Recreational Activities at National Trust Properties

Guiding Principles and Good Practice



First published in 1995 as Part C of Open Countryside: Report of the Access Review Working Party

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Introduction

Open Countryside, the report of the Access Review Working Party, has provided a framework and direction for the management of access since 1995. It has been well received both internally and by those representing recreational interests. Parts A and B of Open Countryside remain a useful source of reference. Copies are still available and can be obtained from the Estates Department.

The Principles for Access remain and will continue to govern the National Trust's management of access in the countryside.

Principle I – The duty and primary purpose of the National Trust in the countryside is to promote permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation. It will regard access as a fundamental way of providing this benefit and as a principal purpose.

Principle 2 – The National Trust Acts establish its responsibilities for conservation. If serious conflict arises, conservation will take precedence over access.

Principle 3 – The National Trust will ensure that the countryside retains characteristics which afford the widest range of experiences and will enable people to enjoy access to its properties.

Now, five years later, Recreational Activities at National Trust Properties — Guiding Principles and Good Practice supersedes Part C of Open Countryside. Those previously consulted have been contacted again and welcomed the proposal to update and add to the original Part C. In addition four new activities have been included: sub-aqua diving, camping, caravanning and challenge events. Examples of good practice undertaken at properties are indicated in italics. Please let us know of others for the next revision.

This new document has been prepared in PDF format, which has been produced with the intranet in mind. With an acrobat decoder it can be viewed on a Mac or PC. It will therefore be easier to update in future and individual properties will be able to print off sections as necessary.

Comments, ideas for change or suggestions for new activities are welcome and should be sent to:

Jo Burgon, Coast & Countryside Adviser, The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Circncester GL7 1RQ. Tel: 01285 884706. E-mail: joburgon@smtp.ntrust.org.uk

Hugo Blomfield, Access and Recreation Coordinator, The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester GL7 1RQ. Tel: 01285 884759. E-mail: hugoblomfield@smtp.ntrust.org.uk

Bait digging

Bait digging takes place on very few National Trust properties, but is a cause for concern because of the potentially damaging impacts on nature conservation interests. As with most activities, scale and good practice are important: hand digging by small numbers of people is probably sustainable; larger scale, commercial or mechanical extraction may not be. Both target and non-target species can recover from digging quickly, but conversely, over-exploitation can lead to severe depletion or local extinctions.

The activity requires investigation and review with advice from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the statutory conservation bodies.

Guiding principles

- 1 Recognising the damaging impacts bait digging can have, the National Trust should have a presumption against commercial use, or use on any appreciable scale.
- 2 Bait digging infringes the National Trust's Byelaws, unless a right is claimed and verified.

Good practice

- Ideally, bait digging should be controlled by licence.
- Zone foreshore to provide no-digging areas and/or areas where use is rotated, and ensure that unexploited areas are left for re-population.
- Control amount of catch allowed (limit to personal use only), size of worm taken and season of use.
- Limit to daylight hours in areas important for roosting birds.
- Prohibit mechanical digging.
- Protect nursery beds and small beaches with limited scope for recolonisation.
- Require infilling of holes or trenches to effect faster recolonisation.
- Ensure boulders are replaced as found.

Monitoring suggestions: Full review of this activity is needed.

Trends

Not known. Currently approximately two million sea anglers in Britain. Significant increase in bait digging in 1970s and 1980s, now thought to be stabilising.

Possible impacts

Damage from mechanical harvesting.

Hand digging can have the following impacts: population decline of target species (eg lugworms, ragworms and crabs), usually temporary and/or localised, but can be serious if large quantities are taken, trenches are left open, no unexploited areas are left or original population is localised.

Population decline of non-target species, especially the larger and slow-growing species (marine invertebrates and flora).

Habitat damage, especially through boulder-turning, with detrimental effects as above.

Removal of bird food resource (significance not yet assessed).

Disturbance of birds.

Changes in chemical content of sediments overturned and exposed to air.

Danger to other beach users from holes left by bait diggers.

Contacts and liaison

National Federation of Sea Anglers

51a Queen Street, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2QJ

Tel: 01626 331330

Contact: Development Officer

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

English Nature

Countryside Council for Wales

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

References

Fowler, S. L. (1992). Survey of Bait Collection in Britain. Joint Nature Conservation Committee report no. 107. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Huggett, D. (1992). Foreshore Fishing for Shellfish and Bait. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Both reports analyse the legal and biological aspects of bait digging.

Camping

There are three main types of provision for campers on National Trust property: on recognised camp sites managed by the Trust, on recognised sites managed by camping clubs and on smaller sites managed by tenants and others. Camping away from recognised sites requires permission.

The Trust compiles an annual list of recognised camping and caravan sites on its properties which gives an indication of facilities, opening times, charges and restrictions. Some of these sites are restricted to use by scout and/or guide groups only.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes, promotes and publicises camping on recognised sites managed by itself and others.
- There is a presumption against camping on non-recognised sites without permission. This presumption is waived in certain circumstances and areas, eg in the Lake District in upland areas above 450 metres out of sight of the public highway, to allow the wilderness experience to be enjoyed.
- Wild camping', where tolerated, should only involve one night stop-overs, a maximum of two campers and leave no trace of its presence.
- 4 Organised groups, eg Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, should consult with local National Trust contacts in advance of a visit to determine if there are special arrangements for groups of this type.

Good practice

- The design and management of recognised sites should reflect the National Trust's environmental principles, particularly in relation to refuse, sanitation and water management.
- There should be no lighting of fires or barbecues except where such sites are provided.
- Assessments should be made of site capacity, bearing in mind the characteristics of the site and its surrounding area.
- The National Trust will continue to produce an annual site guide which might include more information about 'responsible' camping.
- Farm tenants should be encouraged to consider the provision of sites in appropriate circumstances. Such sites should reflect the National Trust's environmental standards.
- Dogs should be kept under close control, ideally on a lead, on recognised camping sites and may occasionally be prohibited. They should be exercised away from pitch areas and those used for communal activities, and faeces should be picked up and disposed of responsibly.

Trends

The Camping and Caravanning Club has an audited membership of 294,772 with membership continuing to increase. The total number of pitches currently used by campers and caravanners is thought to be in the order of 300,000.

Possible impacts

Disturbance to wildlife, livestock or farming practice from insensitively sited pitches.

Disturbance to local communities.

Fires.

Litter.

Pollution of watercourses.

Visual intrusion in sensitive landscapes.

Contacts and liaison

Camping and Caravanning Club

Greenfields House, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JH

Tel: 024 7669 4995 Contact: Sites Director

The Club represents the interests of campers and caravanners and provides facilities through a national network of sites for its members.

Legislation, codes and agreements

The provision of sites for camping is governed by the Public Health Act 1936 together with subsequent Town and Country Planning legislation. A licence is only required for the use of land as a rented camp site if the use exceeds 42 consecutive days per year or a total of 60 days during a calendar year. The Camping and Caravanning Club is permitted to operate sites without a licence.

References

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (1998). Housing Research Summary – Local Authority Powers for Managing Unauthorised Camping (No.90, 1998). DETR, London.

Mountaineering Council of Scotland (1998). Wild Camping – A Guide to Good Practice. MCof S, Perth, Scotland.

Canoeing

Use of National Trust waters by canoeists is not great. Overall in the UK canoeists are not well provided for. The activity has few damaging impacts and, provided potential impacts are controlled by permit, licence or agreement, it could take place on more rivers.

Guiding principles

- The National Trust welcomes canoeists on suitable waters and should seek to identify new opportunities for canoeing.
- 2 The National Trust should limit canoeing on areas it wishes to retain as 'remote' to foster a sense of wilderness and to allow such areas to become wildlife refuges and conservation areas.
- Where fishing rights are in hand there should not be an automatic presumption in favour of fishing as opposed to canoeing.

Good practice

- Promote the British Canoeing Union's (BCU's) 'Earning a Welcome' and the Angling and Canoeing Statement of Intent produced by the Sports Council.
- Liaise with the local access officers of the BCU/Welsh Canoeing Association (WCA)/Canoeing Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) or clubs to promote controlled canoeing where possible, particularly if new waters are being made available. Lake District, North West
- Encourage affiliation to a canoeing club or membership of the BCU/WCA/CANI.
- Encourage liaison and/or agreements between anglers and canoeists.

 River Tyne, Northumbria: agreement to balance the needs of anglers and canoeists during busy periods between October and February
- The modification of natural channels specifically for canoeing should not be permitted.
- New vehicular access to the water's edge to facilitate canoe launching should be resisted unless it also serves other purposes.
- Designate launching and landing places.
- Avoid areas used for swimming and diving.
- Avoid fish spawning areas (salmon and trout October March); at spawning times (check local situation).
- Avoid important breeding bird and wintering wildfowl areas.

• Consider the use of time/space zoning or controlling numbers or group size where sites are sensitive or heavily visited.

Crummock Water & Wastwater, North West

Monitoring suggestions: Record numbers using particular water bodies by keeping records of permits and licences and by 'spot counts' at specified locations on certain days of the year (eg high use, average use and low use days).

Trends

Increasing steadily. Membership of BCU (England): 1996 – 20,000. Target for 2000 – 21,000. 100,000 canoe owners in UK (1993). One million canoe at least once a year. Activity holidays, family touring, plastic canoes and use of artificial courses all increasing. Plastic canoes mean that use of previously un-canoeable water is now possible.

Possible impacts

Slight erosion locally, especially at launching points.

Some disturbance to wildlife.

Conflicts between anglers and canoeists.

Contacts and liaison

British Canoe Union (BCU)

Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS

Tel: 0115 9821100 Fax: 0115 9821797

Contact: National Development Officer or local access officers

Nine regional committees in England. The BCU is canoeing's national organisation. It aims to provide a service to its members in the following: education, information, training and improved access to canoeable waters, thereby increasing the enjoyment, safety and skills of canoeists. It is also responsible for national and international competition and the administration of grants. The Union has a countrywide network of river and coastal access officers. BCU members have the benefit of a BCU Waterways Licence valid over 3200 km (2000 miles) of British Waterways' rivers and canals and 1000 km (625 miles) of other waters.

Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI)

c/o Sports Council of Northern Ireland, House of Sport, Upper Malone Road,

Belfast BT9 5LA Tel: 028 9038 1222

Welsh Canoeing Association (WCA)

Canol Tryweryn, Frongoch, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7NU

Tel: 01678 521199 Fax: 01678 521158

Local canoeing clubs

Environment Agency – currently working on a policy for canoe access agreements

References

British Canoe Union - 'Canoe Focus' magazine.

Regional club newsletters.

British Canoe Union (1991). Access and Environmental Policies. British Canoe Union, Nottingham.

British Canoe Union (1991). Guidelines for River Clean-ups. British Canoe Union, Nottingham.

Sports Council (undated). *Angling and Canoeing Statement of Intent*. Statement published by Canoe Access and Development Committee convened by the National Anglers' Council. The Sports Council, London.

British Canoe Union (undated). Earning a Welcome. BCU, Nottingham.

Caravanning (including Motor caravans)

There are three main types of provision for caravanners on National Trust property: on recognised sites managed by the Trust, on recognised sites managed by the major caravanning organisations and on smaller sites managed by farm tenants and others. The Trust compiles an annual list of recognised camping and caravan sites on its properties which gives an indication of facilities, opening times, charges and restrictions.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes caravanners on recognised sites managed by itself and others.
- 2 The overnight use of National Trust car parks is prohibited.

Good practice

- Site managers and users should act responsibly with regard to waste water and sanitation disposal. Full account should be taken of the need to safeguard water supplies and prevent the pollution of rivers and streams.
- Refuse should be taken home or disposed of in accordance with on-site arrangements.
- Units should be well spaced to ensure emergency vehicles have good access to each unit on site.
- Open fires and barbecues should not be lit without the permission of the site manager.
- The speed of vehicles should be restricted to 5mph on site.
- Organisers of events should spread the arrival and departure of vehicles to minimise disruption to local people and other road users.
- Steps should be taken to ensure that access to the proposed site is suitable for the number and likely size of units expected to use the site.
- Dogs should be kept under close control, ideally on leads, on sites and may be prohibited. They should be exercised away from other units and parts of the site used for communal activities and faeces should be picked up and disposed of responsibly.
- The Trust recognises that some car parks, particularly those with height barriers, restrict access for motor caravans. Wherever possible and appropriate when planning and managing parking areas, consideration should be given to the requirements of caravans and motor caravans, which can average 8.5 metres long, 2.3 metres wide and 3.2 metres high.

Trends

The Camping and Caravanning Club and Caravan Club have an estimated combined membership of 500,000 and membership of both clubs continues to increase. Touring caravans and camping form a significant part of the self-catering market and account for 25% of trips.

