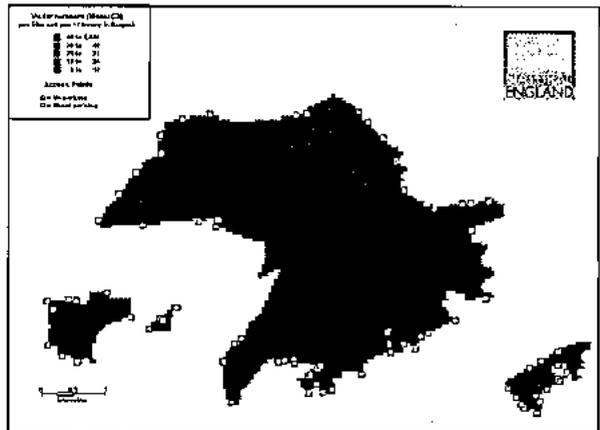
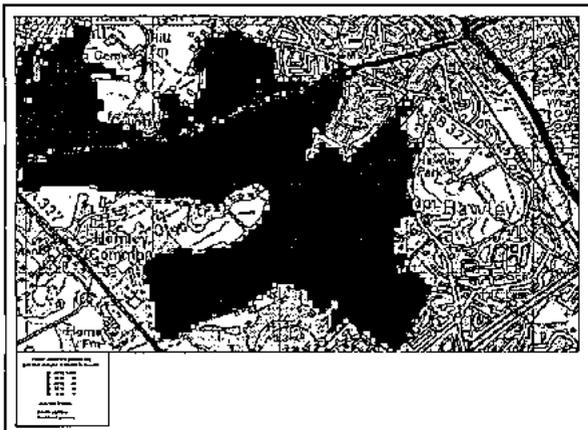


- Where to put 400,000 new homes in the South East?
- 40,000 planned close to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA
- Concerns about increased visitor pressure
- Lack of evidence is currently holding up badly needed housing
- How does Natural England decide on where to target access management?



Modelling visitor pressure





This evidence enables Natural England to:

- Advise on where new housing can go ahead
- Where to target positive access management
- Where alternative green space is needed



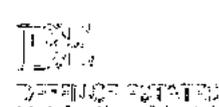
In summary:

- Disturbance is fairly well understood
- The effects of access management are not

We need a better understanding of :

- visitor flows and what determines them
- how to provide maximum public benefit from access management

And what about addressing that natural accessible environment lost to agricultural intensification?




Public Access and Recreation on the Defence Estate
 Richard Brooks MCMA
 Head of Access and Recreation
 Defence Estates Environmental Support Team

DE Policy: In Trust and On Trust - 2006

Introduction

- *"In Trust and On Trust set out our presumption in favour of access to the defence estate and this remains the case".*

'Outcomes for the Stakeholders'

- *Recreational enjoyment of the defence estate is encouraged and significant areas of the defence estate are accessible.*

Recognising Sustainable Development needs...

- *We will continue our presumption in favour of public access... We will also continue to work with local authorities, Statutory Bodies, local and national access fora and other stakeholders to understand the public wishes for access to our estate.*

Integrated Land Management Plans

- *ILMPs ensure that defence related activities take account of nature conservation... landscape... and public access.*

DEFENCE
ESTATE
MANAGEMENT
CORPORATION



DE Drivers:

- JSP 362 Ch.7 Public Access and Recreation – rewrite
- SDiG Strategic Statement
- PIs on CROW, LR(S)A
- Access and Recreation Database
- Access and Recreation Website



DEFENCE
ESTATE
MANAGEMENT
CORPORATION



Initiatives and Projects:

- Development of EST Access and Recreation Team
- Continued work with Defra and NE in Coastal Access, DLW, CROW and L(R)SA
- Integrated Land Management Plans Access Components
- Epynt Way Bridleway Project
- Otterburn Access Officer
- Community Partnerships – e.g. Penhale
- Castlemartin Ranger

DEFENCE
ESTATE
MANAGEMENT
CORPORATION



Castlemartin Range

A Case Study

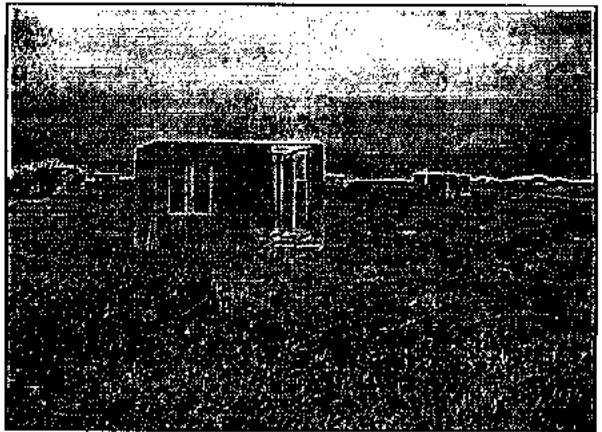
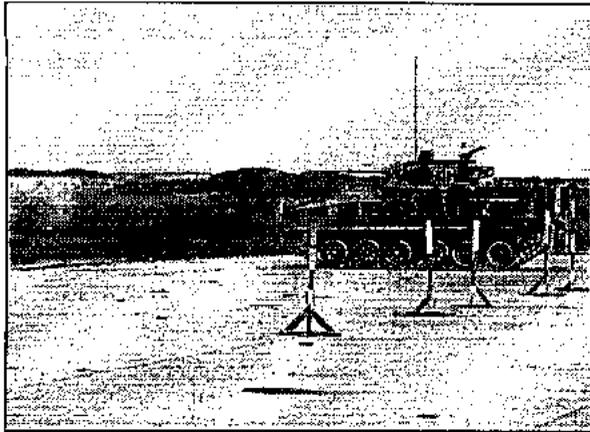
Castlemartin Range

