Accessible Outdoor Recreation

2008 Seminar Proceedings of the
Countryside Recreation Network

Edited & Formatted by
Kim Haigh, Network Assistant

Held at 'Said Business School', Oxford
18 November 2008

Published by CRN Countryside Recreation Network

ISBN:9781843872894
Copies cost £15 and are available from:
Countryside Recreation Network
Sheffield Hallam University
Unit 1, Sheffield Science Park
Howard Street
Sheffield
S1 1WB
Tel: 0114 225 4494
Fax: 0114 225 6319
E-mail: crn@shu.ac.uk
Website: www.countrysiderecreation.org.uk

CONTENTS

PLENARY PAPERS

SUPPORTING PAPERS

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

"Accessible Outdoor Recreation"

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Robin Helby
Disabled Ramblers

Outdoor Recreation has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the health and well being of people with disabilities. The benefits are clearly recognised and much good work has been done by many outdoor recreation organisations in raising the standard and quality of physical access. First the *BT Countryside for All Standards* and then Natural England's *By All Reasonable Means* have encouraged real improvements in access to the outdoors.

A further impetus has been the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, with the obligation to promote equality for disabled people. But whilst recent years have seen many initiatives and many improvements on the ground, there has been rather less emphasis on how best to get information about access opportunities out to people, and particularly to disabled people.

For many people with disabilities, access to the outdoors involves much more than just physical movement. It includes the entire journey there and back home again. Is there the means of transport and how long will it take? What will it cost? Whilst they are there, will they find the facilities essential not just to enjoying recreation, but just being away from home?

The provision of information and the quality of all that information remains as a significant and generally unmet challenge. So the opportunity presented in this Workshop has been to put across the message that outdoor recreation resources can be accessible to all forms of disability, physical, sensory and mental impairment.

The Workshops consisted of a series of interactive sessions, aiming to review:

- How effective the Act has been in stimulating improved recreational access to the outdoors.
- Exchange good practice in improving access and information regarding outdoor recreation for disabled people
- Identify priority issues and areas of work to be taken forward on the next few years.

It is hoped that this Workshop can help stimulate the development of common approaches to information provision and its effective communication to people with disabilities.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

Outdoors for All: What are the Priorities for Creating Inclusive Outdoor Environments?

Dave Waterman
Head of Recreation and Access Policy
DEFRA

The terms of the Disability Discrimination Act

The DDA 1995

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 made it unlawful to discriminate against a disabled person. This Act included two key concepts (as far as access is concerned): (i) the provider of services, or service provider; (ii) a duty to make reasonable adjustments.

The Act made unlawful for a provider of services to discriminate against a disabled person by failing to make reasonable adjustments where the effect of that failure is to make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for the disabled person to make use of the service. Essentially this meant that it was no longer enough to do nothing in order not to discriminate.
There was some debate as to whether local authorities were service providers; this was resolved by the 2005 DDA. As to what is 'reasonable', this remains a key imponderable and an evolving area of case law.

The DDA 2005

Rather than simply establishing that local authorities were service providers, the 2005 Act introduced two sections devoted to the duties and obligations of public authorities. Public authorities would include any person or organisation whose functions are of a public nature and will cover all local authorities, National Park Authorities and central Government.

The first section[1] makes it unlawful for a public authority to discriminate against a disabled person in the carrying out of any of its functions. Again the principle of reasonable adjustments applies.The second section [2] imposed a general duty on public authorities. Every public authority shall in carrying out its functions have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, and to promote equality and positive attitudes and encourage participation in public life by disabled persons.

The effect of section 2 of the 2005 Act is to prohibit discrimination, where not specifically covered elsewhere in the Act, in the exercise of all public functions

[1] section 2 of the 2005 Act introduced new sections 21B to 21E into the 1995 Act
[2] section 3 of the 2005 Act, introduced new sections 49A to 49F into the 1995 Act

other than (in broad terms) those of legislation, prosecution, judicial acts, and state security. This new prohibition of discrimination will therefore cover decisions by Ministers, local authorities, the Police and other governmental organisations. Discrimination means that, for a reason which relates to the disabled person's disability, a public authority treats him less favourably than it treats or would treat others to whom that reason does not or would not apply; and it cannot show that the treatment in question is justified.

Discrimination also means where the authority has a practice policy or procedure which makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for the disabled person to receive any benefit that is or may be conferred, or that any detriment is not unreasonably adverse for a disabled person.

The first of these deals with the possibility that the exercise of a function may confer benefits on people affected by the exercise of the function. The provisions require public authorities to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that is not 'impossible or unreasonably difficult' for a disabled person to receive such a benefit.

The second deals with the possibility that the exercise of a function may subject people affected by its exercise to a detriment. For example, that would be the case where a law enforcement agency exercises a power to arrest or detain members of the public. In these cases, the provisions require public authorities to make reasonable adjustments in order to avoid making it 'unreasonably adverse' for disabled people.

It is important again to note that that discrimination can include not making a reasonable adjustment to the way the function is carried out – so in some cases simply doing nothing is not an option.

These discrimination provisions are subject to certain exceptions, which contain an element of proportionality and reasonableness. With regard to cost, the Act says costs could be a factor in justifying non-compliance where "*treating the disabled person equally favourably would in the particular case involve substantial extra costs and, having regard to resources, the extra costs in that particular case would be too grea*t".

All of this applies only to functions within the authority's powers and will not apply where a public authority is exercising a statutory power and has no discretion as to whether or how to exercise that power, or no discretion as to how to perform its duties.

Elaborating on Section 3 of the 2005 Act, this imposes a general duty on public authorities. Every public authority shall in carrying out its functions have due regard to the need to:

(a) eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under this Act;

(b) eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities;

(c) promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons;

(d) take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons;

(e) promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons; and

(f) encourage participation by disabled persons in public life.

The duties are intended to ensure that bodies that exercise public functions "mainstream" disability rights issues when exercising those functions. This means, in broad terms, that public bodies, when making decisions, or when developing or implementing a new policy, must make consideration of the needs of disabled people an integral part of the policy-making or decision-making process with a view to eliminating discrimination and harassment and to improving opportunities for, and promoting positive attitudes towards, disabled people. In addition, when exercising functions, bodies must take account of the need to encourage disabled people to take part in public life.

It should be noted that (d) above requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities or, in effect, to have due regard to the need to take steps to overcome the effects of disabilities. This underlines that 'equality of opportunity' cannot be achieved simply by treating disabled and non-disabled people alike, and recognises the long-standing principle that it is sometimes necessary to take positive steps to overcome the barriers faced by disabled people by making reasonable adjustments.

Certain bodies, including National Park authorities (and Defra), are subject to specific duties under the 2005 Act. These bodies were required, Statutory Instrument 2005, No 2966, to publish a Disability Equality Scheme by 4th December 2006. The scheme must set out how the body will fulfil its responsibilities under the general duty and should, for instance, demonstrate that disabled people have been involved in producing the scheme and developing the action plan.