The main appeal of caravanning is consistently given as 'freedom', as it combines the flexibility of self-catering with the ability to move location relatively easily. Another factor which always scores highly is 'cheapness' as once the initial outlay has been made the cost of using the vehicle is relatively small. Caravanning, and more specifically motor caravanning, is becoming increasingly popular with disabled people.

Possible impacts

Landscape intrusion from insensitively located sites.

Fires.

Litter.

Pollution of watercourses.

Disturbance to wildlife, livestock or farming practice.

Disturbance to local communities.

Contacts and liaison

Camping and Caravanning Club

Greenfields House, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JH

Tel: 024 7669 4995 Contact: Sites Director

The Club represents the interests of campers and caravanners and provides facilities through a national network of sites for its members.

The Caravan Club

East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1UA

Tel: 01342 326944

Motor Caravanners' Club

22 Evelyn Close, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7BN

Legislation, codes and agreements

The development or extension of caravan sites requires planning permission together with a site licence in accordance with the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. Site licences are issued by local authorities which specify conditions relating to factors such as number of pitches, layout, density, landscaping, sanitation and safety arrangements.

A site licence is not required in certain circumstances. For touring or holiday caravans the exceptions are:

- temporary and low key use which does not exceed 28 days per year and the number of vans is limited to three on sites of five acres or one not staying more than two nights on any piece of land.
- exempted organisations (ie the two main membership organisations), managing their own sites or holding rallies of not more than five days' duration.
- certified sites are authorised by an exempted organisation and are restricted to a maximum of five caravans.

References

DETR (1997). A Guide to Touring Caravan Exemption Certificates. C1901 DDP Services. DETR, London.

Caving and Potholing

Natural caves are a particularly fragile environment and have been seriously damaged in recent decades, from both recreation and other land uses. Physical damage to formations is very serious and usually irreversible. There is a correlation between the amount of access to a cave and levels of damage. It is important that caves on National Trust land are regularly monitored taking all land uses and interests into account.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes caving and potholing at selected sites, subject to area, regional or national strategies as appropriate.
- **2** Cave conservation on National Trust land should be regularly monitored and reviewed.

Good practice

- Promote the National Caving Association (NCA) Cave Conservation Policy.
- Prepare a strategy for each main caving area with the appropriate regional caving association, NCA, local clubs and other landowners.
 South Peak, East Midlands
- Establish close liaison with local clubs and cave conservation officers for regional associations.
 - South Peak, East Midlands; Gower, Wales; North Somerset, Wessex
- Liaise with guidebook committees and/or editors.
- Encourage clubs to participate in cave conservation plans.
- Grille or gate cave and mine entrances (allowing bat access).
- Zone more resilient sites for group and training centre use.
- Tape routes and tape off delicate formations.
- Stipulate leadership qualification (ie NCA Cave Instructors Certificate) as condition of access.
- Digging and use of explosives should be for authorised research and rescue purposes only.
- Prohibit use of carbide lamps.
- Use internal locked gates to prevent access to susceptible parts of cave systems.
- Limit access by novices (eg a maximum of 2 in a group of 7) as they generally cause more damage than experienced cavers.

Monitoring suggestions: Collect regular data on cave disturbance, particularly in cave entrances. Volunteers and cave conservation officers can be usefully involved.

Trends

Significant increases in the last 10 years, especially in outdoor activity centres, school groups and commercial organisations. 20–25,000 people go caving every year. 12,000 members of National Caving Association.

Possible impacts

Disturbance of cave soils.

Damage to cave formations. Caving had caused damage to 50–85% of nationally important caves by 1972 (Wilmut, 1972).

Litter (including spent carbide).

Disturbance of bats.

Removal of artefacts, bones etc.

Vandalism of grilles and doors.

Improved knowledge of cave systems and underground river courses.

Contacts and liaison

National Caving Association

3 The Acorns, Oakhill, Bath BA3 5BT

Tel: 01749 840795

E-mail: nca@nca.org.uk

Contact: Conservation Officer

The Association is a national federation of five regional caving councils and six specialist organisations. One of its major responsibilities is conservation, through the auspices of its Conservation Officer and Conservation and Access Committee.

Regional caving associations – access and conservation officers

National Association of Mining History Organisations

Legislation, codes and agreements

Whether or not a formal access agreement is in place, all cavers are required to observe the law in so far as it touches upon aspects of caving activity, such as digging, the use of explosives or acts likely to pollute water. In addition it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) to wilfully disturb bats or badgers, both of which may inhabit some caves. Destroying birds, nests or eggs, or damaging limestone pavements can also lead to criminal proceedings.

It is the law protecting bats which is probably most likely to be infringed by cavers. It is illegal knowingly to disturb, injure or kill bats. It is also illegal to seal the access to any cave or disused mine known to house bats. Gates or mine shaft covers fitted to the entrance of such sites must contain gaps large enough to allow the passage of bats.

Cavers and mine explorers visiting known bat sites are urged by the NCA to observe its Cave Conservation Policy and respect any restrictions imposed to minimise disturbance, particularly during the winter hibernation period.

References

National Caving Association – 'SpeloScene' and newsletter.

Mellors, P.T. (1988 but updating). Legal Aspects of Access Underground. National Caving Association, London.

National Caving Association (1995). Cave Conservation Policy. National Caving Association, London.

National Caving Association. Cave Conservation Handbook. National Caving Association, London. A4 format, 178 pages, available ring or soft bound.

Challenge events

More people are now taking part in sponsored events, challenge competitions and other similar activities in the countryside, eg Three Peaks Challenge, Karimoor, Dovedale Dash, Ten Tors Challenge, and the demand for appropriate sites is increasing. This can put pressure on the people who live and work in rural communities as well as the countryside itself. Typically the greatest demand is for sites in National Parks or AONBs which, while offering attractive and challenging terrain, can include sensitive landscapes and habitats that are often already heavily visited.

Although supportive of challenge events in principle, recognising that many are organised to raise money for charity and offer people opportunities to use and understand areas of countryside which they might not otherwise visit, the National Trust has concerns about the activity. It is particularly concerned about the repeated use of a small number of sites and questions how well many of these events are planned and controlled.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes a limited number of challenge events each year provided Trust staff are closely involved in the planning.
- 2 Challenge events should avoid sensitive landscapes, habitats and heritage sites. The National Trust will take care to ensure that the scale of an event and the frequency with which its most popular properties are used do not conflict with conservation interests.
- There are relatively few 'wilderness' areas in the UK and challenge events should respect the tranquillity of these areas.
- 4 Challenge events should respect the needs of local communities, other visitors, farming and forestry.

Good practice

- Regions with experience in the management of challenge events include East Midlands; North West; Wales
- Some venues will be unsuitable for large events (500+ foot-based, 250+cycle events, 75+ equestrian events source CoCo/ESC guidelines for organisers). Forests can absorb considerable numbers of people and are therefore more suitable for large events than open country.
 - Ashridge, Thames & Chilterns
- Avoid the creation of new routes or the use of paths which are already suffering from erosion or are susceptible to damage, eg steep terrain, thin soils, wet conditions.

- Avoid using areas which are vulnerable at particular times of year, eg hay meadows, ground-nesting bird sites, fields used for lambing.
- Avoid sensitive ruins and ancient earthworks, particularly for gathering/parking areas.
- Check that the relevant authorities have been consulted to establish, agree and act upon likely impacts.
- Try to avoid planning events at times of the year when sites/surrounding areas are particularly busy, eg public holidays, days when other events are taking place.
- Respect the needs of farming and forestry when giving permission for an event and ensure there is adequate liaison with interested parties.
- Give careful thought to whether or not dogs are to be permitted.
- A risk assessment should be undertaken to determine health and safety implications before agreeing to an event of any size. Contact the Health & Safety Adviser, Heywood House.
- Inspect the event organiser's insurance cover in advance of an event, which should be at least £2 million, and preferably £5 million.
- The Country Code should be observed by all organisers and participants.
- All organisers of charity events should be asked to comply with the code of practice prepared by the Institute of Charity Fund Managers (ICFM).
- Acceptable routes or 'out of bounds' areas may need to be marked by tapes.
- Detailed emergency procedures should be prepared and agreed in advance.
- Ensure clear up procedures are agreed and understood.

Trends

Not known, but thought to be increasing.

Possible impacts

Conflict with other visitors and local communities/businesses, particularly if inadequate information is given in advance.

Spectators and event facilities can cause congestion at busy sites.

Disturbance to sensitive habitats, landscapes and heritage sites where control is inadequate.

Pressure on local services and facilities.

Many beneficial impacts, eg the potential to raise knowledge and awareness of countryside issues and the National Trust, contact with young, active people and urban communities.

Contacts and liaison

The national governing bodies of sport and recreation have much experience of event organisation and can advise if there are guidelines for their specific activity. Many of the National Park Authorities (Dartmoor, North York Moors, Peak District, Snowdonia) have produced guidelines for events.

Legislation, codes and agreements

Highways authorities will need to be consulted if the event is to use rights of way. Organisers of charity events should be asked to comply with the code of practice prepared by the Institute of Charity Fund Managers (ICFM).

References

Countryside Commission, English Sports Council, Environment Agency (1998). Sporting and Challenge Events in the Countryside – Guidelines for organisers. Countryside Commission, English Sports Council, Environment Agency, London.

The Sports Council for Wales, Countryside Council for Wales (1998). Sporting and Challenge Events in the Countryside – Guidelines for organisers. The Sports Council for Wales, Countryside Council for Wales, Cardiff.

Climbing

Climbing is a major activity on National Trust land, and the Trust makes an important contribution to the provision of sites nationally. There can be serious conflicts with nature conservation and public safety, but these are usually small-scale and localised. Sites are often publicised without the Trust's knowledge, with insufficient information about other interests and constraints. Thus, better liaison with guidebook writers and editors is needed, together with the inclusion of more information on nature conservation.

It is important to differentiate between the different styles of climbing: traditional adventure, sport, group and commercial, and their associated locations, pressures and participants. The essential difference between sport and traditional is that sport climbing crags are equipped with fixed bolts while traditional crags, in the main, are not. Group climbing normally involves people under instruction. Commercial climbing also involves groups but is carried out for profit.

Guiding principles

- 1 Informal and small-group climbing is acceptable and welcomed on National Trust land.
- 2 There should be a presumption against commercial use unless under National Trust control and regular review.
- At sites of particular importance for wildlife which are at present unclimbed there should be a presumption against promoting new climbs.
- 4 Restrictions, seasonal, temporary or fixed, will be necessary on some sites to protect wildlife or other visitors.
- 5 Climbing should not be allowed on ruins and other stipulated buildings.

Good practice

 Regular liaison with users and other land managers should be developed and maintained, eg establish a discussion forum with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), local clubs and other interested parties and meet regularly to agree issues as outlined below.

Lake District, North West: Mountaineering Liaison Group West Cornwall; Pembrokeshire Coast, Wales: Access & Conservation Liaison Group Dartmoor National Park, Devon: BMC, NT Code of Conduct for Dartmoor

Promote BMC codes of conduct and policies.

Dartmoor, Devon: BMC, DNPA (Dartmoor National Park Authority), NT Code of Conduct

- Compile an inventory of important wildlife sites in the main climbing areas (including non-National Trust sites), eg for cliff or crag flora, gully flora, breeding birds, saxicolous lichens, seals, geological interest etc, in collaboration with the discussion forum.

 Green Guide to Climbing in Cornwall, BMC Bird Nesting Restrictions produced nationally and annually
- Monitoring systems should be introduced and undertaken by the National Trust in conjunction with users.
- Provide information on nature conservation value of the climbs to guidebook editors to stop the promotion of inappropriate sites, eg individual key sites, general review for the area.

 Peak District, Pembrokeshire and the Gower, Wales: Publications Committees
- Contribute articles to the climbing press on interest and value of climbing sites.
- Promote National Trust Byelaws through liaison, guidebooks (60 for England and Wales), climbing literature etc, emphasising no 'gardening' (vegetation removal) on National Trust cliffs.
- Licences and permits may be introduced for commercial groups as a means of controlling numbers in heavily used and vulnerable areas.

 Dancing Ledge, Wessex; Carneddau, Wales
- Lower-off or abseil bolts should be considered to prevent erosion and/or disturbance on sensitive tops and descents.
- Restrict use of sensitive gullies for descents by roping off and signing alternatives where necessary.
- Implement or continue voluntary seasonal bans on bird cliffs. Recruit volunteer climbers to assist with this if possible.

 Cheddar Gorge, Wessex
- Discourage climbing on rocks above car parks and roads to minimise the need for rock safety works.
- Where practicable, introduce permit and licence systems at overused or damaged sites to restrict numbers.