- ◆ The location of Pembrokeshire
- ◆ And of Castlemartin



Castlemartin Range – A brief introduction into its history and military use

- ◆ Taken over by the MoD in 1938 in order to train British troops to fight against the Federal German Army
- ◆ Evicted 53 tenant farmers
- ◆ Returned to farming for a short period then back to a Range in 1950 due to the Korean War
- ◆ In 1961 the German army came to Castlemartin to train with British troops against the Soviet Block
- ◆ The German army left in 1996 when the 'wall' came down



Castlemartin Range – A brief introduction to conservation

- ◆ SSSI – geological and biological. 20 primary features
- ◆ SPA – chough plus peregrine, razorbill and guillemot
- ◆ SAC – vegetated sea cliffs, greater horseshoe bat
- ◆ Marine SAC – rare, unusual and nationally important biotopes

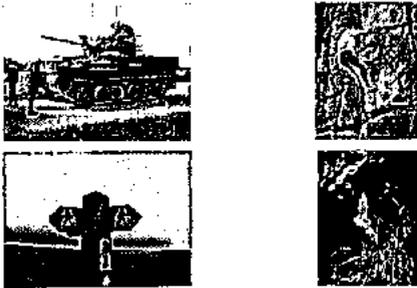
Some of Castlemartin's species

Castlemartin Range - The development of access and recreation

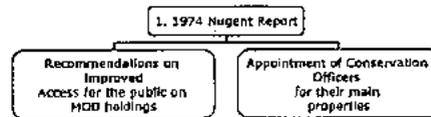
- ◆ Pre 1950's – limited public access
- ◆ 1952 – Pembrokeshire Coast National park designated
- ◆ 1953 – Coast path designated. Opened in 1970
- ◆ MOD byelaws – no deviation from the line of the path



How to balance.....



The Way Forward



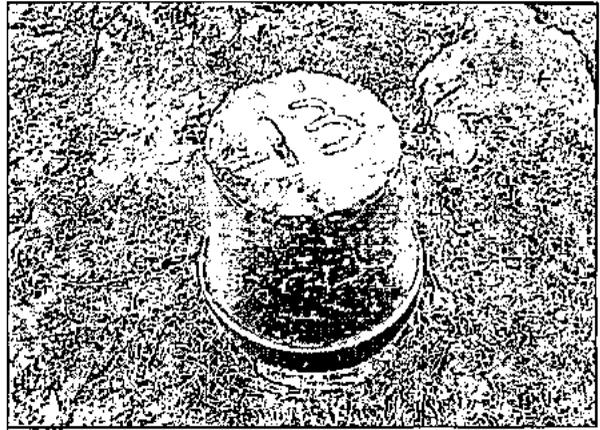
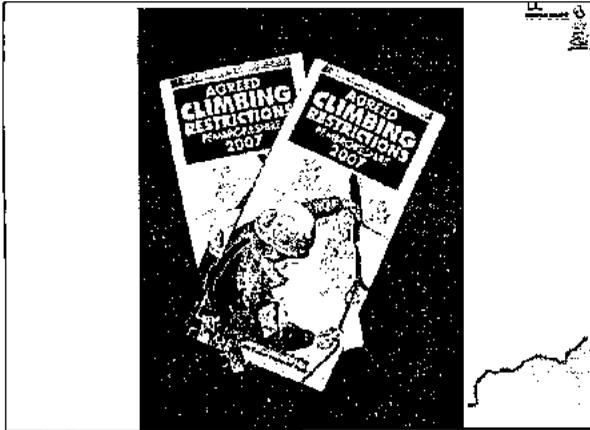
2. Pressure from the BMC and local climbers

Castlemartin Range

- ◆ 1978 – First cliff climbing liaison meeting
- ◆ The introduction of climbing restrictions throughout Pembrokeshire
- ◆ 1986 – Relaxation in MOD byelaws allowing public to legally visit the cliff edges

Current Day

- ◆ Continuous process of liaison, review and partnership working
- ◆ The provision of information is paramount



Does it work?
Yes
Why?
Because of continual liaison
&
The credibility of the restrictions

Thank you
Lynne Ferrand
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