How the DDA defines a person with disabilities

For the purposes of the Act, a **"disabled person"** is a person has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities; this includes mobility, manual dexterity and physical co-ordination, but could include other things, such as learning difficulties. This is constantly being re-defined by the courts.
20% - 1 in 5 - adults in England are disabled in some way

Roles and responsibilities

Public authorities

Where an access authority exercises its public function, whether as a statutory duty or a power, then it would have to meet the obligations of the Act. For example this would include:

- approving gates & stiles and other path furniture;
- making legal orders for the creation, diversion and extinguishment of rights of way, including any associated path furniture;
- entering agreements with landowners to improve path furniture (s.147ZA)[3];
- maintaining any rights of way that are legally maintainable at public expense;
- taking action to remove any obstructions.
- managing any other land which is accessible to the public, e.g. country parks.

Landowners

With most forms of statutory public access, the DDA does not, of itself, place obligations on the landowner[4], except with regard to stiles and gates. Broadly speaking, the law considers the public right to be an imposition on the landowner; and that stiles and gates are 'limitations' to the public's right, which exists for the benefit of the landowner and therefore the landowner's responsibility to maintain[5].

As the local authority is responsible for authorising new structures, it would have to have regard to the Act. It is has no duty to require the replacement of existing structures, but has powers to enter into agreements with land owners to improve or replace them. The DDA would appear to place a duty on local authorities to use these powers where they can, but they cannot do so without the landowner's cooperation.

Where a land owner provides access that is non-statutory public access and provides signs, gates, stiles or other infrastructure, whether for profit or altruistic reasons, it is likely that they would be regarded as service providers under that Act, which would bring them within the Act's obligations. As to whether landowners are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people, the courts would need to consider what it is reasonable to expect a landowner to do, taking into account possible factors like: the cost and practicability of making the adjustment; financial and other resources available to the landowner; land management; and the extent to which any voluntary provision overcomes the barrier which the disabled person faces in accessing the service.

What are the priorities for creating inclusive outdoor environments, in other words, what needs to be done?

That will clearly depend to large extent on what people with disabilities need.

Defra and Natural England have jointly produced an action plan entitled: "*Outdoors for All? – An Action Plan to increase the number of people from under-represented groups who access the natural environment*"[6]. Although this action plan goes above and beyond the statutory obligations and duties imposed by the legislation,

[3] now arguably overtaken by the DDA
[4] for owner also read occupier
[5] although they can claim a proportion of the cost on rights of way
[6] The Natural England website is undergoing change at the time of writing, but the document can be found by entering its title in the website's search facility

the research underpinning the Plan gives us a helpful insight into where the key issues lie.

Research reports entitled "*What about us? - Diversity Review evidence*"[7] (parts one and two) are available from Natural England's website. The Rural White Paper (2000) identified that certain groups are underrepresented amongst users of the countryside and green outdoor spaces. The research centred on the following groups.

- People from black and minority ethnic backgrounds
- Disabled people
- Young people

All the people were also from inner city areas.

The reports tell us that, in contrast to ethnic minority people and young people, the vast majority of disabled people anticipated that they would receive a warm welcome in the countryside, specifically as disabled people. In fact, they expected rural people to be friendlier and more helpful than most urban dwellers because, the slow pace of life in the rural communities would make rural residents more tolerant towards disabled people. There was no sense, in any of the groups, that people would experience prejudiced attitudes towards disabled people – although they expected of institutional discrimination, especially in terms of absence of specific provisions. Disabled people believe that rural communities are, in the main, friendly and welcoming places for disabled people.

The reports go on to say that, despite these broadly positive expectations, most disabled people perceived the countryside as an inherently threatening physical environment. By its very nature, the countryside is vast and open, natural, unmanaged and therefore unpredictable and uncontrollable. As a result, very many disabled people feel highly vulnerable in that environment and many remain reluctant to go, having 'given up' on accessing the countryside. Since developing impairment, they had simply assumed that they would have to curtail their aspirations and lead their lives within the narrow confines of their immediate urban area. Going to the countryside was perceived as a luxury, as something they should not even think of being able to do.

The reports concluded that, overall, the main factors limiting use of the countryside amongst disabled people are:

- Transport and/or cost
- lack of provisions for disabled people;
- lack of information;
- sense of vulnerability due to the inherent unpredictability of the countryside;
- social isolation.

[7] As above, this can be found by searching the title on the Natural England website

Research Recommendations

The reports make a number of strategic recommendations designed to increase and diversify participation in outdoor recreation. These apply to all under-represented groups and not just people with disabilities, but they provide a helpful starting point.

Service planning: The collection of baseline data by service providers needs to be prioritised, guidance needs to be provided on monitoring and evaluation, and potential organisations mapped out for multi-agency partnerships;

Site design and management: There is a need to focus on spaces for people that encourage under-represented users, providing a range of experiences and appropriate on-site information;

Staffing: The diversity of staff and volunteers needs to be enhanced, as well as basic diversity awareness;

Information and communications: The terminology of outdoor recreation providers needs to be made more user-friendly. A diversity strategy needs to be adopted that takes into account people's perceptions in a more customer focussed way. A centralised database on green outdoor spaces and routes would help maximise access to information;

Building foundations for the use of green outdoor spaces: More support for access to outdoor learning is necessary, including facilitated and escorted visits, well-advertised special events and long-term projects;

Rural attitudes: a greater diversity awareness in rural communities is required so that welcoming attitudes are promoted.

A closing thought

One of the research findings was that limited social networks restrict disabled people's use of the countryside because they need company to access green outdoor spaces, especially if those places are remote, open and little managed. This reliance on relatives, friends or carers itself creates further barriers. It means that disabled people have very few opportunities to enjoy the solitude which many non-disabled people seek in the countryside, and that destinations and activities are selected to suit the preferences of the many. There was a constant tension in the discussions with all the disabled people surveyed, between the need for autonomy and self-sufficiency versus the recognition of their dependency on others. This is illustrated by the following quotation from the research reports.

"*The problem for most disabled people is you can't go to the countryside on your own and that might put you off doing it. One of the most common reasons for doing it, which is getting away from people, you can't actually do, because you need somebody to push your wheelchair or, in my case, to guide you. I expect that's also why there is less use. For myself, I think that's why I don't do it regularly because I can't do it alone and I would want to do it alone.*"

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

"Recent Good Practice in Information Provision"

Stuart Spurring
Information Designer
Sensory Trust

The Sensory Trust promotes and supports the creation and management of outdoor spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone regardless of age or ability. The Accessible Information project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, aims to improve access to public open space through the development and dissemination of accessible information. The project was devised as a result of the findings from a research project undertaken by the Trust that led to the publication Making Connections in 2001.