Monitoring suggestions: Record numbers of climbers and walkers at selected sites/times. Photographic record of selected faces, descents and tops. Key breeding birds (eg Red Data Book spp).

Trends

Increasing. However, data from the Sports Council for Wales show the percentage of the population taking part fell from 0.5% in 1987 to less than 0.2% in 1991/92. 100,000 – 200,000 climbers in the UK. 40,000 copies of climbing magazines sold each month. There has been an increase in group use, in the use of climbing walls and in the distinction between adventure (traditional) and sport (bolted) climbing.

Possible impacts

'Gardening' of ledges and crevices and the removal of vegetation from rock faces.

Erosion on approaches, crag bases, descents and tops.

Disturbance to birds, eg peregrine, chough, seabirds, raven, ring ouzel.

Damage to ruins.

Unsightly tat left in the rocks.

Placing of fixed equipment, bolts, pegs, stakes.

Safety concerns: rockfall and danger to other visitors. Consequent need to stabilise loose rocks and screes with modification of natural habitat.

Contacts and liaison

British Mountaineering Council

177-179 Burton Road, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2BB

Tel: 0161 445 4747 Fax: 0161 445 4500

E-mail: office@thebmc.co.uk Web site: www.thebmc.co.uk

Contact: Access and Conservation Officer

The Council's aims are to foster and promote the sports of climbing and mountaineering and to provide related services, to work for unrestricted access to and conservation of the upland environment, to assure a responsibility for mountain training, its validity and standards, and to have regard for the public image of the sport. The Council has seven voluntary area committees in England and a separate committee for Wales.

Mountaineering Council of Ireland

Wilmont Cottage, 99 Dunmurry Lane, Belfast BT17 9JU

Tel: 028 9062 2019 Contact: Chairman

The Council promotes walking, mountaineering, climbing and the protection of mountain environments. The Council has approximately 50 clubs and membership of about 3,000.

Mountain Walking Leader Training Board

Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed, Gwynedd LL24 0ET

Tel: 016904 314

Legislation, codes and agreements

The Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 sets out a duty of care to people who come onto land by invitation of the owner or occupier or who are permitted to be there. The Act provides that this duty does not impose any duty or obligation on an owner or occupier to a visitor who willingly accepts risks. This is a statutory enactment of the common law principle *Volenti non fit injura* – a willing person cannot be injured (in law).

Climbers, mountain walkers and scramblers know that rocks by their very nature are dangerous and voluntarily accept the risks of their sport or recreation. If a climber or walker is injured in an accident any claim against the owner or occupier should be defeated by the defence that the injured person willingly accepted the risks.

Even where an owner or occupier has been negligent, the plaintiff may have contributed to the accident by his or her own behaviour. Contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff will reduce the amount of damages to which he or she is entitled.

A quarry, whether being worked or not, is deemed to be a statutory nuisance and, if it is accessible from a highway or public place, should be provided with an efficient and properly maintained barrier to prevent persons accidentally falling into it. Similarly the entrance or shaft to an abandoned mine should be efficiently closed off and the closure properly maintained.

However, these duties of the owners of mines and quarries are duties to the public; they do not affect the basic law regarding persons who are allowed into a disused quarry for climbing. Such climbers accept the risks involved.

(Source – BMC/CLA publication on Occupiers' Liability)

References

British Mountaineering Council – 'Summit' and 'High' magazines.

British Mountaineering Council – annual report.

Barlow, J. & Thomas, M. (1998). *Mending Our Ways – the quality approach to managing upland paths*. British Upland Footpath Trust, Manchester.

British Mountaineering Council (1988). *Tread Lightly: Conserving Britain's Mountains and Crags.* British Mountaineering Council, Manchester.

British Mountaineering Council (1993). Protecting and Meeting the Costs of Access to Cliffs and Crags. British Mountaineering Council, Manchester.

British Mountaineering Council/Country Landowners' Association (1993). Occupiers' Liability: Advice for Owners and Occupiers of Land. British Mountaineering Council, Manchester.

British Mountaineering Council (undated). The Peak Group Book – Good Practice Advice for Groups of Climbers in the Peak District. British Mountaineering Council, Manchester.

British Mountaineering Council (annual). Bird Nesting Restrictions. British Mountaineering Council, Manchester.

Bunce, R. (1983). Is Climbing Killing Off Lakeland's Plant Life? Lakescene, December 1983.

Bunce, R. (1985). *Impact Assessment of Cliff Vegetation in the Lake District*. Report produced for Adventure and Environmental Awareness Group, Coniston, Cumbria.

Lake District National Park Authority (1998). Climbing Group Use of Lakeland Crags. Lake District National Park Authority, Kendal.

Cycling

This is an appropriate activity for National Trust countryside, carried out by a wide range of people, especially young people and families. Both off-road and touring cyclists should receive a positive welcome. There is relatively little evidence of damage from the former category except to footpaths, but wardening is essential to prevent abuse of paths and conflict with walkers and horse riders. As a consequence, encouraging increased use is probably not practical on understaffed properties.

Where possible, however, more routes, facilities (cycle hire, racks, lockers etc) and information, particularly for family groups, should be provided. Use of the bike as a means of travelling to and between properties should be encouraged and the Trust should promote cycling as a means of transport. This activity is not adequately provided for nationally. The Trust supports the development of the National Cycle Network and sees opportunities to provide access to and through its properties.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes cyclists on its land and encourages cycling both as an activity and as a means of transport, recognising the benefits to health and that responsible use causes negligible damage to the environment.
- 2 New opportunities for cyclists should be reviewed regularly within the management planning process and the different needs of touring and off-road cycling recognised.
- Irresponsible behaviour should be discouraged, eg excessive speed, lack of consideration for others and cycling techniques which cause erosion.

Good practice

- Promote the Cyclists' Touring Club's (CTC's) and Countryside Agency's codes of conduct.
- Liaise with national or local CTC representative, cycle shops, local clubs and individuals with regard to potential routes or problems.

Box Hill, Southern: leaflets and local cycling forum

Long Mynd, Mercia: cycle map, local liaison

Chastleton, Thames & Chilterns: liaison with local cycle hire operator linking with railway station

 Provide more information, facilities and incentives for those, particularly families, travelling to and between properties.

Borrowdale, North West: cycling leaflet

Ashridge, Thames & Chilterns: cycling map

NT Countryside guides, National Cycle Network map guides

- As part of a wider recreational network and sustainable transport initiative identify new cycle links with public transport and alternative routes to avoid busy roads.

 Hill Top, North West; Chastleton, Thames & Chilterns
- Ensure that some areas remain free from cycle routes as part of a 'remote areas' policy.
- In cases of extreme conflict with walkers and horse riders, preferably after first considering alternative routes and time zoning, apply for Traffic Regulation Orders to prohibit cycles on bridleways. Monitor numbers and 'incidents' first to establish a firm case.
- Make use of the precedent agreement between the National Trust and Sustrans for the development of the National Cycle Network on Trust land.

Monitoring suggestions: Counts per day or hour at a range of specified points and areas within a site.

Trends

10% of the population own a mountain bike, although 40% are not used off-road and 50% only 2–4 times a year. The dramatic increase in mountain biking which has occurred over the past 10–15 years may now be stabilising. Although the majority of cyclists are not members of a club, the Cyclists' Touring Club has some 46,000 members.

Possible impacts

Overall the effects of cycling on the environment and wildlife habitats are limited, although habitat damage, eg to sensitive dune systems and bird disturbance, does occur.

Skidding can cause erosion, gullying and damage to the structure of paths particularly on wet ground.

Erosion of pits, quarries and archaeological sites.

Conflict with walkers and horse riders

Visual intrusion on open mountain and moorland. *Mountain Biking and the Environment* (Adventure and Environmental Awareness Group, 1992) recommends that mountain biking is in most cases inappropriate in such wilderness areas.

Contacts and liaison

Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC)

Cottrell House, 69 Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS

Tel: 01483 417217

Contacts: Countryside and Access Officer; Mountain Bike and Leisure Development Officer CTC campaigns to improve facilities and opportunities for all cyclists. In addition to providing travel and technical advice, it offers legal aid and insurance and free membership of 250 local clubs throughout Britain.

Sustrans Ltd

35 King Street, Bristol BS1 4DZ

Tel: 0117 9268893

Sustrans plans, builds and maintains safe, non-motor routes primarily for walkers and cyclists and sometimes for horse riders. It lobbies for sustainable transport and is responsible for the development of the National Cycle Network.

Byways and Bridleways Trust

St Mary's Business Centre, Oystershell Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5QS

Tel: 0191 233 0770

Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers

PO Box 78, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4UP

Tel: 07000 782318

Legislation, codes and agreements

Since the introduction of the Countryside Act 1968, the riding of pedal cycles has been permitted on bridleways provided that cyclists give precedence to pedestrians and persons on horseback. This right may be restricted by orders or byelaws. Local authorities' maintenance obligations only relate to suitability for bridleway use on foot or by horse.

It is an offence under the Highways Act 1835 to cycle on a footpath. The Cycle Tracks Act 1984 authorises county councils to designate particular footpaths as 'cycle tracks', thus giving rights to cyclists which would not otherwise exist.

Both the Countryside Commission and the Cyclists' Touring Club have produced codes of conduct for cyclists.

A national precedent agreement has been established between the National Trust and Sustrans for the development of sections of the National Cycle Network on Trust land. Copies of the agreement have been circulated to all Regional Offices and further copies are available from the Estates Department.

References

Cyclists' Touring Club – 'Cycle Touring and Campaigning' magazine, six times a year.

Byways and Bridleways Trust - 'Byway and Bridleway' magazine, ten times a year.

Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers – 'Waymark' magazine.

Adventure and Environmental Awareness Group (1992). *Mountain Biking and the Environment*. Conference report, Adventure and Environmental Awareness Group, Coniston, Cumbria.

Countryside Commission (1997). Gearing Up – enjoying cycling in the countryside. Countryside Commission, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (includes code of conduct).

Cyclists' Touring Club (1993). Cycle Policies in Britain. Cyclists' Touring Club, Godalming, Surrey.

Department of the Environment, Regions and Transport (1998). National Cycling Strategy. DETR, London.

DETR (1998). Guidance on Local Transport Plans. DETR, London.

National Trust (1997). Cycling Workshop. National Trust, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

National Trust (1998). Position Statement on Transport. National Trust, London.

Shayler, M. (1993). Costing the Benefits: the Value of Cycling. Cyclists' Touring Club, Earth Resources Research Team. Cyclists' Touring Club, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

Scottish Sports Council (1996). Off-Road & Trail Cycling – Guidelines on Good Practice for Group Leaders. Scottish Sports Council, Edinburgh.

Scottish Tourist Board (1998). Step by Step - a guide to producing a local cycling leaflet. Scottish Tourist Board, Inverness.

Sports Council, Countryside Commission (undated). The Mountain Bike Code of Conduct. The Sports Council, London.

Sustrans (1994). Making Ways for the Bicycle. A guide to traffic-free path construction. Sustrans, Bristol.

Sustrans (1997). The National Cycle Network. Guidelines and Practical Details (Issue 2). Sustrans, Bristol.

Dog walking

The increase in the number of dogs exercised on National Trust properties is a major access issue at present. The Trust recognises the importance of dogs to outdoor enjoyment for many people – those for whom the main purpose of an outing is to exercise their dog and those who are primarily walkers but enjoy the company of a dog.

As the number of dogs walked in the countryside increases, additional measures are needed a) to encourage greater awareness of the adverse impacts dogs can have on the environment, wildlife and other visitors, b) to control indiscriminate dog fouling, c) to provide more areas where dogs are not allowed or allowed only under close control and d) to reconcile conflicts between dogs and stock farmers so that better use may be made by walkers and others of tenanted farmland.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes responsible dog owners. It does not consider it acceptable for owners to expect others to clear up after their dogs in car parks, play areas or on paths.
- 2 The National Trust expects dog owners to keep their dogs under control, which on some sites will mean on a lead. It is not acceptable to allow dogs to jump up at or otherwise intimidate other visitors.
- 3 The National Trust will continue to try to raise awareness in a variety of ways. It will if necessary seek prosecutions through legislation and its Byelaws, or in certain circumstances may ban dogs altogether.

Good practice

- Take every opportunity to raise the public's awareness about responsible dog ownership through on-site contact with owners, draw attention to excessive amounts of dog faeces, information (particularly the National Trust Guide for Dog Owners), press releases, voluntary wardens, articles in vets' surgeries and pet shops, school visits, etc.

