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- In this section you will find out what the Ramblers' Association means by Countryside Protection, the roles of our volunteers and methods of campaigning.

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- This section provides a guide to the planning system from plans and consultations through to public inquiries.

Section 3: Protection of the Countryside

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- This section contains information about key issues affecting the countryside.
- Each subsection deals with one subject giving advice on what you can do, and the Ramblers' Association point of view.

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“...the protection and enhancement for the benefit of the public of the beauty of the countryside...”

- from the aims and objectives of the Ramblers' Association

Introduction

Everyone benefits from a beautiful and protected countryside: the land grows our food, lakes and rivers provide our water, woods and forests clean our air.

When looking at countryside protection, it often helps to think about ‘the view from the footpath’.

Our goal is two-fold: to **enhance** the countryside by supporting positive, sustainable projects, and to **protect** it by opposing potentially intrusive or damaging developments and plans.

We work towards our goal by getting involved in local and national campaigns that affect the countryside, even in cases where there is no form of public access.

Tranquillity, wildlife, landscape and fresh air are all reasons for walkers to visit the countryside, and are all reasons why the Ramblers' Association has an interest in protecting it for present and future generations.

How to use the Countryside Guidance Notes

- This pack is designed to help Ramblers' Association members, volunteers and especially Area and Group Countryside Officers learn more about countryside protection issues.
- The pack aims to be a starting point, so that volunteers can focus on the issues that interest them, or most affect their area.
- Throughout the notes there are sources for further information to provide a greater depth of information when needed.
- Each section provides the Ramblers' Association standpoint taken from our policies and General Council motions.
- Also throughout are ideas for what you can do to get involved in a campaign.

Symbols used in the Countryside Guidance Notes



This symbol precedes all website addresses in the notes. These sites are sources for more information. The website address will also be underlined.



This arrow indicates that you should enter a search term into the 'Search' box on the relevant website. The word(s) you should enter follow the arrow.



This cursor shows that there is an option to 'click' with the mouse on the homepage of the website. The wording of the option follows the cursor.



The Ramblers' Association logo is used where our point of view is shown. These statements reflect policies agreed by Ramblers General Council.



The 'Go' sign indicates an opportunity for volunteers to get involved.



Indicates that the information relates solely to England.



Indicates that the information relates solely to Wales.

- There is space at the back of these notes to store the 'Countryside Update' and other campaign newsletters from the Ramblers' Association.

Countryside Protection and the Ramblers' Association

- Protecting the countryside is one of the Ramblers' Association's key charitable objectives.
- Motions agreed at General Council, held every year, define our policy on countryside matters.
- Members and volunteers carry out a great amount of countryside work at the local level.
- There are two main volunteer roles and they are defined below.

Countryside Campaigning

- To 'campaign' simply means taking a course of action to achieve a particular result.
- It can be useful to plan for any campaign in four sections:
 - Setting **Aims**: what do we want to achieve, and by when?
 - Carrying out **Research**: what do others think about the issue? Who are the decision makers? What else might influence the issue?
 - **Communication** of the aims and issues: who needs to know about the campaign? How can we get our message across using publicity such as the media, or the Internet?
 - **Lobbying** the decision makers directly: can we meet, telephone or write to them? Will they respond to large numbers of protests, detailed arguments, or both?
- Countryside campaigning works best at the local level, where there is a connection between the campaigners and the issue.
- It is also important to gauge the level of support for any campaign; an issue that has a strong sense of feeling may attract volunteers to share the workload.
- Volunteers for your campaign needn't be committee members, or even regular walkers with your Group or Area. What is important is that they share your aims and are able to lend a hand.
- The Area or Group newsletter, website or programme are important **Communication** tools; they can help spread your message and recruit supporters and volunteers for the campaign.
- You could specify in your publicity the tasks you would like supporters to carry out, for example writing a letter to their MP.

- It helps to have close links with other Area and Group Officers, such as the Footpath and Publicity Officers. They will be able to give expertise and advice on **Communication** and **Lobbying** parts of your plan.
- Almost all campaigns will be of interest to other organisations. **Research** who these may be, and keep in regular touch to share information and ensure that there is no duplication of effort.

Remember that other Areas and Groups may have faced a similar issue previously and may be able to help.

Campaign support is also available from staff in our Central Office. Please contact us for any help or advice that you need.