One of the key findings from that publication was that people, in particular people that needed to plan their visit because of a physical or sensory impairment or disability thought that a lack of accessible information was one of the major barriers preventing them from easily accessing outdoor space. Information forms a vital part of anyone's visit to public open space, from deciding where to go and how to get there, to finding their way around and discovering everything a site has to offer. A lack of accessible information off-site and poor information on-site can result in a disappointing experience, one which a visitor is unlikely to want to repeat with a return visit.

A great deal has changed since Making Connections was published and the project began. Thankfully most people seem to have moved on from simply adding "This publication is available in alternative formats on request" in small print at the bottom of the last page of a booklet.

In general terms awareness of people's different needs when it comes to information has improved and many more people have recognised the importance of content as well as delivery, providing people with the information they need, how they need it. More and more sites and locations are developing dedicated access guides for example containing all of this information. (There is however a danger that by separating access information out from visitor information these guides can be exclusive.)

At the same time major technological advances have offered information providers many more ways in which to present their wares and all of them bring with them their own access issues.

The Internet is undoubtedly a great asset when planning a visit and it is often people's first point of contact when preparing for a possible trip, however it is still inaccessible, unaffordable or unfamiliar for many people. Increased use of mp3 players and mobile phone technology has made audio tours and guides

increasingly commonplace, but the technology is extremely age and budget sensitive, among other things. We are also now seeing the first use of interactive combined audio and video units at attractions such as London Zoo and the Eden Project, great for the XBox generation but what about everyone else?

It would be impossible to cover every aspect of every method and this presentation will concentrate on the more commonplace, possibly more affordable options. Essentially however we can say that the principles of accessible information are the same regardless of the format.

So what is best practice in information provision?

Use the guidelines
A lot of work has been done by a lot of people that know lots of stuff to develop guidelines on how to design accessible information. In short, buy them and use them.

Involve people that know
The Sensory Trust has always placed a great deal of importance on the visitor and a great deal of trust that they know what they need. Asking people who have first hand experience of difficulties getting the information they need will always be valuable. There is a chance that you might get 20 different opinions from 20 different people however there will always be common threads and there will invariably be something you have overlooked.

Offer people choice
At all times the aim is to provide people with choice. By providing flexible information in a range of formats you are enabling people to get the information they need how they need it. By providing people with information about accessibility you are enabling them to make an informed choice about where to go and how.

Be creative
Just as the information that you provide needs to be engaging it is also important that the way in which it is presented needs to be engaging. So long as you ensure that you meet the guidelines creative approaches to accessible information provision should be encouraged. Just because 12 or 14 point Arial is the stated ideal do not mean it is the only option.

Use the guidelines
If you are embarking on a new project it is always advisable to ask an expert. If you cannot afford experts at least invest in some basic guidance written by some.

The *Sign Design Guide* from the Sign Design Society, the *See it right pack* from the RNIB and *Am I making myself clear?* from Mencap are all good starting points. There is a wealth of information available over the Internet from other people that know such as national organisations, charities and authorities as well as user groups, particularly for designing for people with learning difficulties or disabilities. The important thing is to understand who you are designing for and to find and follow the appropriate guidance.

Involve people that know
There are many examples of direct contribution from users.

www.easyaccess.wanadoo.co.uk is just one example of someone working on their own to publish the information they need in the hope that it will be useful to others. It is obviously going to be fairly limited in scope – limited to places that the author (in this case a hand bike user) has visited - however if you identify with him and you happen to be visiting the right place then this approach would be just what you need. It is worth investigating who is already producing information about your site. The good thing about finding what people are contributing or self publishing is that you get an insight into what people might require but more importantly you might just find a useful collaborator.

A step up from an individual contribution is a collective approach.

www.walkswithwheelchairs.com is a relatively new resource. It seems to be a little confused at the moment – for example when you bookmark it the page header is walks with buggies and pushchairs - and in some areas it is a little light on detail, however the approach, individuals adding their own walks is going to continue and has great potential. One issue is consistency of information. There are broadly two approaches for presenting access information, to use a rating system to rate walks to different degrees or to provide detailed factual information about surfaces, gradients, obstacles etc. Unfortunately there is no one universally used system and a combined approach is probably the best as it allows people unfamiliar with a particular rating system to still make an informed choice.

The answer is to look around at those that know and find out what they are doing and how it might be applied to your site. Organisations like the Disabled Ramblers are a great place to start.

There are a number of good examples of larger parks offering consistently rated information for accessibility. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (www.pcnpa.org.uk) for example cater for a range of users, offering information on accessible viewpoints and beaches as well as accessible walks. Resources include a range of route leaflets, which are admittedly primarily visual, that make use of maps, descriptions and photographs. Pembrokeshire is certainly not alone in providing good details for accessible walks. Others include the South West Coast path (http://www.southwestcoastpath.com) and Exmoor national park (http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

Whatever approach is taken it is important to include a description of the route, to provide people with a taste of what they'll find. After all people won't go somewhere just because it has a good gradient.
www.enabledmaps.com demonstrate an alternative approach to mapping. Delivered primarily through the internet and very visual in design they obviously have their accessibility issues however they do show some interesting features that might be readily adapted for an outdoor environment. At present they are being primarily used for city environments and in particular London

- They feature a combined approach using descriptions and photographs as well as graphic additions
- They also have a time bar that gives an indication of times between points.

In some ways they are more suited for outdoor environments with a defined start and end point.

- They make use of distinctive features – landmarks basically that are recognisable and unchanging
- One of their limitations is that you have to start at a defined point, which in a city is unlikely but in an outdoor environment a lot more common, a car park, a lookout, a gate for example.

One other area of wayfinding is signs. Again when designing new signs it is important to follow the guidelines (*Sign Design Guide*) in order to ensure that the design and positioning is accessible to as many people as possible.

Public buildings and spaces that handle large numbers of people are a good place to start when looking at wayfinding signs. Museum, galleries, hospitals, stations all need to inform a lot of people quickly and clearly. Often it can be good to look at examples outside of your sphere, you can look at how a system works without being distracted by materials or the surrounding countryside.

While the aesthetics of a sign outdoors might be very different from one found in a public building the purpose is the same; to stop people becoming lost, stressed or scared. At the end of the day a routed route marker might look and feel lovely but if people don't recognise what it is or cannot read it or even miss it entirely it is of little use.

This children's hospital in Tokyo has everything necessary for a wayfinding system, indoors or outdoors. The hospital demonstrates good practice in wayfinding signs. Not only is the system consistent and integrated it also feature clear, tactile signs, located in the same place at junctions and service points.

Furthermore the signs take account of the hospital's primary users; the children. The different areas, wards etc use big bold graphic forms to identify themselves. These are not cartoon characters, they offer an easily identifiable system that avoids clutter without being too clinical.





The next example of wayfinding is an exceptional effort undertaken at a regional museum in Japan.

The work was undertaken by Nomura company, a company that specialises in events and event management but has universal design as one of its charitable objectives.

The system uses a combined approach, an innovative tactile wayfinding system, tactile flooring and a rather fetching harness that provides audio information. There were also scale replicas of some of the exhibits that visitors could touch.