 Cotehele, Cornwall; West Sussex Downs, Southern; Styal, Mercia; High Peak, East Midlands
- Maintain contact with local dog walkers. Where practicable, establish a local dog-walkers forum to agree guidelines, zoning, patrolling rotas, etc. Consider any special controls required for people exercising many dogs at once.
 - West Sussex Downs, Southern; High Peak, East Midlands
- Liaise with local authorities and other providers of land for dog walking to agree a common approach to management.

 Styal, Mercia; Saltram, Devon
- Provide more dog gates adjacent to stiles to assist access and minimise damage to fencing and the need to search for other ways through.

- Liaise closely with tenant farmers and assist them, particularly at lambing time and the busier visitor months, with wardening, temporary notices and other management, monitor incidents. High Peak, East Midlands
- Locate car parks so that dogs do not foul picnic and sitting areas.
- Encourage dog owners to use poop scoops wherever practicable on intensively used sites. Bins will not always solve the problem of indiscriminate fouling.

 Headley Heath, Southern; Morte, Devon
- Use more seasonal explanatory 'dogs on leads' notices in respect of grazing livestock, deer parks, lambing, bird-nesting areas and other wildlife sanctuaries and beaches.
- Identify some areas where dogs will not be allowed without a lead or at all.
- Ensure adequate time and resources are allocated to wardening as problems and misunderstandings are most likely to arise where wardening presence is low.

Monitoring suggestions: Make spot counts to ascertain number of dog walkers using different parts of properties; peak times/days; number of dogs on lead, under control and out of control; number of dogs per person. Record problems in conjunction with tenants.

Trends

Stabilising. 6.9 million in 1998 (Pet Food Manufacturers' Association). Nevertheless many countryside sites nationally are experiencing considerable increases in use by dog walkers.

Possible impacts

Disturbance to wildlife from loose dogs. In conjunction with grazing implications below, this is probably the single most significant impact of access on nature conservation.

Conflict with other walkers and users: dog fouling, dogs off leads and frightening other walkers.

Soil enrichment and vegetation change due to dog fouling.

Fouling on farmland can be detrimental to livestock quality assurance.

Stock worrying and killing by loose dogs: withdrawal of grazing and difficulty in finding farmers willing to graze, with adverse effects on landscape and nature conservation, and financial cost to the Trust.

Restrictions on access to farmland due to problems associated with dogs.

Contacts and liaison

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SWIE 5DU

Tel: 020 7890 3000 Fax: 020 7890 5619

DETR Countryside Division

9th Floor, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DL

Tel: 0117 987 8588

Pet Advisory Committee

1 Deans Yard, London SW1P 3NR

Tel: 020 7799 9811

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG

Tel: 01403 64181

Local dog walkers

Local authority dog wardens

Legislation, codes and agreements

It is an offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 to allow a dog to attack or chase livestock. When on enclosed land where there are sheep, dogs must be kept 'on a lead or under close control'. 'Close control' has not been defined, but a dog attacking any farm animal would clearly be out of control, and can be shot if there is no other way of stopping it. Any such action should be reported to the police within 48 hours. Byelaw 8 of the National Trust Byelaws also deals with this subject.

A local authority can be approached to make an order under section 27 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, requiring that dogs are kept on leads on specific rights of way. If the authority is unwilling to make an order then notices can be put up asking owners to control their dogs. Notices about lambing, grazing stock and dogs on leads are available from the Estates Department free of charge.

It is an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 to foul on designated land. Many local authorities are now implementing the legislation and some land in Trust ownership has been included. Guidelines on the implementation of the Act in relation to Trust land are available from the Estates Department.

References

Department of the Environment, Pet Advisory Committee (undated). How to be a Responsible Dog Owner. Department of Environment, London.

National Trust (1998). Dog Walking Workshop. National Trust, Circucester.

National Trust (1998). *Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 — Guidelines for Implementation.* National Trust, Circucster.

National Trust (1992). Dogs in the Countryside. Coast and Countryside Guidance Notes, National Trust, Cirencester.

Equestrian access

This activity is generally well managed and causes no significant damage to nature conservation interests. National Trust land is greatly valued by riders but there is little provision for carriage drivers at present. There could be more provision for both types of equestrian access. Experience shows that on sensitive sites access by permit is an effective means of control.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes equestrian access on its land and will seek to promote and extend provision in conjunction with its farm tenants wherever appropriate. In particular, it will look for safe off-road routes and contribute to a wider network on its own and neighbouring land.
- 2 Permits are an acceptable means of regulating numbers on sensitive or heavily visited sites.

Good practice

• Liaise with British Horse Society (BHS) County Access and Bridleways Officers, Bridleways Associations, the British Driving Society (BDS) and its local representatives, local riders and riding schools to discuss the needs of riders/drivers and the National Trust.

Killerton, Devon: new routes created in conjunction with local riders Crooks Peak, Wessex: good links with local riders Quantocks and Blackdown Hills, Wessex: good links with local riders

- Promote the BHS/BDS Code for Riding and Driving Responsibly.
- Permits provide an opportunity to regulate use and liaise with local riders and drivers to understand their needs. It also helps the National Trust inform local people of its own needs and can engender support. Associated fees should largely reflect administration costs.
- Ensure that the number of permits reflects carrying capacity. Consider limiting numbers of horses per group, eg for commercial groups suggest a ratio of leaders:members of at least 1:10. This could be delegated to local riding/driving groups.

Hatfield Forest, East Anglia: 150 permits on a 1000-acre estate Ashridge, Thames & Chilterns: 150 permits on a 15-mile route

• Provide information specifically for riders and drivers, ie maps, leaflets or newsletters to encourage responsible access.

Long Mynd, Mercia; Ashridge, Thames & Chilterns; Hatfield Forest, East Anglia: access maps Ashridge, Thames & Chilterns: newsletters

Link new routes with bridleways and byways beyond National Trust boundaries.

- Ensure woodland tracks are open enough to dry out, but resist pressure for wider tracks unless this also meets other needs. Resist pressure for hardened or wood-chip surfaces and major drainage, except on Rights of Way where there is no alternative.
- Retain flexibility to close permitted routes during wet weather on poorly drained sites, or use paths in rotation.
- Provide separate networks of paths for specific activities, ie riding, driving, walking and cycling, where site characteristics allow and use is heavy.
- Consider appointing voluntary/paid riding/driving wardens.

 Maidenhead & Cookham Commons, Southern: volunteer riding wardens

 Ashridge, Thames & Chilterns: paid riding warden for permit scheme
- Prohibit galloping in the interests of public safety and ground conditions, except in specified locations.
- Encourage local riders' and drivers' associations to raise money and assist with path maintenance.
 - Headley Heath, Southern: Headley Heath Riders' Association has raised funds to help maintain routes on the property
- Proposals to diversify into horse enterprises should be carefully considered.
- Press for planning controls on commercial establishments if the locality cannot support sufficient routes.
- Zone or control the use of beaches by commercial establishments.
- Where gates are necessary ensure that catches can be operated from horseback/carriage as appropriate (References: BHS Bridleway Gates).
- Consider the provision of facilities for riders, eg hitching posts, mounting blocks. Hatfield Forest, East Anglia
- Consider the use of National Trust waymarks to guide riders and drivers, available from the Estates Department, Circumcester (see also Manual of Style).

Monitoring suggestions: Maintain permit records. Count riders/drivers at sample localities on sample dates, eg three times a year. This could be delegated to local riding/driving groups.

Trends

BHS membership: 1970 - 17,338; 1980 - 27,000; 1990 - 51,181; 1996 - 65,000. BHS target 100,000 by 2001.

Riding clubs – an estimated 40,000.

BDS membership is around 5,000 with 92 affiliated clubs, but an estimated 10,000 people drive.

There are increasing demands for access to footpaths where bridleway provision is poor.

Possible impacts

No damage noted on 50% of riding sites studied during access review (1992).

Erosion and poaching of paths and tracks, especially where the ground is wet and/or where there is regular commercial use.

Damage to nature conservation interests, particularly on woodland rides.

Disturbance to heathland birds.

Damage to archaeological features.

Conflict between horses and walkers can occur if riders use footpaths. Some walkers can be frightened by horses, and surfaces can become muddy and unpleasant for walking.

Conflict with cyclists, eg speeding cyclists startling horses.

Contacts and liaison

British Horse Society

Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth CV8 2XZ

Tel: 01926 707700 Fax: 01926 707800

E-mail: enquiry@bhs.org.uk Web site: www.bhs.org.uk

Contact: Access and Rights of Way Department

The Society is the governing body for riding and driving. It is a national charity focussing on welfare, safety and training which aims to improve standards of care for horses and ponies and opportunities for riding and driving. The BHS produces a number of policy and advisory statements as well as technical information about bridleway maintenance, gates and surfaces. The Society has a network of voluntary regional and county access and bridleways officers dedicated to improving the network of riding routes and a list can be obtained from Stoneleigh.

Endurance Horse and Pony Society

Tudor Nurseries, Chalk Pit Lane, Wool, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6DW

Tel: 01929 462316

This society promotes long-distance riding for sport and pleasure.

British Endurance Riders' Association

NAC, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth CV8 2LR

Tel: 024 7669 8863

Ulster Riders Association

3 Sunnybrook, Ballyrobert Road, Crawfordburn, Co. Down BT19 1HT

Contact: Chairman

The British Driving Society

27 Dugard Place, Barford, Warwick CV35 8DX

Contact: Executive Secretary

The aim of the Society is to encourage and assist those interested in the driving of horses and ponies. It appoints Area Commissioners in most counties of England, Wales and Scotland.

Local riding/driving clubs/associations and establishments

Byways and Bridleways Trust

St Mary's Business Centre, Oystershell Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5QS Tel: 0191 233 0770

Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers

PO Box 78, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4UP

Tel: 07000 782318

Legislation, codes and agreements

Horses can be ridden on bridleways, byways, roads used as public paths (RUPPs) and unclassified roads (UCRs), but not on footpaths. Horse-drawn carriages can only be driven on byways and some RUPPs and UCRs.

It is also possible to ride on 'permitted' or 'licensed' routes for which an annual fee may be payable. The National Trust does not currently have a standard permit, but examples can be drawn from existing agreements (see Good Practice).

References

British Horse Society – 'British Horse' magazine; 'Tracks', quarterly newsletter.

The Byways and Bridleways Trust – 'Byway and Bridleway' magazine, ten times a year.

The Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers – 'Waymark' magazine.

British Horse Society (Rev. 1995). A Guide to Surfacing of Bridleways and Horse Tracks. British Horse Society (BHS), Kenilworth.

British Horse Society (Rev. 1997). Bridleway Gates – A Guide to Good Practice. BHS, Kenilworth.

British Horse Society (1993). Code for Riding and Driving Responsibly. BHS, Kenilworth.

Countryside Commission (1993). Horses in the Countryside – A Code of Practice for Owners and Riders. CCP 261. Countryside Commission, Cheltenham.

National Trust (1992). Horse Riding on National Trust Property. Coast and Countryside Information Sheet, Annex 1–8. National Trust, Circnester.

National Trust (1992). Statement of Cooperation between the British Horse Society and the National Trust. National Trust, Circnester.

Field studies

Formal field studies are welcomed on National Trust properties as part of its education programme, particularly when notification of a visit is received in advance. Informal studies, for example birdwatching and wildlife photography, are also welcomed. There is very little information on the effects of either type of field study on the wildlife or features being studied.

There is insufficient feedback of information from schools and universities to the National Trust. The potential for carrying out simple monitoring and survey tasks is great and is not utilised. Trust staff could work more closely with users on the design of particular projects and hence obtain useful data.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes field studies on its land, recognising its educational merit and value as an activity for a great range of visitors.
- 2 Educational use should be targeted towards specific sites and parts of properties and to specific themes.
- 3 Where an educational service is provided, a charge will be made.
- 4 Data from visits should be made available to the National Trust on request.
- **5** Collection is not allowed without written authorisation.

Note: A policy on collecting fossils and minerals is in preparation.

Good practice

- Make good use of National Trust Regional Education Officers and staff within the Education Department at Queen Anne's Gate.
- Establish contact with all visiting groups, and where necessary continue to manage by permit or booking system.
- Work with teachers/leaders to gain monitoring/survey data useful to the Trust and to help them with risk assessment.
- Ensure there is good supervision by group leaders, for example a teacher:pupil ratio of 1:10 is appropriate.
- Introduce zoning and restrictions on sites important for breeding or wintering birds, and encourage birdwatchers to adopt and promote these and to take an active part in monitoring.

Monitoring suggestions: Liaise with and build up relationships with all types of field study centre using Trust land regularly and establish monitoring projects in conjunction with them.

Trends

Schools field studies probably increasing, but visits are now more targeted to particular sites. University use is decreasing. Informal use is increasing.