Address:

The Countryside Team
Ramblers' Association
2nd Floor
89 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TW

E-mail:

countryside@ramblers.org.uk

Telephone:

020 7339 8500

Website:

www.ramblers.org.uk/countryside/

The Role of a Group Countryside Officer

- The Group Countryside Officer deals mainly with countryside issues at a local level, probably within the 'boundaries' of the Group's area.
- Where a proposed development or issue crosses these boundaries it is appropriate to communicate with other local Officers, or the Area Countryside Officer.
- An idea of some of the responsibilities that are likely to be involved are as follows:
 - Getting involved with the Local Development Plan process
 - Making representations on individual planning applications
 - Getting involved with practical projects such as conservation activities, community forums etc.
 - Watching for breaches of planning control and reporting these to the relevant authority
 - Making representations on countryside matters outside of the planning system, for example the removal of hedgerows

The Role of an Area Countryside Officer

- The Area Countryside Officer's main role is to co-ordinate the countryside work within their Area.
- Some of the responsibilities may include:
 - Establishing an Area Countryside Committee composed of the relevant Group Countryside Officers
 - Liaising with other Countryside Officers (Area and Group) to discuss wider issues such as Regional or Welsh Spatial Plans
 - Co-ordinating our countryside work with other organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England/Wales, Wildlife Trusts and RSPB to present a united voice on local issues
 - To watch for opportunities to represent the Ramblers' Association on environmental forums, such as those run by local authorities, Natural England or Countryside Council for Wales.
 - Dealing with other matters of importance that are not dealt with by Group Countryside Officers. This can include;
 - Representations on planning applications
 - Attending public inquiries
 - Responding to press calls and enquiries
 - Lobbying of councillors and MPs where appropriate



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- The planning system in England and Wales has helped protect the countryside and prevent urban sprawl for over 60 years.
- We take an active interest in the planning system as a means of achieving sustainable development that protects and enhances the countryside, and we understand this to include making urban centres an attractive alternative to green field exploitation.
- We believe it is possible to have a sensible planning system that encourages development and growth without threatening the countryside and the green spaces that surround urban areas.
- Opportunities for Ramblers Groups and Areas, and others who represent local communities, to get involved in the planning process are vital to ensure positive development that enhances the environment and landscape.

Government Guidance

Policy

- The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has overall responsibility for the planning system in England.
- The Welsh Assembly Government has responsibility in Wales.
- Both provide policy guidance to help planning authorities, developers and the public.
- In England this guidance comes in the form of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) that are replacing Planning Guidance Notes (PGNs).
- In Wales *Planning Policy Wales* (2002) is the land-use policy document and is supported by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs).
- Both PPSs and TANs cover a wide range of policy areas.
- PPSs and TANs are maintained and updated as government policy changes.

Important Planning Acts

- 1947: Town and Country Planning Act
 - Provided the basis for the current planning system
 - Government given powers in controlling land use
 - Strengthened the role of Local Authorities
- 1990: Town and Country Planning Act
 - Divides planning into
 - Forward Planning (Policy); and
 - Development Control (Applications)
- 2004: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act
 - Strengthens the powers of local government regions
 - Introduces the current system of local plans
 - Adds requirements to consult more widely
- 2007: Planning White Paper
 - Proposes centralisation of planning decisions for major infrastructure developments

Forward Planning: Policy & Plans



Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS)

- Every government region must produce one
- They are reviewed by Regional Planning Bodies
- RSS feed into local authority development and local transport plans.
- They must be consistent with the government's national sustainable development programme
- They decide the level of development, where it will be, and how it would be delivered
- They each cover a 15-20 year period
- They contain information on such issues as local environment, housing, transport, the economy, infrastructure and energy.



Wales Spatial Plan

- Sets strategic agenda for sustainable development in Wales for the next 20 years
- It splits Wales into six regions that are not related to local authority boundaries. The regions are free to develop their own approach to planning
- The plan sets out spatial implications of government strategy, including key actions, regional visions and priorities
- Major themes include building sustainable communities and valuing the environment
- The plan informs Local Development Plans.



Local Development Schemes

- All local authorities must have a Local Development Scheme
- The document consists of the local development document (see below) and a Statement of Community Involvement
- It is an outline of which existing policies are to be kept or reviewed and sets out the timetable for doing this
- The Statement of Community Involvement shows the opportunities for public participation
- They are reviewed annually.



Local Development Frameworks

- Local authorities must have these prepared by the end of 2007
- They are a guide to the amount and location of development in the area
- They say that development should contribute to economic, social and environmental well being of the area
- Local authorities should engage with local communities during this framework.