This example is included because it is daring to be different and in doing so engages with an audience way beyond those it was initially intended to benefit.

All of this is very fancy and groundbreaking and of course very expensive. However accessible information does not need to be all of these things to be effective.

In a typically stylish Japanese art gallery there is a lovely little piece of inclusive design. The gallery specialised in artwork that was either particularly accessible to or was created by people with disabilities. On the occasion we visited we found an exhibition of textiles that that featured strongly contrasting colours. These pieces had not been designed for people with visual impairments but their design offered a good degree of equality of experience.

On the inside of the gallery's rather wonderful brass door handles is Braille, cast into the piece. Given that the door handle was not expressly designed to hold the Braille it would have been of negligible extra cost. The important thing is that it was included early enough to be easily and seamlessly included.

The text was push or pull as appropriate. We did note however that, possibly because of the stylish nature of the gallery in question there was no sign on the door to inform a sighted visitor as to whether they should push or pull.

For the ultimate in what can be achieved on a budget take a look at Anna Hillman's website www.amazingness.co.uk Anna Hillman is a photographer that delights in everyday natural experiences. She finds little pieces of nature springing up in an urban environment and then draws people's attention to it by writing on the pavement in chalk and then takes photographs.

This is not strictly speaking accessible information and it might stray into interpretation, but writing in chalk does offer a great deal of flexibility in size, contrast and location as well as allowing signs and information to be easily changed.

So what is best practice in information provision?

Use the guidelines

Involve people that know

Offer people choice

Be creative

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

"Disabled People's Views and Perspectives"

Dr Nicola Burns
Research Fellow
University of Glasgow

Introduction
What do disabled people want from the outdoors? Like any diverse group they have a wide range of uses for and expectations of the outdoors. However, as a number of studies have shown, like other under-represented groups, access to the outdoors can be difficult, due to the, at times, insurmountable barriers faced by disabled people. In this presentation, our concern is not simply to focus on the barriers (although this is clearly an ongoing concern) but to offer you an insight into what it is that disabled people want from outdoor recreation and the providers of these services.

Background to Project
Our presentation is based on a 12 month study carried out for the forestry commission. The aims of the project were to:

1. Explore disabled peoples' attitudes, perceptions and experiences of woodlands and how they affect use of woodland recreation services.
2. Explore disabled peoples' physical, information and emotional needs and expectations in relation to woodland,

We carried out a series of site visits with disabled people throughout Scotland, England and Wales. Site visits involved participant observation, together with pre and post visit focus groups. 57 people participated in the site visits including 41 disabled people and support assistants. People were recruited using a variety of methods including calls to local and national disability organisations. We felt it was important to talk to not only disabled people who accessed the outdoors frequently but to talk to those with little or no experience of woodland and forested areas. Our site visits were organised by impairment type and this was done so that we could identify and at times overcome barriers faced by specific group. While we organised support/ travelling arrangements for some individuals, it is important to point out that many participants were very active in doing this themselves. For example, one group of adults with learning difficulties were adamant that they would go to the site using public transport. They chose the site we were to visit and researched the easiest way to get to the site by public transport.

We also conducted 18 telephone interviews with providers of outdoor services, and disability organisations of and for disabled people.

Why go outdoors? Disabled people's reasons for being outdoors

From our study, disabled people's desire to access woodland and the outdoors more generally could be understood in terms of three broad categories: personal identity, well-being and social inclusion.

Personal identity
For many disabled people we spoke to, their ability to get out into and 'manage' the outdoors is an important marker of who they are. For some, this was related to previous experiences in the outdoors before the onset of impairment; for others it provided an opportunity to challenge society's understandings of disabled people. This was bound up with constructions of the countryside and being a capable person able to cope with the rigours of the outdoors. So one participant explains this in terms of:

The empowerment that sort of being in the countryside gives you

Another participant said

I have a desire, an urge to be part of that lifestyle, to walk …I've always aspired to do energetic things and losing my sight hasn't stopped me wanting to do that

Well-being
It is well documented that being out and about in greenspace is good for everyone's well- being. Participants recognised the importance of getting outdoors for their overall well being with people seeing the countryside as a place which recharges them:

Scenery just something to gladden your spirits, just being amongst natural things… there's nothing more soothing than sitting watching a stream trickle by…

Social Inclusion
There was a strong social element to disabled people's reasons for getting outdoors. Many expressed a sense of connection, not only with nature, but with others through participation and shared interest in the outdoors. In other words, the very act of getting outdoors was seen to be a sociable act:

It's great to be with disabled people and not be different for once.

We like to lead normal lives.

Who with?
The sociability of the outdoors leads us to who disabled people go outdoors with. From our research, we uncovered a number of assumptions about who disabled people access the outdoors with, with a dominant assumption being that access would principally be with organised groups. However this was not the case.

Themselves
For some people, particularly those with mental health problems accessing the outdoors alone can provide a welcome escape from others, and offer an

opportunity to express emotions. One of our site visit participants, a keen hill walker with learning difficulties, would frequently access the outdoors alone as well as with a local hill walking group.

Family/friends
Many of our participants regularly accessed the outdoors with friends and family. This was particularly true of families of disabled children we spoke to. The outdoors provided a means for families to interact in a different space, one which was considered to be safer than crowded urban environments.

Organised groups
For a number of our site participants, access to the outdoors was through organised groups. Such groups served a variety of uses for disabled people. A theme which emerged through the use of such groups was the **confidence** which groups instilled in disabled people, the confidence that they could get outdoors. While for some this confidence developed into accessing the outdoors on their own or with family and friends, for others were content to access the outdoors through such groups.

'Out of place' in the outdoors
Throughout the urban environment, disabled people are constantly reminded that they are 'out of place'- steps and stairs, poor signage, poor lighting, lack of BSL interpreters – all serve to design out disabled people from the built environment. Like the urban environment, the rural environment is constructed, reflecting and reinforcing broader social values and norms. Like many recent studies into disabled people's access to the outdoors, our research uncovered a range of barriers which either stop or make disabled people feel out of place in the outdoors.

Lack of accessible and usable information in variety of formats
- Pre-visit planning crucial
- During visit

Separation of trails and services accessible to disabled people
- As I will go on to discuss later, disabled people want to be challenged. The development of accessible trails 800m long neither challenges nor promotes inclusion of disabled people in the outdoors

Lack of infrastructure
- One of the biggest barriers facing disabled people is the lack of transport to and from sites

Attitudes of staff/ organisation in outdoor services
- Staff's approach to disabled people's needs and requests can have a huge impact on people's confidence and willingness to venture outdoors

What do people want from the outdoors?