Possible impacts

Many beneficial impacts, eg knowledge and awareness of wildlife and countryside, contact with young people, contact with urban communities etc.

Damaging impacts are little known and researched, but could include detrimental effects on fauna and flora from pond-dipping and collecting, and damage to rock outcrops from hammering.

Loss of scientific and cultural value through fossil and mineral collecting.

Some disturbance of wildlife and erosion where use is uncontrolled.

Occasional conflicts with other visitors' enjoyment of the property.

Contacts and liaison

National Trust Regional Education Officers

Council for Environmental Education

School of Education, University of Reading, London Road, Reading $\mathtt{RG1}\ \mathtt{5AQ}$

Tel: 01734 756061

The national body for the coordination and promotion of environmental education.

Field Studies Council

Central Services, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HW

Tel: 01743 850674

Contact: Education Adviser

The Council's objective is to develop 'environmental understanding for all'. The organisation runs field courses for school students of all ages in a range of environmentally related subjects from a network of one day and ten residential centres. It also runs courses for adults; is involved in environmental research through the Field Studies Council Research Centre; runs expeditions overseas; publishes environmental books; manages a number of nature reserves and is involved in long-term environmental monitoring and environmental training.

Local education authorities and their advisers

Teacher subject bodies (eg Geographical Association; Association for Science Education)

Local natural history societies and birdwatching organisations

Archaeological societies

Local 'Watch' groups (Royal Society for Nature Conservation) and Young Ornithologists Club (RSPB)

References

Council for Environmental Education – annual review.

Field Studies Council - 'Field Studies', annual journal.

Geographical Association. *Progress in Fieldwork 4–19*. Geographical Association, 160 Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BF.

National Trust (1992). Rural Landscapes, a Resource Book for Teachers. National Trust, London.

National Trust & Anglia Multimedia (1997). *British Countryside* – CD-ROM covering the Farne Islands, Giant's Causeway, Wicken Fen, Aberglaslyn and Hatfield Forest. National Trust, London.

Many National Trust open space properties now have education resource materials, eg Dovedale, North Devon Coast, Orford Ness, Carding Mill Valley and Craflwyn, which support field studies.

Fishing (Freshwater)

The National Trust recognises that the management of fishing can benefit the environment. Fishing also provides a source of income on some properties. However there are also damaging impacts associated with fishing. The National Trust report 'The Management of Freshwater Fisheries' (1999) addresses these impacts (see References).

Fishing is generally well controlled by the Trust, principally by agreements with local fishing clubs and syndicates. There is scope for the promotion of good practice to prevent damage to the environment and to benefit fisheries.

Guiding principles

- 1 Fishing, for both game and coarse species, is welcomed by the National Trust where it already takes place, subject to its prime objectives, namely conservation of the landscape, nature conservation and the historic value of the property.
- Where fishing does not already take place, it should only be permitted after a strategic assessment of its likely impacts and the preparation of a fishery management plan.
- 3 All fisheries should be evaluated and a fisheries management plan prepared.
- 4 The National Trust advocates the concept of sustainable fishery management. Its goal is the development of fish communities which are appropriate to individual water bodies and can sustain themselves sufficiently to maintain the fishery without artificial stocking.
- 5 Sporting rights on waters owned by the National Trust should be acquired wherever possible.

Good practice

- For all aspects of fishery management refer to the National Trust's report 'The Management of Freshwater Fisheries' (1999).
- Anglers on National Trust waters are expected to abide by angling organisations' codes of conduct (see References).
- Fishing leases should reflect the management objectives of the fishery and be reviewed regularly.
- Recreational fishing should not be expected to be the only source of funds for management work on water bodies.
- Encourage fishing practices which seek to lessen the likelihood of suffering among fish, eg
 the use of barbless hooks for pike fishing appear to benefit fish survival, the use of keep
 nets should be discouraged in hot weather.

- Although there is no scientific reason to observe close seasons for coarse fisheries, it is recommended that the National Trust does observe them. This practice allows a disturbance free period for vegetation, fish, birds and other wildlife. The minimum period for bank fishing is 15 March–15 June; in most cases it should be longer than this.
- Provisions should be made in letting arrangements for the purchase of day tickets.
- Where there is no public access to National Trust fisheries, reasons should be clearly stated.
- Ensure litter is cleared. Anglers should be responsible for removing litter at their own swim regardless of who discarded it. Consider an angling ban on persistent offenders.
- Provide education and information on good fishing practice and the natural form, function and wildlife of the water body.
- There should be a strong presumption against the use of live bait.
- Specialist advice should be sought if the use of bait is suspected of causing water quality problems.

Monitoring suggestions: As far as practicable ensure fishermen maintain written records of all fishing effort, fish taken and their weights. Obtain Environment Agency data on fish, invertebrates and water chemistry to increase knowledge of freshwater ecology, trends, etc.

Trends

Participation is understood to be stable. A national angling survey undertaken by the National Rivers Authority (NRA) in 1994 estimated that there were 3.3 million freshwater and sea anglers aged 12 years and over in the UK.

Possible impacts

Fishing can be a positive pressure for good water quality, fish stocks and fish health.

Fishing provides some income on most properties.

Small-scale habitat enhancement for fishing can lead to wider environmental benefits.

Fishery management to facilitate angling may have detrimental impacts on the broader ecology of a water body, eg damage and disturbance to water channels, bankside vegetation, water pollution from overstocking or disturbance of waterbirds.

Conflict with other recreational activities, eg canoeing and walking, cycling or riding along river banks.

Contacts and liaison

Salmon and Trout Association

Fishmongers Hall, London Bridge, London EC4T 9EL

Tel: 020 7283 5838

The Association represents game anglers and their interests in Parliament and at regional and local levels. It cooperates with all angling interests in developing the sport and promotes conservation measures. The Association has some 300 clubs and a further 15,000 individual members throughout Britain.

National Federation of Anglers

Halliday House, Eggington Junction, Derbyshire DE65 6GU

Tel: 01283 734735

The Federation is the governing body of coarse fishing. It represents 415 affiliated clubs in Britain.

National Association of Fisheries and Angling Consultatives

30 Ainsdale Way, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey GU21 3PP

Tel: 01483 769736

Wild Trout Society

92-104 Carnwath Road, London sw6 3HW

The Society's objectives include raising the profile of the wild trout, producing trout habitat management guidelines, identifying individual fisheries for rehabilitation and management projects and providing a unified voice for wild trout anglers.

Institute of Fisheries Management

Tyn-y-Wern, Dolanog, Welshpool, Powys SY21 ONA

Tel: 01938 810740 Fax: 01938 811115

E-mail: mike@mbeech.freeserve.co.uk

Ulster Angling Federation

6 Beech Green, Doagh, Ballyclare BT6 0BB

Tel: 028 9045 4462

Welsh Anglers Council

Belmullet, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5BY

Tel: 01597 810368

Environment Agency

Rivers House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4UD

Tel: 01454 624400

Legislation, codes and agreements

In common law, fish in private waters or in non-tidal rivers or streams can be taken only by, or with the consent of, the owner/holder of fishing rights. The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 contains detailed rules about such matters as close seasons and the taking of immature fish. Certain methods of fishing are also proscribed.

The 1975 Act requires a fishing licence to be obtained for all freshwater fish on any inland water. Licences are issued by the Environment Agency which also fixes licence duties for particular areas. A licence does not alone confer a right to fish. The angler must also have the permission of the landowner or person holding the fishing rights.

Fishing legislation is subject to a national review.

References

Lewis, V. (1999). The Management of Freshwater Fisheries. Report to the National Trust, Circucester.

Environment Agency. Freshwater Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation: A Good Practice Guide.

Medway, Lord. (1980). Report of the Panel of Enquiry into Shooting and Angling (1976–1979). Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Horsham, Sussex.

National Rivers Authority (1995). National Angling Survey 1994 (Fisheries Technical Report 5). HMSO, London.

Salmon and Trout Association. The Game Angling Code.

Specialist Anglers Conservation Group. Code of Conduct for Specialist Coarse Anglers. Col. T Marks, The Stables, High Street, South Cerney, Gloucestershire, GL7 5UP.

Sports Council (1991). *Angling – An Independent Review of the Sport of Angling*. Commissioned by the Sports Council and the National Anglers' Council. The Sports Council, London.

Sports Council (undated). *Angling and Canoeing Statement of Intent.* Statement published by Canoe Access and Development Committee convened by the National Anglers' Council. The Sports Council, London.

Wild Trout Society. Guidelines for the Management of Wild Trout Waters.

Golf

Golf courses provide a valuable recreational and, in some cases, financial resource on National Trust land. However, the siting and management of many courses compromise landscape and conservation objectives. They also reduce the scope for wider access. Measures are needed to reduce conflicts.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust recognises the pleasure golf brings to many people. However, golf courses on Trust land generally compromise other Trust objectives.
- Where other National Trust objectives are compromised, (a) conservation clauses should be included in leases and subject to regular review, (b) the Trust's management objectives and their implementation should be discussed with the club, and (c) in particularly important landscapes or habitats, existing courses should be closed or relocated where opportunities arise.
- 3 New golf courses on National Trust land will rarely be justified, given the availability of more suitable land elsewhere.

Good practice

- Conservation clauses should limit/proscribe fertiliser use, herbicide use, close-cut areas.
- Safe and enjoyable use of Rights of Way must be secured.
- Course-specific management guidelines should be drawn up in collaboration with clubs where they do not already exist.
- Tree planting should be planned to minimise its impact on the landscape and local hydrology. Native tree species should be chosen wherever possible.
- Monitoring records should be requested from clubs as indicated below.
- Detailed management guidance is listed in the reference material outlined below.
- Alterations to existing courses should be subject to written authority from the Trust to ensure that damage and disturbance to conservation and recreational interests are avoided.

Monitoring suggestions: Records of course management and levels of use.

Trends

Rapid increase in demand following the golf boom in the late 1980s. 3.1 million participants in the United Kingdom aged over 16 (Sports Council, 1994), representing 7% of the population. 1,830 golf clubs (9–36 holes) in England (English Golf Union, 1997).

Possible impacts

Major change to the character and topography of the landscape, ie contouring, bunkers, water features, greens and associated buildings and infrastructure.

Implications for traffic generation, access and rights of way.

Loss of habitats due to new and unsympathetic course development.

Loss of habitats due to intensive greenkeeping, ie fertiliser and herbicide applications, fertiliser run-off and spray drift contaminating water features.

Close cutting of fairways impoverishes species-rich grasslands and damages heathland.

Large-scale insensitive tree planting can alter the local hydrology and compromise historic landscapes.

Irrigation management and the construction of irrigation ponds may affect water tables in valuable wetland.

Contacts and liaison

The National Golf Union

The National Golf Centre, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire LN10 6PU

Welsh Golfing Union

Catash, Newport, Gwent, NP6 1JQ

Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

Royal & Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews, Fife CY16 9JD

European Golf Association Ecology Unit

c/o Environmental Golf Services, 51 South Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2JX

References

Brennan, Dr A. M. (1996). Living Together – Golf & Nature in Partnership. English Golf Union, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.

Centre for European Agricultural Studies Consultants (Wye) Ltd (1988). Nature Conservation and Golf Courses: A report on the feasibility, scope and audience of guidelines for managers and designers. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

Countryside Commission (1993). Golf Courses in the Countryside. CCP 438. Countryside Commission, Cheltenham.

European Golf Association (undated). An Environmental Management Programme for Golf Courses. European Golf Association.

Fordham, M., and Isles, J. (1987). Encouraging Wildlife on Golf Courses. London Wildlife Trust, London.

Nature Conservancy Council (1989). On Course Conservation: Managing Golf's Natural Heritage. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

Sports Council (1994). Sport in the Nineties – New Horizons. The Sports Council, London.

Stubbs, D. (1989). Courses for Wildlife. Greenkeeping Management.

Stubbs, D. (1996). An Environmental Strategy for Golf in Europe. European Golf Association Ecology Unit, Dorking, Surrey.

Hang-gliding and Paragliding

Use of National Trust properties for hang-gliding and paragliding is not great due to the specific requirements of the activity, such as topography and terrain. Current levels of use are generally acceptable, largely as a result of working closely with national and local clubs. A national precedent agreement for gliding on Trust sites has been prepared in conjunction with the British Hang-Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA).

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes controlled hang-gliding and paragliding on its land, recognising that these activities seldom cause significant disturbance provided particular care is taken with regard to livestock and birds.
- 2 There are management benefits associated with licence arrangements and so the National Trust should ensure their continued implementation.

Good practice

- Liaise closely with local clubs and BHPA representatives locally and nationally.
- Provide site information to inform users and other visitors of the various controls.

