

Countryside Update

October 2005 (issue no. 69)

Help Stop Weymouth Relief Road

The Ramblers' Association in Dorset is campaigning against a new road which is proposed through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and would be massively detrimental to beautiful countryside.

You can help the campaign by writing a letter of objection to the planning department of Dorset County Council and including the following points:

- The proposed road would cause unacceptable damage to the Ridgeway, Southdown Ridge, Dorset Wildlife Trust's Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve and Two Mile Coppice and would destroy the tranquility of the surrounding countryside with high-speed traffic noise.
- Government policy requires Dorset County Council to fully explore all possible alternatives before building roads in AONBs and we are not convinced this has been done.

Your letter should be addressed to Catriona Groves, Planning Department, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ. The planning applications are numbers 1/E/2005/1840 and 05/666/DCC3.

Cumbria's Forgotten Landscape

Friends of the Lake District have published a report looking at the case for extending the boundaries between the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks.

The full report, entitled *The Land between two Parks – A Report on proposals for further statutory protection for the landscape of Cumbria* is available on Friends of the Lake District's website at www.fld.org.uk. There is also a summary of the report available, which is called *Cumbria's Forgotten Landscape*.

The report looks at the current boundaries, the reasons behind the exclusion of certain areas and the necessity for designation. The proposed Whinash wind farm, which was discussed at public inquiry earlier this year, is in this area, perhaps highlighting the reasons that it should be designated as soon as possible.

The report recommends that the Countryside Agency should designate:

- The area between the A6 and M6 as an extension to the Lake District National Park.
- The area comprising the northern Howgills, Mallerstang, Barbondale, Middleton Fell

Circular no. Date From	05/109 October 2005 Ramblers' Association Countryside Protection Team – Central Office Sarah Williams – Tel 020 7339 8571 Email sarahw@london.ramblers.org.uk NB – Please contact Sarah if you would like to add others to the circulation list	For To	Information Area and Group Countryside Officers Area and Group Secretaries Area Media Contacts England and Wales (Scotland for Information only) Staff and EC Countryside Update members Extra Countryside Secretaries
------------------------------	---	-----------	---

and Leck Fell as extensions to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

- The area of the Orton Fells as an AONB.

More information on the report can be found on their website, or by contacting them on 01539 720788.

Climate Change and Aviation

A five year study by the Tyndall Centre has shown that all householders, motorists and businesses will have to reduce their carbon dioxide pollution to zero if the growing aviation industry is to be incorporated into Government climate change targets for 2050. Even if aviation's current growth is halved from today's level, the rest of the economy will require cuts far beyond Government's targets.

The report, called *Decarbonising the UK* looks at ways to cut carbon dioxide emissions from a range of sectors and is the first study to combine carbon dioxide emissions from the UK's energy infrastructure, buildings and industry with those from air, sea and land transport.

Their main conclusions include:

- Policies for reducing energy demand are a more flexible tool than implementing low-carbon emissions
- Supplying low carbon energy is both technically and economically viable
- A low carbon society does not necessarily preclude increases in personal travel
- Government must implement and enforce minimum energy standards
- All sectors must be included in any carbon-reduction strategy

Growing the Railways Manifesto

Transport 2000 have just published a manifesto for railway growth endorsed by several other organizations, including the Ramblers' Association.

The manifesto, called *Growing the Railways* highlights the growth in rail travel that has occurred recently, but that parts of the

infrastructure are woefully equipped to deal with this.

Last year, passenger journeys exceeded one billion which is the highest since 1959. Train operators also estimate that rail travel will grow by 66% over the next 20 years. The manifesto is intended to influence the contents of the Government's Railway strategy, which the Department for Transport is producing over the next year.

The manifesto pushes for six key ways to move rail forward:

- Ensuring money being spent is used more efficiently, by bringing the unit cost down.
- Formulating a long-term investment planning framework for the railways.
- Promoting partnerships between the rail industry and other interests to lever in private and public funds to develop the railways, especially at stations for freight.
- Reviewing appraisal of rail projects to include the full benefits and take out excessive cost estimates.
- Integrating the railways with other transport modes.
- Planning and investing for an expanding railway network in order to meet existing and new demand.

More information is available from the website of Transport 2000 www.transport2000.org.uk or by contacting Transport 2000 on 020 7613 7724.

Campaign Success

Last year it was announced in the Teesdale local press that BT planned to remove over 30 telephone boxes, mostly in some of the remotest rural areas, because they were rarely used. Jo Bird, the Countryside Secretary for the local group, made strong representations to the District Council, raised the issue in the local press and responded to BT pointing out how valuable they were to walkers.

A year on, while one or two phone boxes have been removed from the town, all the rural ones remain!