To be challenged and to be challenging

Many people use outdoor pursuits as a means to challenge themselves and push their skills and experience to the limit:

'I like a sense of danger, living on the edge for a change, we don't get that often'

For some being outdoors is an act of resistance, it gives people an opportunity to challenge stereotypes about disabled people and at times to escape from disablist attitudes. One participant who was part of the Deaf community retold how he had gone on a trek in Nepal. He explained that all participants on the trek were Deaf and therefore no one was disabled. Similarly for one visually impaired participant: *[She] tells me that people in her village know that she enjoys the outdoors and offer to go walking with her, but it never develops into anything concrete. She thinks that people are unsure of how 'dependent' she will be on them. She used to get upset by this but then realised 'that this is not my problem it's theirs'. [site visit 07.09.07]*

Respect and responsibility

Tregaskis (2004) argues that the dominance of the individual model stifles outdoor recreational staff's behaviour towards disabled people, framing them as needing to be 'cared for' and 'incapable' of coping with the perceived rigours of the outdoors. The outcome in practice results in outdoor service providers being cautious about where disabled people can go and what they can do for fear of 'putting them in harms way'. Service providers not only see it as their responsibility to 'look after' disabled people, they also fear that they will be held accountable for any 'mishaps'. An increasing concern with health and safety, an aversion to 'risk' and concern with litigation are of concern to providers. This was emphasised when we tried to set up site visits. We were regularly asked whether we had 'special insurance' for bringing special people. This made us think about our research participants and our positioning of them as responsible adults, able to decide whether to embark on a site visit with us; compared to providers conceptions. As the quote shows, service providers attitudes to risk, health and safety can have an adverse impact on disabled people's own views of themselves and undermine their confidence in their own capabilities. Service providers therefore have a duty to consider how their perceptions of disabled people and practices impinge on disabled people's understanding of themselves and their own capabilities.

Disabled people know their limitations and their capabilities and are able to assess whether they are at risk.

Involvement in creating an accessible outdoors

Disabled people want to be involved in the creation of an accessible outdoors. Recognising the expertise of disabled people in assessing potential issues for a range of different bodies in the woods. Avoiding tokenism was highlighted as an important issue, the practice of drafting disabled people onto an advisory group in order to go through the motions is a waste of time and potentially, money for all involved.

Promoting a culture of inclusion

An important message from our research participants is that technical solutions are not the answer for ensuring access to the outdoors for disabled people. Rather

it is the attitudes and values which underpin the efforts of service providers. A rights based approach to disabled people's access to the outdoors, based on the social model of disability would emphasise the autonomy and independence of disabled people to access the outdoors in the manner of their choosing.

- Disability Equality training for staff at all levels of your organisation
- Involvement of local disability organisations at the planning stage will not only foster local links, potentially boost visits but also perhaps save money in the longer term
- Accessible and usable information as discussed by the Sensory trust
- Infrastructure: thinking beyond your own services to others which enable people to visit the outdoors. Is there potential for services to engage in discussions with transport providers?

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

Workshop 1

"Foxton Locks Case Study"

Phil Chambers, Consultant, CEM Ltd
James Clifton, Regeneration Manager, British Waterways

No paper available

If you would like any information on this workshop please contact:

Phil Chamber - 01484 861845 / cem@philchambers.f9.co.uk
or
James Clifton - 01908 302542 / james.clifton@britishwaterways.co.uk

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

Workshop 2

"Well-being in Action"

Heather Smith, Head of Access for All, National Trust
Theresa Nash, Principal Lecturer Primary Care, Enterprise Lead, Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, Kingston University and St George's University of London

No paper available

If you would like any information on this workshop please contact:

Heather Smith - 01793 817645 / heather.smith@nationaltrust.org.uk
or
Theresa Nash - 07773397984 / tnash@hscs.sgul.ac.uk

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

Workshop 3

"National Nature Reserves in England - an Accessibility Audit"

Simon Melville, Interpretation Specialist, Natural England

Previous work has indicated the importance of information provision about accessibility to allow potential visitors to make informed decisions about visiting particular locations.

The publication of *By All Reasonable Means* (Countryside Agency, 2006) heightened awareness of the importance of disseminating information about the accessibility of countryside recreation locations. Prior to this, many organisations, while making physical improvements on the ground, had omitted to share information about their new or pre-existing facilities. There was an assumption that 'interested people would find out about them' and there was uncertainty about the ways of measuring whether or not a facility was accessible as well as uncertainties about methods of information dissemination. Frankly, it was easier to build a new boardwalk and install a couple of benches than to undertake a full accessibility audit and publish the results for all to read. (Which begs the question "what about those who cannot read…?")

In 2004, Forest Enterprise published an *Accessibility Survey and Access Audit Manual for forest Enterprise Staff*. English Nature subsequently published guidance for its own staff entitled *Accessibility on National Nature Reserves* which drew on the work of Forest Enterprise, the BT –sponsored *Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines* as well as on our sister organisation's *By All Reasonable Mean.*

In 2006, Natural England published its Disability Equality Scheme "not just from the obligation to meet legal requirements but from a meaningful business case, sound common sense and a desire to do the right thing." In this document we said "We will conduct access audits of our NNRs and publicise the results on our website."

In March/April 2008, Natural England engaged the contractors Direct Enquiries to undertake an accessibility audit on the 140 or so National Nature Reserves which it manages in England.

The project took two forms. In a 'pilot study', six Reserves were visited by surveyors from Direct Enquiries who made on-site assessments of what they found. In each of the remaining cases, a telephone questionnaire was undertaken by staff from Direct Enquiries who spoke to each of Natural England's Senior Reserve Managers and asked them a standard set of questions about the access and accessibility of their various NNRs.

The six sites visited were chosen to represent a spread of different habitats and to give a varied geographical representation. They were:

Ainsdale	Sand dune	Merseyside
Aston Rowant	Chalk grassland	Oxfordshire
Castle Eden Dene	Woodland gorge	Durham
Shapwick	Wetland	Somerset
Stiperstones	Upland	Shropshire
Thursley	Heathland	Surrey

The results of these on-site studies are now available to the general public on the Direct Enquiries website and were demonstrated and discussed at the Workshop on 18 November 2008.

http://www.directenquiries.com/attractions.aspx?tab=Attractions+&+Countryside;level=1

The information collected through the telephone questionnaires has, in part been placed onto the same website but it has been found that the data collected by this part of the study is, as collected, less valuable to potential visitors and ideally requires considerable editing before being placed in the public domain.

Discussion centred around the pros and cons of using staff to audit their own sites vv the use of external auditors; the combination of accessibility audits into regular safety audits (there is an acknowledged overlap of the two audits); the ‘standards’ applied to the audit process (whether the audits by Direct Enquiries had applied the ‘standards’ of By All reasonable Means); and the quality and quantity of information provided on the website.