Local Development Plans (LDPs)

- The LDP sets out the Local Planning Authority's proposals and policies for future development and land use in its area.
- The LDP replaces any pre-existing Unitary Development Plans (or Local Plans). Some of these remain in force until LDPs are universally adopted.
- Decisions on planning permissions are based mostly on the policies set out in the LDP.
- LDPs provide some degree of certainty about what kinds of development are likely to be permitted.
- Each plan is subject to public consultation and there should be opportunities to influence the process at various stages.



What you can do...

- Get involved at an early stage and request copies of any consultations or papers. Remember that these should also be available online from the relevant local authority website.
- Attend public meetings to represent your Area or Group.
- Communicate with other members and volunteers and collate their concerns into a cohesive response.
- Speak to the planning officers involved and talk about the role walking has to play in their transport strategy.
- Make sure that any comments you make are specific to both the plan and the area.
- Remember to praise any promising aspects of the plan.

Development Control

Planning Applications

- This is the area where most members of the public come into contact with the planning system.
- The majority of developments in England and Wales require planning permission.
- Most planning applications go to the local authority, or National Park Authority within a National Park boundary.
- Decisions are usually made in accordance with the forward planning documents.
- Development in designated areas such as National Parks, AONBs and other protected zones is much more restricted.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- These are required for major developments such as quarries, motorways and power stations.
- Smaller developments that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment also need one.
- If an EIA is required the developer is required to prepare an Environmental Statement (ES).
- An ES describes the likely effects of the development on the environment and proposed measures to lessen those impacts.
- The ES must be circulated to statutory consultation bodies and also made available to the public.
- The content of this report must be taken into account by the planning authority.

'Calling In' a Planning Decision

- The government can 'call in' planning applications and take the decision away from the local authority.
- This happens rarely, and is usually reserved for applications that have a significance that goes beyond the local level, or if the development is potentially controversial.
- Called-in applications include 'Departure' applications. These are developments that conflict with the agreed local plan.

Decisions and Appeals

- A local authority can grant permission subject to conditions.
 - These can include time limits or specific environmental mitigation measures.
 - The public can suggest conditions at consultation stages.
- Obligations
 - Planning obligations are legal instruments that allow anyone with a legal interest in the land to enter into an agreement with the local authority to restrict or regulate development and land use.
- Appeals
 - A planning decision can be appealed by an applicant if:
 - planning permission is refused
 - conditions are attached to the permission
 - a decision has not been made within 8 weeks
 - The majority of appeals take the form of written responses or informal hearings
 - A small number of appeals go to public inquiry where the public has a chance to comment on the development.



What you can do...

- Look out for potentially controversial planning applications in the local press. If you see one, contact your local planning authority for more information.
- If possible, visit the site of the proposed development to help determine the possible environmental impact.
- Check the approved LDPs for your area and see if the development is compatible with their guidelines.
- If you decide to support or oppose the case, let the responsible planning officer know in writing as soon as possible.
- Gather wider support for your response, contact members, other committee volunteers and other organisations to see if they share your views.

Futher Reading

Policy

- Planning Policy Statements
🔗 www.communities.gov.uk Planning, Building & Environment
- Planning Policy Wales
🔗 <http://new.wales.gov.uk> Planning

Government Planning Help

- Planning Portal: A guide to planning permission and regulations
🔗 www.planningportal.gov.uk
- Planning Inspectorate: Body that processes enforcement and appeals
🔗 www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk

Other Planning Help

- Planning Aid: Advice and support on all planning matters
🔗 www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk
- CPRE: Run major campaigns for good land-use planning
🔗 www.cpre.org.uk Campaigns – Planning
- Planning Help: A step-by-step guide to the Planning System, provided by CPRE
🔗 www.planninghelp.org.uk
- CAFE Space: Campaign for better public spaces
🔗 www.cabespace.org.uk
- See also their campaign for community involvement in transforming public spaces:
🔗 www.itsyourspace.org.uk