 Ivinghoe Beacon, Thames & Chilterns
- Liaise with local clubs as much as possible and consider the formation of local access groups where participation in airsports is considerable.
 Mam Tor, East Midlands
- As part of a flying licence specify numbers on site, in the air and attending events, define parking, landing and take-off points and provide for seasonal restrictions where necessary.
- Ensure there is close liaison with local clubs in respect of risk assessment, each party should carry out its own assessment.

 Devil's Dyke, Southern
- Hang-gliding and paragliding may not be considered appropriate on areas the Trust wishes to retain as 'remote'.

Monitoring suggestions: Monitor levels of use at different times of the year. Review licences annually to examine the effects of the activity, particularly on the interests of farm tenants, neighbours and other users.

Trends

Membership of the British Hang-Gliding and Paragliding Association is around 12,000 and is static. There are some 200 clubs.

Possible impacts

Danger to other visitors.

Disturbance to livestock and wildlife, especially birds on sea cliffs.

Spectators can cause congestion at busy sites.

Creation of new paths to launching and landing points.

Visual intrusion.

Contacts and liaison

British Hang-Gliding and Paragliding Association

The Old School Room, Loughborough Road, Leicester LE4 5PJ

Tel: 0116 261 1322 Contact: Sites Director

Legislation, codes and agreements

The overall body in charge of airspace rules is the Civil Aviation Authority. Article 51 of the Air Navigation Order (1985) states that:

'A person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property.'

Copies of the NT/BHPA Precedent Agreement can be obtained from the Estates Department at Circnester or the Legal Department at Queen Anne's Gate, both of which will deal with queries.

In 1997 charges associated with licences ranged from £95 to £350 per annum.

If a BHPA-registered school is operating on Trust property, then this should not necessarily be a reason for increasing the annual fee over and above that levied against a BHPA-registered club. The ethos of BHPA-registered schools is to provide new members, trained to a very high standard, who will join local clubs and the BHPA. The potential income for instructors is modest and commercial rates might ultimately damage the sport.

References

British Hang-Gliding and Paragliding Association – 'SkyWings', monthly national magazine, and 'Club Bulletin', monthly news-sheet.

Elson, M.J. (1992). Planning and Provision for Airsports. Facilities Factfile 3. Countryside and Water Recreation, Sports Council, London.

Kite flying

The use of National Trust properties for kite flying is considered acceptable provided that effective controls are in place, particularly in respect of stunt kites. The 'individual' element in kite flying makes the licence approach difficult, but more could perhaps be done with regard to zoning and monitoring.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes controlled kite flying on its land, recognising that in these circumstances the activity need not cause significant disturbance.
- 2 Particular care should be taken with regard to livestock, birds and other users, especially when stunt kites are being flown.
- 3 Kite flying should be discouraged on areas the National Trust wishes to retain as 'remote'.

Good practice

- Provide site information to inform users and other visitors of controls.
- Liaise with local kite flyers as much as possible and investigate opportunities for voluntary agreements where necessary which might specify levels of use, launching and landing points and seasonal restrictions.
- Look for opportunities to provide occasional temporary kite flying, where there is local demand, on suitable tracts of farmland, eg set aside, stubble.

Trends

Membership of the Kite Society is thought to be about 2,500.

Possible impacts

Danger to other users, particularly horse riders.

Disturbance of livestock and wildlife, particularly ground-nesting birds.

Parking congestion at some sites.

Creation of new paths to launching and landing points.

Visual intrusion.

Monitoring suggestions: Levels of use at different times of year, incidents of livestock and wildlife disturbance, and the effects of the activity on other users.

Contacts and liaison

The Kite Society

PO Box 2274, Great Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY

References

Elson, M.J. (1992). Planning and Provision for Airsports. Facilities Factfile 3. Countryside and Water Recreation, Sports Council, London.

Model flying

Use of National Trust properties for non-powered model flying is acceptable, largely due to the establishment of licences between the Trust and local clubs. In 1998 two precedent agreements were established between the Trust and the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) for affiliated and non-affiliated clubs.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes non-powered model flying on its land, recognising that the activity seldom causes significant disturbance, provided particular care is taken with regard to other visitors, livestock and birds.
- 2 Licences based upon the precedent agreements prepared jointly by the National Trust and the BMFA will regulate this activity.

Good practice

- Provide site information to inform users and other visitors of control mechanisms. Devil's Dyke, Southern
- Liaise with local clubs as much as possible and consider the formation of local access groups where participation in airsports is considerable.

 Ivinghoe Beacon, Thames & Chilterns

The Leas, Northumbria: good relationship with local powered fliers, access limited to ten

- Assess level of use, number of events, launching and landing points and seasonal restrictions before preparing agreements.
 Long Mynd, Mercia
- Review use regularly to monitor acceptability, particularly the effects on farm tenants, neighbours and other users.
- The British Model Flying Association (BMFA) is constantly looking for new flying sites. They are willing to survey sites for suitability if asked.
- Discourage flying on areas the Trust wishes to retain as 'remote'.

Trends

Membership of the BMFA is thought to be about 25,000.

Possible impacts

Danger and disturbance to other visitors.

Disturbance to livestock and wildlife, particularly birds.

Parking congestion at some sites.

Creation of new paths to launching and landing points.

Visual intrusion.

Contacts and liaison

British Model Flying Association

Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE

Tel: 0116 244 0028

Contact: General Secretary

Legislation, codes and agreements

The overall body in charge of airspace rules is the Civil Aviation Authority. Article 51 of the Air Navigation Order (1985) states that:

'A person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property.'

This law covers all model flying, whatever the size or weight of the aircraft. The codes of conduct contained in the BMFA Members' Handbook have been developed in response to Article 51. Wherever model flying takes place these codes must be used. Models that are over 7kg are subject to further regulations.

Under sections 58 and 59 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, local authorities or magistrates' courts may restrict or prohibit flying if the noise caused by the activity amounts to a statutory nuisance.

Copies of two NT/BMFA Precedent Agreements, for affiliated and non-affiliated clubs, are available from the Estates Department, Cirencester. Queries should be directed to the Estates Department at Cirencester or the Legal Department at Queen Anne's Gate.

References

British Model Flying Association (1995, amended 1997). *Members' Handbook*. British Model Flying Association, Leicester.

Elson, M.J. (1992). Planning and Provision for Airsports. Facilities Factfile 3. Countryside and Water Recreation, Sports Council, London.

Motor boating

This activity occurs on a small number of navigable inland waters. In coastal waters there are a number of sites where the National Trust manages moorings and slipways.

The impacts of motor boats in terms of emissions, erosion and water quality can be significant if use is concentrated, but difficult to quantify. Problems of noise and danger to other users are more obvious, and will normally be the main and immediate reason for regulating or preventing use. In the longer term, the Trust may wish to promote non-powered craft and electric motors on its waters.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes motor boats, subject to speed limits, in specified areas and/or at specified times.
- **2** The management of moorings should reflect the interests of conservation and other visitors.

Good practice

- Ensure that an environmental appraisal is carried out, in conjunction with other owners/managers, before allowing motor boat users on sites not used at present.
- Decide the maximum number of boats which are permissible and control by permit/licence system.

Newton Haven, Northumbria: numbers limited by leasing the seabed and controlling moorings

- Promote the RYA Environmental Guidelines for Boat Users.
- Stipulate contained waste systems when granting licences or permits whenever possible.

 River Wey, Southern

 Newton Haven, Northumbria: good practice re waste management is encouraged via mooring controls
- Provide facilities for oil and fuel disposal.
 Lough Erne, Northern Ireland
- Zone sites by space and/or time to reduce conflicts with other users, minimise intrusion and reduce or prevent disturbance to wildlife.
 Lake District, North West
- Impose speed limits in parts of sites.

Monitoring suggestions: Monitor incidents of 'conflict' and effects of boats on the property. Investigate environmental impacts on sites of noise, speed, wash, erosion, emissions, discharges, turbidity, disturbance to wildlife.

Trends

Thought to be stable.

Possible impacts

Intrusion from noise, speed and wash.

Danger to bathers and non-powered craft.

Disturbance of birds.

Fuel pollution (hydrocarbons and lead).

Erosion from boat wash.

Increased turbidity of water.

Water pollution from waste disposal (dirty water etc).

Contacts and liaison

Royal Yachting Association (RYA)

RYA House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hants SO5O 9YA

Tel: 023 8062 7400 Fax: 023 8062 9924

E-mail: admin@rya.org.uk Web site: www.rya.org.uk

Contact: Legal and Government Affairs Manager

British Waterski Federation

390 City Road, London EC1V 2QA

Tel: 020 7833 2855

Contact: Development Officer

References

British Marine Industries Federation & UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (1998). *Navigate with Nature – Are You On Course?*. BMIF & UK CEED, Cambridge.

British Marine Industries Federation and Others (1999). *Managing Personal Watercraft – a guide for local and harbour authorities.* BMIF and others.

Royal Yachting Association (1998). *Tidelines – Environmental Guidance for Boat Users*. Royal Yachting Association, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Sports Council (1992). Planning and Provision for Motor Sports. The Sports Council, London. Sports Council (1993). Water Skiing and the Environment. The Sports Council, London.

Motor vehicles

Scope for increasing the opportunities for off-road motor vehicles is limited overall because of potential conflicts with other recreational activities and the National Trust's conservation purposes. However, there should be a more positive and welcoming approach where use is both legitimate and responsible.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust should recognise the legitimate rights of access for motor vehicles.
- 2 The National Trust should not resist well-founded claims for vehicular Rights of Way.
- Recreational, informal use of vehicles in open country off vehicular Rights of Way should be strongly resisted.
- Where problems associated with this activity are caused or anticipated, voluntary solutions should be sought through liaison with the motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) and the local highway authority. Only if these efforts fail should the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders be sought.

Good practice

- Close liaison should be established with local users wherever possible to encourage responsible use of National Trust property. LARA members will comply with reasonable requests to avoid particular routes and have offered assistance to maintain routes and erect signposts.
 - Lake District, North West: Traffic Management Study
- When conflicts of interest arise or when byway applications are made, there should be extensive liaison with LARA representatives and local highway authorities to develop a positive approach to the management of off-road vehicular access.
 - Cherhill Down, Wessex: Conflict Resolution
- LARA's Code of Conduct and Access Guide should be promoted wherever possible. White Horse Hill, Thames & Chilterns

Monitoring suggestions: Levels of use should be monitored to determine the source of any problems associated with off-road vehicles.

Trends

The sales of off-road vehicles and the range of models have been increasing over the past ten years, the percentage of these vehicles used for recreation on byways is unclear.

Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) membership is currently static at approximately 1,500 members, but estimate active trail riders number nearer 4,500. All Wheel Drive Club membership is 4,500, but the estimated total of participants exceeds 20,000.

Possible impacts

Erosion of route surfaces, particularly in bad weather.

Damage to walls and gates.

Interference with other users and their safety, particularly when using rights of way unlawfully or irresponsibly.

Noise pollution.

Significant impacts on nature conservation are reported (Royal Society for Nature Conservation, 1987), but have not been noted on National Trust land to date.

Contacts and liaison

LARA (the motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association)

PO Box 20, Market Drayton TF9 1WR

Tel: 01630 657627 Fax: 01630 658928

Contact: Motor Recreation Development Officer

LARA is the forum for promoting the responsible use of our environment for motorsports and recreation. It coordinates opinion and members' views on issues affecting their interests and serves as a contact point for liaison with outside agencies.

Full members: Amateur Motor Cycle Association, Auto Cycle Union, Association of Rover Clubs, All Wheel Drive Club, British Motorcyclists Federation, British Off-Road Driving Association.

Associate members: British Schoolboy Motorcyle Association, Civil Service Motoring Association, Motor Cycle Industry Association, National Autograss Sport Association, RAC Motor Sports Association, Trail Riders Fellowship.

Byways and Bridleways Trust

St Mary's Business Centre, Oystershell Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5QS

Tel: 0191 233 0770

Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers

PO Box 78, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4UP

Tel: 07000 782318

Legislation, codes and agreements

Any use of the highway by motors is covered by a wide range of rules and regulations. No distinction is made in law between those public roads which are tarred and those which are not. Motoring away from public roads is also covered by a different set of complex rules and motorsport has its own codes of conduct.

References

Motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association - 'LARA News'.

Trail Riders Fellowship - 'Trail', monthly bulletin.

Byways and Bridleways Trust - 'Byway and Bridleway' magazine, ten times a year.

Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers - 'Waymark' magazine.

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (1997). *Making the Best of Byways* – a practical guide on managing the use of vehicles on public rights of way. DETR, Countryside Division. Bristol.

Motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association (1993). Access Guide for Motorised Recreation and Motorsport in the Countryside. Motor organisations' LARA, Cannock, Staffordshire.

Motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association (1993). Planning for Motorsport and Recreation in an Increasingly Sensitive Environment. Motor organisations' LARA, Cannock, Staffordshire.

Motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association (undated). The Drivers' Countryside Code of Conduct. Motor organisations' LARA, Cannock, Staffordshire.

Royal Society for Nature Conservation (1987). Damage to Wildlife Sites by Off-Road Vehicles. Royal Society for Nature Conservation, Lincoln.

Trail Riders Fellowship (1994). Caring for green lanes. Trail Riders Fellowship, Motspur Park, Surrey.

Trail Riders Fellowship (1994). Handbook. Trail Riders Fellowship, Motspur Park, Surrey.

Other detailed publications on many motoring activities are available, contact LARA with details of your area of interest for further information.

Orienteering

Orienteering is considered an appropriate activity on National Trust land. Orienteers are generally responsible and their activity is well managed and there are few problems as a consequence.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes orienteering on its land, recognising its educational merit and value as an activity for a great range of ages and abilities.
- 2 The National Trust should continue to manage orienteering by permits and licences and make a charge to cover costs and/or contribute to the maintenance of facilities.

Good practice

- Liaise closely with local clubs and the British Orienteering Federation (BOF).
- Refer to Environmental Good Practice in Orienteering produced by BOF.
- Numbers of participants and the type and frequency of events should be determined by local assessment.
- Zones should be established to protect 'remote' areas, in order to retain the peace and quiet highly valued by many visitors.
- Ensure licences and permits detail acceptable practices, eg no paint marks on trees, rocks
 etc., no nails to be hammered into trees, re-routing in wet weather, markers, posts and
 litter to be removed afterwards.
- Forewarn local residents if a large influx of cars is expected.
- If there is a breakdown in communication locally inform BOF.

Monitoring suggestions: Record levels of use and if there are concerns record impacts or implement more detailed monitoring.

Trends

Increasing. BOF membership 12,000 in 1990; forecast to increase by 5% pa. National Curriculum encourages orienteering. Approximately 8,000 orienteer at least twice a month. Occasional orienteers take total to 100,000+ in UK.

Possible impacts

Good maps are provided which are useful for many purposes.

Port Stewart Strand, Northern Ireland; Formby, Mercia

Localised damage to vegetation can occur if course sites include fragile areas.

Temporary disturbance to breeding birds, but no long-term or permanent damage at current levels of use. The sporadic nature of orienteering gives ample recovery periods for both fauna and flora.

Disturbance of the enjoyment of others, particularly during large events, as a result of pressures on local transport networks and services.

Contacts and liaison

British Orienteering Federation (BOF)

Riversdale, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 2HX

Tel: 01629 734042 Fax: 01629 733769

E-mail: bof@bof.cix.co.uk

Welsh Orienteering Association

Coedlan, Cefn Drum, Pontardulais, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA4 1NJ

Legislation, codes and agreements

Licences and permits are currently drawn up on a site by site basis.

References

BOF – quarterly newsletter.

'Compass Sport' magazine.

Welsh Orienteering Association – 'Y Ddraig' magazine.

British Orienteering Federation (undated). Orienteers and Your Land: Information for Landowners. British Orienteering Federation, Matlock, Derbyshire.

British Orienteering Federation (1997). Orienteering Rules and Guidelines. British Orienteering Federation, Matlock, Derbyshire.

British Orienteering Federation (1994). *Handbook for Major Event Organisers*. British Orienteering Federation, Matlock, Derbyshire.

British Orienteering Federation (1992). *Environmental Good Practice in Orienteering*. British Orienteering Federation, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Douglas, E.A. (1989). An Assessment of the Impact of the November Classic Badge Event 1988 on the New Forest. British Orienteering Federation, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Ecosurveys Ltd (1991). The Effect of the May 1991 Orienteering Event on the Breeding Bird Community of Brandon Park. British Orienteering Federation, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Paintball games

Paintball games, which take place in woods, are currently banned on National Trust land (Coast and Countryside Subject Paper, 1990), because of anticipated conflicts with other recreational use. The activity can also cause damage to woodland.

National Trust staff may occasionally wish to accommodate this activity. Providing the site is of low conservation value and otherwise appropriate, there is no reason to impose a blanket ban. However, the small number of Trust woods which match this definition will significantly limit the opportunities for paintball games on Trust land.

Guiding principles

1 Paintball games are only acceptable in woods of low conservation value, on an occasional basis, subject to strict controls.

Good practice

- Ensure the wood is large enough to allow good dispersal of players, at least 30 hectares (75 acres).
- Management controls include: limits on numbers participating, seasonal restrictions, zoning (including the marking of 'no go' areas), restrictions on the erection of structures, digging and cutting back of vegetation.

Monitoring suggestions: General surveillance, eg on condition of site before and after, including after an adequate recovery period, would be useful to add to existing information on the effects of the sport.

Trends

Approximately 1 million participants in the UK.

Possible impacts

Conflict with other recreational activities.

Trampling damage to woodland ground flora (eradication in severe cases).

Soil disturbance and compaction from trenching, trampling etc.

Disturbance to birds and mammals.

Note: Effect of paint stains on tree bark epiphytes not known.

Contacts and liaison

European Paintball Sports Federation

130 Churchfield, Harlow, Essex CM20 3DE

Tel: 01279 412365

This organisation represents players, traders, manufacturers and site operators and covers all aspects of the sport.

Legislation, codes and agreements

Planning permission is needed for permanent use (more than 28 days).

References

Anderson, P. and Radford, E. (1992). A Review of the Effect of Recreation on Woodland Soils, Vegetation and Fauna. English Nature, Peterborough.

English Nature and European Paintball Federation (1993). Paintball Games in Woodlands. A guide to good environmental practice. English Nature, Peterborough.

Sailing

Sailing is an appropriate activity with little environmental impact. There is little sailing on National Trust-owned inland waters, but on coastal waters adjoining Trust land it is considerable. Where there is pressure for more access to such waters, the Trust should consider these needs carefully.

Guiding principles

- 1 The National Trust welcomes sailing on its inland and adjoining coastal waters.
- It should consider new opportunities on condition that use is compatible with wildlife conservation and the need to maintain some water bodies as 'remote' and tranquil.
- **3** Use should be managed by permit and licence where possible.
- 4 Charges for parking, berthing, launching and/or mooring may be made by the National Trust to contribute to management costs.

Good practice

- Liaise with clubs, outdoor centres etc. and form local access groups wherever possible.
- In cases of conflict with other water-users, encourage initiatives from the clubs/activities involved to specify the conflicts, quantify incidents and suggest solutions.
- Limit numbers of moorings, car parks and boats and the number and siting of approved launching/landing places.
 - Crummock Water & Buttermere, North West; Brownsea Island, Southern
- Institute refuges for breeding and wintering birds with buffer zones marked by buoys, publicise with diagrams and maps in leaflets and on boards.

 Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland
- Introduce 'refuges' for swimmers, anglers, canoeists and windsurfers, by time and/or area zoning.
 - Lough Erne, Northern Ireland
- Consider taking the lease of seabeds to manage moorings. Studland, Wessex
- Close sites important for wintering wildfowl during cold weather. Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland

Monitoring suggestions: Levels of use; notable bird species (eg Red Data Book species). Many sites have statistics from sales of launch permits and mooring tickets.

Trends

Increasing, with particular demand for launching sites on the coast and boat storage during the sailing season and winter. 1.5 million people are thought to sail in the UK.

RYA membership 1997-82,000 (personal members; club membership of 1,500 has not increased). Increase of 5% pa is forecast.

Possible impacts

Disturbance of water birds, both breeding and wintering, on open water and shoreline.

Conflicts between motor boats and sailing (danger to sailing boats).

Contacts and liaison

Royal Yachting Association (RYA)

RYA House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9YA

Tel: 023 8062 7400 Fax: 023 8062 9924

E-mail: admin@rya.org.uk Web site: www.rya.org.uk

Contact: Legal and Government Affairs Manager

References

Royal Yachting Association - RYA News, quarterly magazine.

Batten, L.A. (1977). Sailing on Reservoirs and its Effects on Water Birds. *Biological Conservation*, 2, 49–58.

British Marine Industries Federation & UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (1998). *Navigate With Nature – Are You On Course?* BMIF & UK CEED, Cambridge.

Royal Yachting Association (1998). *Tide Lines – Environmental Guidance for Boat Users*. Royal Yachting Association, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Shooting

Note: This excludes grouse shooting, which only takes place on one National Trust estate, and clay pigeon shooting.

Shooting provides a modest income and can contribute to the fostering of good relations with some tenants and donors. However, it can have serious impacts on nature conservation and can impose restrictions on other forms of access. The general trend is to control more closely the use of National Trust land for shooting, thereby allowing opportunities for greater access.

Guiding principles

- 1 Shooting is permitted on National Trust land under well established controls.
- Where shooting is permitted, there may be a presumption against the shooting of reared birds and against sub-letting.
- 3 The National Trust should plan for access and conservation before new shooting arrangements are drawn up.
- 4 Shooting rights should be acquired by the National Trust wherever possible.
- The National Trust should not enter into new agreements for wildfowling on land at present un-shot without approval from head office (Reference 'The Use of Firearms on National Trust Property').
- 6 Only certain birds and animals can be shot on National Trust land, as listed in the Shooting Agreement.

Good practice

- Guidance on shooting practices and behaviour has been issued ('The Use of Firearms on National Trust Property') and should be followed.
- Encourage the use of lead-free shot.
- Consider the introduction of wildfowl refuges and zoning, including cold weather bans.
- Work closely with shooting tenants, syndicates and keepers to ensure an understanding of the National Trust's wider interests.
- Apply good practice for shooting in relation to nature conservation, produced by relevant organisations.

Monitoring suggestions: Obtain monitoring data from shoots on use of property and birds shot as a condition of the licence. Monitor closely to ensure that hare and those birds listed in the schedule as not to be shot, are not shot.

Trends

Significant increase since early 1980s (BASC); 800,000 in Britain shoot (all types of shooting). 111,000 members of BASC, with 1,300 affiliated clubs and syndicates.

Possible impacts

Restricts other forms of access to woodland, farmland and open country.

Disturbance of wildfowl, waders and other birds, with detrimental effects on some populations.

Damage to fauna and flora in vicinity of pheasant pens and strawed rides.

Poisoning of non-target species (especially wildfowl and waders) by ingestion of lead shot.

Taking of species already localised, eg snipe, woodcock and non-game species (despite regulation in shooting lease).

Litter and damage to gates and boundary structures.

Vehicle damage to tracks.

Beneficial contribution to rabbit control, relevant on some properties.

Some birds may benefit from the control of predators such as carrion crow, but note that there is little or no data to support this, and other factors (mainly habitat related) are usually more significant.

Contacts and liaison

British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, Clwyd LL12 0HL

Tel: 01244 573000

The Association is the national representative body for sporting shooting. It seeks to promote 'standards of safety and sportsmanship' and fosters a practical interest in the countryside, wildlife management and conservation.

Countryside Alliance

The Old Town Hall, 367 Kennington Road, London SE11 4PT

Tel: 020 7582 5432 Fax: 020 7793 8484

The Game Conservancy

Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1EF

Tel: 01425 652381

The Game Conservancy is a research-based organisation which aims to ensure the future of game in its natural habitat by promoting a wider understanding of game and applying its research results by developing practical management techniques.

References

British Field Sports Society – 'Country Sports' newsletter three times a year.

British Association for Shooting and Conservation – 'Shooting and Conservation' quarterly magazine.

Game Conservancy - 'Game Conservancy Review' annually.

Game Conservancy – 'Game Conservancy newsletter' twice a year.

National Trust (1992). The Use of Firearms on National Trust Property. Estate Management Manual. The National Trust, Circnester.

Sub-aqua diving

This is the only recreational activity reviewed to date which has provided the initial stimulus for conservation, ie interest in the marine environment, and the Marine Conservation Society grew out of the recreational activity of diving. It is also the only activity which is focussed particularly on sites of high nature conservation and archaeological interest. Hence marine conservation could not function without diving, but there can be much conflict of interest.

The activity takes place in estuarine, coastal and inland waters. Diving in freshwater sites is already well controlled on National Trust property, and should continue to be. Cave diving, like caving and potholing, should be subject to area strategies.