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

"Disability Equality Schemes"

Phil Chambers
Consultant
CEM Ltd

No paper available

If you would like any information on this presentation please contact:

Phil Chamber - 01484 861845 / cem@philchambers.f9.co.uk

APPENDIX A

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

"Accessible Outdoor Recreation"

PROGRAMME

09.30 *Registration and refreshments*

10.00 **Welcome by the Chair –** Robin Helby, Disabled Ramblers

10.10 **Outdoors for All: What are the priorities for creating inclusive outdoor environments?** Dave Waterman, DEFRA

10.30 **Recent good practice in information provision.** Stuart Spurring, Sensory Trust

10.50 **Disabled people's views and perspectives**. Dr Nicola Burns, University of Glasgow

11.10 **Q&A**

11.30 *Refreshments*

11.45 **Workshop Session 1**

Three groups:

(1) Phil Chambers & James Clifton, British Waterways. Foxton Locks case study
(2) Heather Smith, National Trust & Theresa Nash, Kingston and St George's Universities. Well-being in action
(3) Simon Melville, Natural England, National Nature Reserves in England - an Accessibility Audit

13.00 *Lunch*

13.45 **Disability equality schemes** - Phil Chambers, Consultant, CEM Ltd

14.15 **Workshop session 2**

15.30 **Feedback from Workshops**

16.00 **Summary from the Chair**

16.15 *Close*

Workshop Structure

- 3 rotating workshop sessions, giving each delegate an opportunity to participate in two.
- Each workshop to be introduced by a short good practice presentation from facilitators.
- Each workshop to have a rapporteur (nominated beforehand) to report at the Feedback session in the afternoon

Chair to summarise any overall issues/conclusions arising from the day in terms of:

(1) examples of innovative good practice;

(2) issues/challenges/ opportunities to be taken forward by outdoor recreation providers over the coming years.

APPENDIX B

Countryside Recreation Network Seminar

"Accessible Outdoor Recreation"

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

CHAIR

Robin Helby
Disabled Ramblers

Robin Helby is currently the Chairman of the Disabled Ramblers, a registered charity which promotes access to the countryside for the mobility impaired and organises rambles in England & Wales. An active rambler, he has a preference for exploring difficult terrain and this year organised a novel three day camping expedition round 30 miles of Salisbury Plain.

A trustee of the Disabled Ramblers since its founding in 1996, he has been intimately involved with the technical development of improved off-road scooters and the acquisition of their fleet of scooters for those without financial means or transport. He is also a member of the Rights of Way Review Committee, the Joint Committee for the Mobility of Disabled Persons, the Countryside For All Forum and Deputy Chairman of the Guildford Access Group.

He has a professional background in surveying, land management and construction, and brings a detailed understanding of the technical issues involved in developing access. He has been closely involved in developing the methodology for improving accessibility, especially interpretation and communication.

He is also a Director of RoamAbilty Ltd, am access consultancy set up as a social enterprise company with profits going to the Disabled Ramblers. RoamAbility advises on access in the countryside, including the management of loan scooters. He has provided extensive training courses for staff in the development of external access and also management training in the provision of personal mobility vehicles for loan.

Dave Waterman
Head of Recreation and Access Policy
DEFRA

A career civil servant, Dave has worked in several Government Departments in a variety of roles. Much of Dave's experience has been in policy areas that have involved the interpretation and enactment of legislation and before joining Defra, he worked as a Planning Inspector. Since November 2001, Dave has been responsible for rights of way policy and legislation in Defra and currently heads the recreation & access team.

Stuart Spurring
Information Designer
SENSORY TRUST

As information designer at the Sensory Trust, Stuart has been leading a 3 year project designing accessible information and raising professional awareness of the importance of information in opening up open spaces to the widest audience. The Sensory Trust works to remove the barriers that prevent some people from enjoying these spaces and information is vital to achieving this. The project has included consulting with a wide range of different groups to identify needs and to test pilot materials. Recent work includes a series of inclusively designed banners for the entrance to Eden Project and a flexible magnetic map that makes creative use of Widgit symbols. Stuart's background is in graphic design and publishing; prior to moving to joining the Sensory Trust, Stuart was a volunteer based in a regional media centre in the Pacific. This work included a couple of projects for the Fiji Disabled People's Association, work which highlighted some of the challenges (rather than restrictions) that designing accessible information poses.

Dr Nicola Burns
Research Fellow
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Dr Nicola Burns is a research fellow based in the Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research, University of Glasgow. Nicola has worked on a number of research projects in the field of disability studies. Nicola was part of a team which completed research into disabled people perceptions and access to forest recreation, goods and services which was funded by the Forestry Commission. She has particular research interests in housing issues for disabled people, technology and qualitative research methods.

Phil Chambers
Consultant
CEM Ltd

Phil Chambers, a wheelchair user established CEM, an independent consultancy, in 2002 to provide advice and support to countryside, heritage and green space managers looking to develop more socially inclusive leisure programmes. In particular, responding to the needs of people with disabilities. He was formerly Director of the Fieldfare Trust and was very involved in the publishing of the BT Countryside for Standards and Guidelines and Waterways Access for All, with British Waterways. He was also a member of the Doorstep Greens national steering group and is presently a CABE Space - Strategic Enabler and HLF - National Directory of Expert Advisors. He has a wide background in consultancy, training and development initiatives to benefit socially excluded groups in outdoor and heritage environments.

Trustee of the Safe Anchor Trust and an Independent Board Member of Berneslai Homes.

James Clifton
Regeneration Manager
BRITISH WATERWAYS

No biography available

Heather Smith
Head of Access for All
NATIONAL TRUST

Before working for the National Trust, Heather lived in Scotland for 8 years and worked in the museum and gallery sector, culminating in working as a consultant with engage Scotland (the Scottish branch of the National Association of Gallery Education.) Here, she worked on the development of access policy guidance for the Scottish Arts Council and completed a report during the European Year of Disabled People 2003, 'Addressing disability in galleries in Scotland', to advise the Scottish Parliament.

Heather has now worked in the field of access for all for several years. She has completed extensive research in the field of access to museums and galleries, particularly provisions in interpretation and building design for blind and partially sighted people.

Having previously worked on the visitor services team at Tatton Park, a Trust property in the North West of England, Heather came to the post of Access for All Adviser for the Trust in October 2003. This post focused purely on disability issues but, in September 2005, Heather took on the role of Head of Access for All, broadening her responsibilities to equality and diversity. The implementation of

the Trust's Equality and Diversity policy and the continuing development of training and advice are key priorities in her current work as well as establishing the importance and benefit of equality and diversity in all Trust activity.

Theresa Nash
Principal Lecturer Primary Care
KINGSTON UNIVERSITY & ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY

Theresa Nash is a Principal Lecturer in Primary Care and Enterprise Lead for the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences (FHSCS) Kingston University and St Georges University of London, she sits on two national forums; Royal College of Nursing Adolescent Health Forum, and Royal Society of Medicine General Practice and Primary Care Council. Her background is in public health nursing, education, service development, research and social enterprise.

Theresa has undertaken a range of primary care research studies in adolescent health most recently a national survey for the Royal College of Nursing to understand the issues, and practice principles for working with young people (Adolescence, Boundaries, Connections and Dilemmas) and has coordinated the development of a national guide for working with young people in partnership with the RCN Adolescent Health Forum.