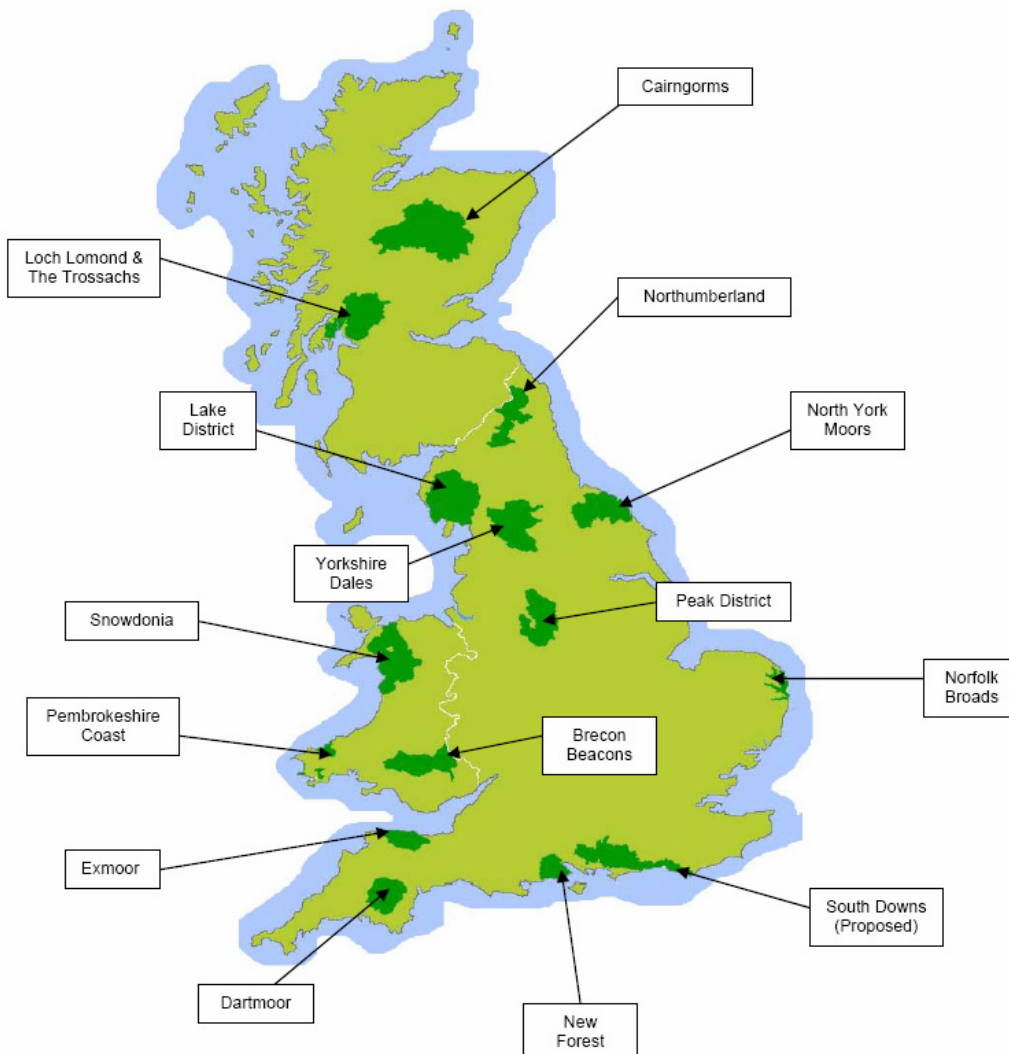


What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Walkers' interests should be better represented in the management of protected land.
- Developments in protected areas should be planned to have minimal landscape impact, based on sound sustainable principles.

- In England and Wales the two main designations are National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).
- The Ramblers' Association played a huge role in the establishment of National Parks to be established and has a long history in campaigning for increased landscape protection.