Guiding principles

- 1 Sub-aqua diving by small groups (generally six) and organised groups is an appropriate activity and welcomed in National Trust waters, with permission.
- 2 The National Trust supports the Joint Nautical Archaeological Policy Committee (JNAPC) and other agencies seeking to protect coastal and maritime archaeological sites.
- **3** Commercial use will generally be regarded as inappropriate in National Trust waters.
- There must be no collection or taking of specimens of plant, animal or any other material in National Trust waters without written authority, as stipulated in the National Trust's Byelaws. Divers should be encouraged to report new finds to the appropriate authority (see Contacts and Liaison).

Good practice

- Promote the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) Code of Conduct to protect conservation interests at launching points.
- Monitor use by divers and endeavour to investigate impacts (both beneficial and detrimental) more closely. Ensure divers are familiar with the BSAC Divers' Code of Conduct and Safe Diving Practice or an equivalent.
- Ensure that divers do not use National Trust sites to bring ashore material from wrecks.
- Ensure access restrictions and/or speed restrictions operate in the vicinity of important seabird sites and seal breeding or haul-out sites.
- Prevent access to particularly sensitive underwater sites by roping them off, or by other controls as listed.
- Confine anchoring to particular sites.

- Ensure noise from compressed air cylinders does not disturb birds, seals or visitors.
- Provide specialist literature on the interest of sites, protected wreck sites, where to go, the reasons for controls and National Trust practice.
- Establish zoning, incorporating sanctuary areas and permit-only areas.
- Ensure, as far as practicable, that divers do not approach cetaceans (dolphins, porpoises).
- Operate a booking system that incorporates restrictions, eg stipulate check in/check out, limit the number of divers, including the number of divers in a group (eg max. 20), limit the number of novice divers in sensitive sites, and ensure there is a satisfactory ratio of trained divers to novices, for both safety and conservation reasons (ideally 1 novice:1 dive leader), limit the number of boats and/or cars.
- Ensure divers have identifiable marks.

Monitoring suggestions: Collect data on levels of use. Establish underwater monitoring programmes in selected sites in collaboration with BSAC and with professional advice.

Farne Islands, Northumbria: levels of diving are being monitored on a regular basis as part of BSAC research

Trends

An estimated 80-90,000 people dive in the UK. BSAC membership increasing dramatically: 1960-5,000; 1970-13,721; 1980-27,075; 1990-36,434; 1995-55,000. 20% of membership is overseas. Records show that in 1992 70,000 divers undertook 1.5 million dives around the coast of the UK.

Possible impacts

Monitoring and recording of the underwater and marine environments, leading to better understanding and increased knowledge.

Promotion of the importance of the underwater environment; increased awareness of related issues.

Assistance with wardening, litter collection, etc.

Disturbance of underwater fauna, shore birds and seals.

Physical damage to fragile and delicate organisms, from anchoring, knocking with fins and unwieldy equipment. Novices known to cause much more damage than experienced divers.

Collecting and removal of specimens – shown to deplete local populations and reduce average size of individuals locally. Impact most severe from commercial collecting, but collecting for research purposes has also caused damage.

Physical damage to archaeological sites.

Associated parking and launching requirements.

Conflict with other user groups, eg fishermen, power and non-power boat users etc.

Contacts and liaison

The Receiver of Wrecks (RoW) (finds in the UK)

The Coastguard Agency, Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton SO15 1EG

Tel: 023 8032 9474

Commission on Historical Monuments in England (RCHME) (finds in England)

National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ

Tel: 01973 414600

RCAHMW (finds in Wales)

Government Building, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 1NJ

Tel: 01970 621200

DoE (Northern Ireland) (finds in N Ireland)

Environment and Heritage Service, 5-33 Hill Street, Belfast BT1 2LA

Tel: 028 9023 5000

The British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)

Telford's Quay, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, Cheshire L65 4FY

Tel: 0151 350 6200 Fax: 0151 350 6215 Web site: www.bsac.com

Contact: Technical Support Manager

The BSAC was founded in 1953 and in 1958 was recognised by the Sports Council as the UK governing body for the sport. The BSAC is the largest diving club in the world and an authority on recreational diving and diver training. It has 1,250 branches and affiliated clubs in the UK and over 200 BSAC schools. Each year it trains some 20,000 people to dive. A Branch and Contact List is produced regularly.

The Cave Diving Group (CDG)

169, Nutgrove Road, Nutgrove, St Helens, Lancs WA9 5JH

Contact: Secretary

Nautical Archaeology Society

Membership: 206 Moorview Way, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2TN

Training and Projects: 19 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ

Tel./Fax: 023 9281 8419

Marine Conservation Society (MCS)

9, Gloucester Road, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5BU

Tel: 0198 956 6017

The MCS is a national voluntary organisation concerned with all aspects of conservation of marine life and habitats, principally in UK waters. It provides expertise in habitat conservation, interpretation, monitoring and recording techniques and wardening, as well as a very wide range of marine issues.

British Society of Underwater Photographers

60 St Helen's Gardens, London w10 6LH

Contact: Secretary

Legislation, codes and agreements

The National Trust supports the BSAC Code of Conduct.

All finds should be reported to the Receiver of Wrecks (RoW) in the first instance, and the RCHME, RCAHMW and BSAC if advised otherwise by the RoW. Newly discovered wreck sites or finds should be marked using marker buoys and their positions fixed through either GPS or land bearings.

Note: It is an offence not to report finds to the RoW under the Merchant Shipping Act (1894).

Under archaeological legislation there are potentially tens of thousands of wrecks off the UK coast, many of which are known and have been recorded but are not protected by law. The Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) provides protection for 47 wreck sites around the UK, and restricts access to licensed divers. Licences are issued by the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites for the DCMS (soon to be delegated to English Heritage), CADW, Historic Scotland and EHS NI.

In UK law, ownership of material lost at sea resides in the original owners or their successors, unless it can be shown that abandonment occurred. Finds are held by the RoW for one year, after which if no one owner can be found the find is often passed to the finder in lieu of salvage award. Important archaeological finds are often offered to museums for conservation.

Inland sites, eg rivers and quarries, are treated as normal archaeological sites and some are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Ownership of finds is the same as for land.

References

British Sub-Aqua Club – 'Diver', monthly magazine.

British Sub-Aqua Club (1998). Safe Diving Practices. BSAC National Diving Committee, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

British Sub-Aqua Club (1998). BSAC Environmental Policy.

Countryside Council for Wales (1992). Skomer Marine Nature Reserve – Dos and Don'ts (including Code of Conduct). Countryside Council for Wales, Aberystwyth.

Dean, M. et al (eds) (1992). Archaeology Underwater, The NAS Guide to Principles and Practice.

English Heritage and RCHME (1996) England's Coastal Heritage, A Statement on the Management of Coastal Archaeology. English Heritage, London, RCHME, Swindon.

English Nature et al (undated). Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Zoning Scheme. English Nature, Okehampton, Devon.

Gubbay, S. (1994). *Management Information Chart* – a zoning plan for Portland Harbour, Poole Harbour and The Solent. Prepared for English Nature.

JNAPC (1995). Code of Practice for Seabed Developers.

National Environment Research Council (1973). Marine Wildlife Conservation – an assessment of evidence of a threat to marine wildlife and the need for conservation measures.

RCHME (1996). The National Inventory of Maritime Archaeology for England. RCHME, Swindon.

Robertson, P. (1995). Marine Archaeology and Lundy Marine Nature Reserve. An assessment for English Nature and the Landmark Trust.

Spashett, L. (1994). *Muddy Puddles*. A guide to inland dive sites within a radius of Leeds. Available from the author, 14, Regent Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 2AU.

Sports Council and Countryside Commission (1995). Good Practice in the Planning and Management of Sport and Active Recreation in the Countryside. Case Study on Purbeck Marine Wildlife Nature Reserve.

Walking

Walking is the core activity on National Trust land. The Trust is a major provider of land for walking and is highly regarded for this.

Guiding principles

- 1 Walking has always been, and will continue to be, the main type of access provided by the National Trust.
- The National Trust will continue to make assessments of new walking opportunities, in particular the provision of more places to stop, as well as places to go, and more routes for visitors with reduced mobility (young families, elderly, disabled visitors etc.).
- 3 The National Trust allows and welcomes freedom to roam over its unenclosed land and woods. This does not necessarily apply to dogs.

Good practice

- Liaise with local walkers and ramblers groups to discuss their needs and those of the National Trust.
- Promote the Country Code.
- Assess and predict levels of use before undertaking new promotional initiatives; ensure damage is unlikely to occur and that staffing and maintenance resources are adequate.
- Provide information which gives guidance on where to go, what to see, how to get there
 and what walking conditions to expect, which helps to create an awareness and
 understanding of the countryside.
- Seek to influence the content of non-National Trust promotional literature (guidebooks etc.) and identify opportunities for joint publication.

 Cornwall; North York Moors National Park
- Assess critically the need for erosion repair, especially in the uplands. Consider priorities in the context of competing needs (eg information provision, monitoring and new types of access elsewhere) which may have more overall benefit.
 - Upland Repair Handbook and work in the North West, Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons
- Assess paths for long-term sustainability and where practicable seek to re-route those that
 are badly sited, prohibitively expensive to maintain or damaging features of interest.

 Lake District, North West

• As far as possible ensure that complaints from the public about path surfaces do not compromise important natural or management processes (eg allow wet and boggy paths, dung on paths, etc.).

Hill Top, North West; Lizard village, Cornwall

- Replace stiles with kissing or self-closing gates wherever possible.

 See 'BT/Fieldfare Countryside for All' and 'National Trust Visitors with Disabilities'
- Many walkers seek peace and quiet and a sense of wilderness: the National Trust recognises this and should provide for it.
- Seek opportunities to extend access on tenanted farmland, particularly where there are new tenants, as part of a whole farm assessment. Make good use of agri-environment schemes for this purpose.

Sherborne, Severn; Chyngton, Kent & East Sussex

 Consider opportunities for additional routes, creating links with footpaths beyond National Trust boundaries and dedicating them wherever possible.

Dudmaston, Mercia; Standen, Southern

 Encourage and make it easier for visitors to walk to National Trust properties from their homes or public transport links.

Erddig, Wales; Formby, Mercia; Hardcastle Crags, Yorkshire See 'Green Transport News'

Monitoring suggestions: Monitor erosion repair to assess its long-term effectiveness and benefits and investigate contribution of land use, eg grazing. Monitor levels of use at selected sites/times.

Trends

Increasing. Membership of Ramblers' Association (RA): 1970 – 20,000; 1980 – 30,000; 1990 – 85,000; 1997 – 120,000. 20 million in the UK walk regularly. c.50 million walk in the countryside at least once a year.

Possible impacts

Erosion and costly path repair works, with insufficient assistance from highway authorities.

Damage to habitats and natural features from footpath construction.

Seasonal disturbance of fauna, especially moorland birds.

Damage to fragile vegetation.

Damage to walls, fences, stiles, etc., and litter.

Conflict between walkers, cyclists and riders (danger, walkers frightened, path surfaces made more difficult for walkers).

Safety requirements, the cost of their implementation and damage to valuable features.

Traffic and car parking congestion associated with walking, and the cost of car park maintenance. Also some income from car parking.

Contacts and liaison

Ramblers' Association (RA)

1-5 Wandsworth Road, London sw8 2xx

Tel: 020 7339 8500 Fax: 020 7339 8501

E-mail: ramblers@london.ramblers.org.uk

Contact: Assistant Director (Access)

Ty'r Cerddwyr, High Street, Gresford, Wrexham, Clwyd LL12 8PT

Tel: 01978 855148 Fax: 01978 854445

E-mail: cerddwyr@compuserve.com

The Association promotes rambling, protects Rights of Way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside. There are over 50 area and 400 local groups throughout Britain. The association uses volunteers for path clearance, waymarking and organisation.

Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers

PO Box 78, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4UP

Tel: 07000 782318

Legislation, codes and agreements

Walkers have a legal right of way on footpaths, bridleways, byways and roads used as public paths. On a bridleway cyclists must give way to walkers. They also have 'de facto' access to many areas of land where they have not specifically been invited and to which no formal rights of access apply, eg extensive, remote and unenclosed moorland areas.

References

Ramblers' Association – 'Rambling Today', quarterly magazine and year book.

Ramblers' Association – 'Footpath Worker', quarterly bulletin of reports and decision letters on public path orders, court cases and related matters.

Barlow, J. & Thomas, M. (1998). *Mending Our Ways – the quality approach to managing upland paths*. British Upland Footpath Trust, Manchester.

Ramblers' Association (1993). *Harmony in the Hills*. Consultation document. The Ramblers' Association, London.

Sidaway, R. (1990). Birds and Walkers. A review of existing research on access to the countryside and disturbance to birds. A report prepared for the Ramblers' Association, London.

Ratcliffe, D. (1992). Rambling and Nature Conservation. Rambling Today. Spring issue.