Her particular interest is in facilitating innovation, breaking down traditional boundaries between people for example: ability/disability; service user/provider; old/young, and ensuring that participatory approaches are embedded in service development.

She has recently led on developing the enterprise strategy for the FHSCS and is now co coordinating its delivery. This includes taking a lead on the *Heritage2Health* initiative which seeks to build bridges between communities and the heritage, creative industry and health sector. Theresa had initiated the idea and worked with colleagues to develop the collaboration with WestFocus partners, the National Trust, English Heritage and a range of community organisations.

Simon Melville
Interpretation Specialist
NATURAL ENGLAND

Born and raised in Kent, I have always had an interest in natural history. I started work with the Nature Conservancy Council in North Wales in 1975 and have worked for it and its successor bodies ever since in a variety of roles from scientific, estate management and administrative to publicity and design. My current role, with Natural England, is titled 'Specialist – National Nature Reserve Interpretation' though, in truth, it is at present largely involving the re-branding of visitor signage across our suite of 170 or so NNRs.

In my previous role with English Nature, amongst other things, I had a responsibility for advising NNR managers about accessibility to their sites. Although Natural England has other staff involved in this area of work, I have maintained my interest and have managed the Accessibility Audit work carried out in early 2008.

APPENDIX C

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Countryside Recreation Network

Glenn Millar
Economic Development Manager
British Waterways
64 Clarendon Road

Watford
England
WD17 1DA

Telephone 01923 201356
Fax 01923 201300
E.mail glenn.millar@britishwaterways.co.uk

Tim Lidstone-Scott
National Trail Manager
Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path
The Old Courthouse
Baron's Close
Fakenham
England
NR21 8BE

Telephone 01328 850530
Fax 01328 850546
E.mail tim.lidstone-scott@norfolk.gov.uk

Richard Cooke
Agri-Environment Access
Natural England
Riverside Chambers
Castle Street
Taunton
England
TA1 4AP

Telephone 01823 285532
Fax
E.mail richard.i.cooke@naturalengland.org.uk

David Robinson
Access and Recreation Developer
Lake District National Park Authority
Blencathra Centre
Threlkeld
Keswick
England
CA12 4SG

Telephone 01768 871 409
Fax
E.mail DavidRobinson@lake-district.gov.uk

Alison Millward
Principal
Alison Millward Associates
20 Reddings Road
Moseley
Birmingham
England
B13 8LN

Telephone 0121 449 9181
Fax 0121 249 2894
E.mail alison.millward@talk21.com

Russell Robson
Regional Recreation Officer
Environment Agency
Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading
England
RG1 8DQ

Telephone
Fax
E.mail russell.robson@environment-agency.gov.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Mary Knight
Public Rights of Way Officer
Bristol City Council
Traffic management, Floor 4
Wilder House
Wilder Street
England
BS2 8QX

Telephone 0117 9036987
Fax 0117 9036830
E.mail mary.knight@bristol.gov.uk

Neil Oxley
Greenspace Manager
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Bulls Cross
Myddelton House
Enfield
England
EN2 9HG

Telephone 01992709875
Fax 01992709922
E.mail noxley@leevalleypark.org.uk

Jim Congdon
Assistant Countryside Officer
Bridgend County Borough Council
Planning Department Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
Wales
CF31 4WB

Telephone 01656 643166
Fax 01656 643190
E.mail Jim.Congdon@bridgend.gov.uk

Valerie Staley
Woodland Officer
Woodland Trust
2 The Cottage
Watery Lane, Hewish
Crewkerne
England
TA18 8QX

Telephone 01460 77071
Fax
E.mail valeriestaley@woodland-trust.org.uk

Chris Gordon
Recreation Specialist
Natural England
Social and Economic EvidenceTeam
Northminster House
Peterborough
England
PE1 1UA

Telephone 01733 455025
Fax 01733 568834
E.mail chris.gordon@naturalengland.org.uk

Coralie Dickinson
Countryside Ranger
Durham County Council
County Hall

Durham
England
DH1 5UQ

Telephone 0191 383 5509
Fax
E.mail coralie.dickinson@durham.gov.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Andrew Mackintosh
Access and Recreation Advisor
Natural England
Bullring House

Wakefield
England
WF1 3BJ

Telephone 01924 334500
Fax
E.mail andrew.mackintosh@naturalengland.org.uk

Graeme Stringer
Recreation Ranger
Forestry Commission
Government Buildings
Arran Rd.
Dolgellau
Wales
LL40 1LW

Telephone 01341 422289
Fax
E.mail graeme.stringer@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Alison Matheson
Policy and Advice Officer
Recreation and Access Group
Scottish National Heritage
SNH, Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Scotland
IV3 8NW

Telephone 01463725209
Fax
E.mail alison.matheson@snh.gov.uk

Jim Langridge
Countryside Consultant
Jim Langridge Countryside Consulting
34 Crompton Avenue

Bidford on Avon
England
B50 4DG

Telephone 01789 778864
Fax
E.mail jimlangridge@btopenworld.com

Sarah Manchester
Countryside Access Officer
New Forest National Park Authority
South Efford House
Milford Road
Lymington
England
SO41 0JD

Telephone 01590 646669
Fax 01590 646601
E.mail sarah.manchester@newforestnpa.gov.uk

Chris Livsey
Countryside Manager
Ministry of Defence
Estate Office, DTE Otterburn
Otterburn
Newcastle upon Tyne
England
NE19 1NX

Telephone 0191 239 4329
Fax
E.mail chris.livsey@de.mod.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Countryside Recreation Network

Annette Venters-Weiss
Strategic Access Officer
Chilterns Conservation Board
The Lodge
90 Station Road
Chinnor
England
OX39 4AH

Telephone 01844 355508
Fax
E.mail aweiss@chilternsaonb.org

Jos Joslin
National Trails Manager
Oxfordshire County Council
33 Duns Tew

Bicester
England
OX25 6JS

Telephone 01869 340096
Fax
E.mail j.joslin@tiscali.co.uk

Gareth Knapper
Countryside Ranger
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
England
ST13 6HQ

Telephone 01538 483579
Fax 01538 483666
E.mail gareth.knapper@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Nicola Hodgson
Case Officer
Open Spaces Society
25A Bell Street

Henley-on Thames
England
RG9 2BA

Telephone 01491 573535
Fax 01491 573051
E.mail nicolahodgson@oss.org.uk

Sally Menna Coulson
Projects Officer, Parks and Countryside
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
4th Floor, Time Square
Market Street
Bracknell
England
RG12 1JD

Telephone 01344 354118
Fax 01344 354100
E.mail sally.coulson@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Sheila Talbot
Specialist - National Trails & Country Parks
Natural England
John Dower House
Crescent Place
Cheltenham
England
GL50 3RA

Telephone 01242 533454
Fax 01242 584270
E.mail sheila.talbot@naturalengland.org.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Countryside Recreation Network

James Maben
Access and Interpretation Officer
Neroche Scheme
St Ivel House
Station Road
Hemyock
England
EX15 3SJ

Telephone 01823 680846
Fax
E.mail james.maben@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Sue Pepper
Rights of Way Officer
West Berkshire Council
Council Offices
Faraday Road
Newbury
England
RG14 2AF

Telephone 01635 519068
Fax
E.mail spepper@westberks.gov.uk

Lucy Swannell
Recreation Officer-West Region
Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Gogerddan
Penrhyncoch
Aberystwyth
Wales
SY23 3EE

Telephone 01970 821100
Fax
E.mail l.swannell@ccw.gov.uk

Sally Vickery
Rights of Way Officer
Somerset County Council

County Hall
Taunton
England
TA1 4DY

Telephone 01823 355672
Fax 01823 356114
E.mail savickery@somerset.gov.uk

Jonathon Lee
Participation Manager
Innovate Trust
433 Cowbridge Road east
Canton
Cardiff

CF5 1JH

Telephone 029 20382151 /
Fax 029 20391950
E.mail jonathon.lee@innovate-trust.org.uk

Anna Baness
Access & Recreation Officer
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Parke
Bovey Tracey
Newton Abbot

TQ13 9JQ

Telephone 01626 832093
Fax
E.mail abaness@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Countryside Recreation Network

Tara Love
Recreation Development Officer
Craigavon Borough Council
Civic Centre
Lake View Road
Craigavon

BT64 1AL

Telephone 02838311683
Fax
E.mail tara.love@craigavon.gov.uk

Phil Allen
Area Team Leader
Hampshire County Council
C/O 19 Bull Farm
Kings Worthy
Winchester
England
SO21 1AQ

Telephone 01962 882444
Fax
E.mail pw.allen@tiscali.co.uk

Jonathon Taylor
Country Parks Manager
Coventry City Council
The Visitor Centre
Coomer Country Park, Brinklow Road
Binley
England
CU3 2AB

Telephone 0247 6453720
Fax
E.mail joe.taylor@coventry.gov.uk

Alison Hopewell
Lower Windrush Valley Project
Oxfordshire County Council
Countryside Service
Fletcher's House, Park Street
Woodstock
England
OX20 1SN

Telephone
Fax
E.mail

Liz Fleuty
Lincolnshire Limewoods Project Officer
Lincolnshire County Council
Planning and Conservation
City Hall
Lincoln
England
LN1 1DN

Telephone 01522 554 831
Fax 01522 554 829
E.mail liz.fleuty@lincolnshire.gov.uk

David Knowles
Forest of Mercia Community Liaison Officer
Staffordshire County Council
Forest of Mercia
Pool Road, Brownhills
Walsall
England
WS8 7NL

Telephone 01543 370737
Fax
E.mail david.knowles@staffordshire.gov.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Denise Snelson
Countryside Access Development Officer
Cheshire County Council
Phoenix House
Clough Road
Winsford

CW7 4BD

Telephone 01244 973137
Fax 01244 972632
E.mail Denise.Snelson@cheshire.gov.uk

Peter Duthie
Project Manager - Countryside Access Team
Cambridgeshire County Council
Babbage House
Shire Hall
Cambridge

CB3 0AT

Telephone 01223 716853
Fax 01223 718159
E.mail peter.duthie@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Amanda Peacock
Consultant
PLB Consulting Ltd
Dovecote Stables
Swinton Grange Courtyard
Swinton, Malton

YO17 6QR

Telephone 01653 698309
Fax 01653 694791
E.mail amanda.peacock@plbltd.com

Amanda Daw
Social Inclusion Ranger-
Lancashire County Council
Countrysise Service- P O Box 9
Guild House, Cross Street
Preston
England
PR1 8RD

Telephone
Fax
E.mail amanda.daw@env.lancscc.gov.uk

Jenny Crook
Community Liaison Officer
Natural England
Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve
Aston Hill
Lewknor
England
OX49 5SG

Telephone 01844 351833
Fax
E.mail jenny.crook@naturalengland.org.uk

Daniel Ramm
Angling Development Officer - Equity & Ethics
Angling Development Board
21 Highfield Road
Bramley
Leeds
England
LS13 2BL

Telephone 07800855709
Fax
E.mail daniel.ramm@anglingdevelopment.org.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Countryside Recreation Network

Adam Bell
Interim Trail Officer
Hadrian's Wall Heritage Limited
East Peterel Field
Dipton Mill Road
Hexham
England
NE46 2JT

Telephone 01434 611 786
Fax 01434 601 267
E.mail Adam.Bell@hadrianswallheritage.co.uk

Sarah Doel
Education Officer
Urban Healths Partnership
Urban Wildlife Centre
Beacon Hill Lane
Corfe Mullen
England
BH21 3RX

Telephone 07733003562
Fax
E.mail s.doel@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Ben Totterdell
Interpretation Manager
Exmoor National Park Authority
Exmoor House
Dulverton
Somerset
England
TA22 9HL

Telephone 01398 322286
Fax
E.mail BTotterdell@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Carys Drew
Access Policy Officer
CCW
Plas Gogerddan
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
Wales
SY23 3EE

Telephone 01970 821158
Fax 01970828314
E.mail c.drew@ccw.gov.uk

Giles Heap
Business Development Manager
CED Ltd
728 London Road
West Thurrock
Grays

RM20 3LU

Telephone 01708 867237
Fax 01708 867230
E.mail gilesheap@ceo.ltd.uk

Zoe Cox
Recreation Ranger
The Forestry Commission
The Queen's House
Lyndhurst
Hampshire
England
S043 7NH

Telephone 02380 283141
Fax 02380 283929
E.mail zoe.cox@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Accessible Outdoor Recreation
18 November 2008
Oxford

Delegate List

Countryside Recreation Network

Vicky Powell
Countryside Access Development Officer
Worcestershire County Council
10 Redstone Lane
Stowport

England
WR5 2NP

Telephone 01905 822820
Fax
E.mail vpowell@worcestershire.gov.uk

George Diprose
Rights of Way Officer
Doncaster Met Borough Council
Defra, Zone 1/02
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
England
BS1 6EB

Telephone 0117 372 6274
Fax 0117 372 8587
E.mail george.diprose@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Aidan Creamer
Countryside Recreation Development
Sport Northern Ireland
House of Sport
Upper Malone Road
Belfast
Ireland
BT9 5LA

Telephone 02890 383741
Fax
E.mail aidancreamer@sportni.net

Jo Ronald
Access Policy Officer
Countryside Council for Wales
1st Floor Ladywell House
Park Street
Newtown Powys
Wales
SY16 1RD

Telephone 01686 613412
Fax 01686 629556
E.mail j.ronald@ccw.gov.uk

Debbie Gosman
Sustainable leisure travel and local food
Natural England
Eastbrooke
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
England
CB28DR

Telephone 07900608481
Fax
E.mail Debbie.gosman@naturalengland.org.uk

APPENDIX D