National Parks

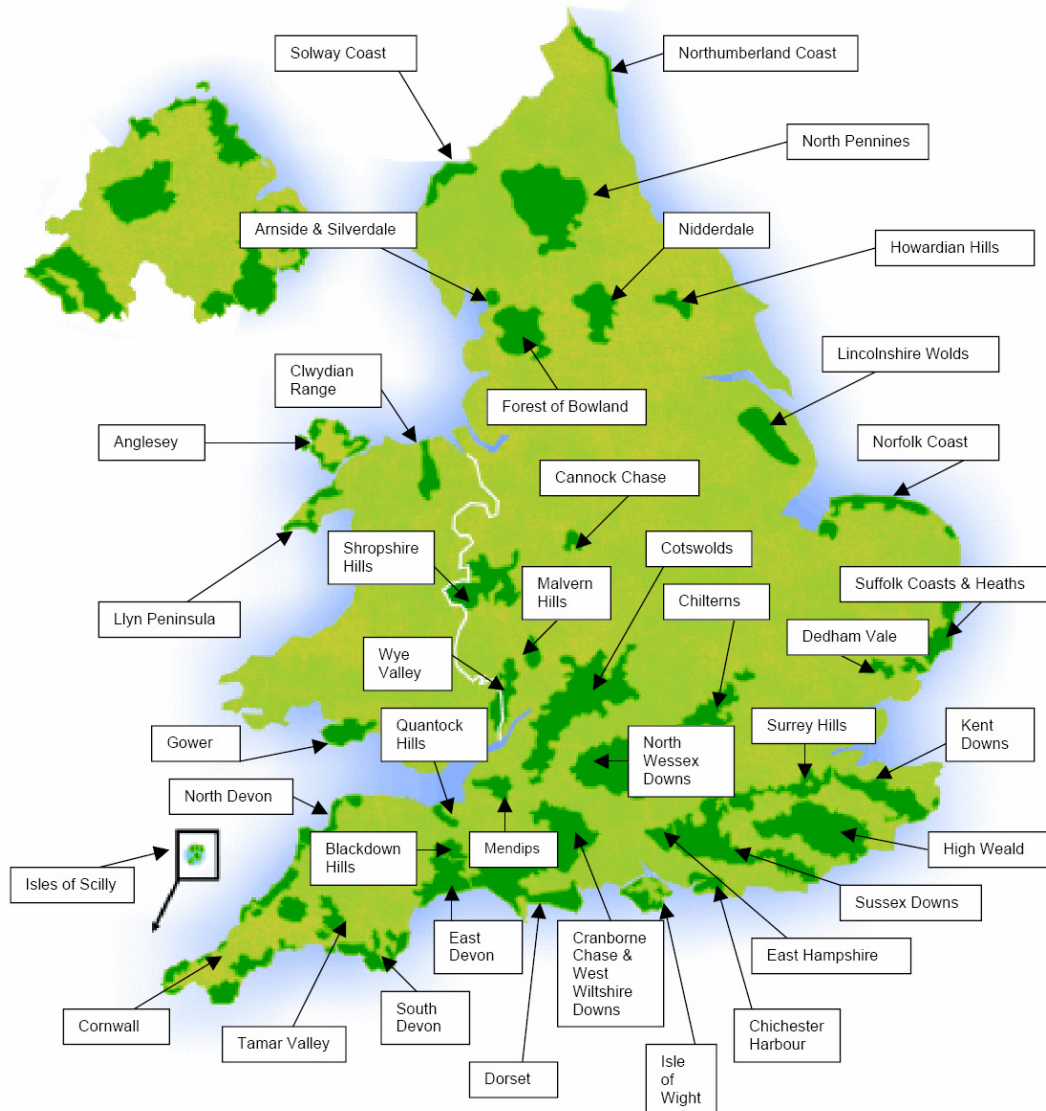


Map showing the 14 present, and 1 proposed National Parks in the UK.

Landscapes

- Established in 1949 by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.
- National Parks have the highest level of landscape and scenery protection.
- There are currently 14 National Parks in Britain;
 - England:
 - The Broads
 - Dartmoor
 - Exmoor
 - Lake District
 - New Forest
 - Northumberland
 - North York Moors
 - Peak District
 - Yorkshire Dales
 - Scotland
 - Cairngorms
 - Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
 - Wales
 - Brecon Beacons
 - Pembrokeshire Coast
 - Snowdonia
- In 2006 the South Downs National Park designation process restarted, following a four-year gap.
- In England, National Parks are created when the Secretary for State designates them.
- In Wales and Scotland it is the responsibility of the national executives
- There are two statutory purposes for a National Park:
 - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks.
 - To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks.
- An independent National Park Authority (NPA) manages each park and in order to fulfil the two purposes above must produce a management plan.
- The NPA also makes planning decisions on applications within the Park boundaries.
- When making a decision they must take into account both statutory purposes.
- If there is a conflict between the two, the 'Sandford Principle' states that conservation should take precedence over recreation.
- The Broads has a third statutory purpose, navigation, and because of this the Sandford Principle does not apply.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)



Map showing all current AONBs in England & Wales.

- In addition to National Parks, the 1949 act also created Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).
- AONBs share the landscape value of National Parks, but do not have the same 'recreational' status.
- An AONBs primary purpose is:
 - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape.
- The two secondary aims are:
 - To meet the need for quiet enjoyment of the countryside.
 - To have regard for the interests of those who live and work there.
- There are currently 40 AONBs in England and Wales, as shown on the map above.

- A lack of management since the 1949 act has led to some AONBs facing pressure from development and a deterioration in landscape quality.
- In an attempt to rectify this issue the CRoW Act (2000) introduced better protection for AONBs.
- This included the preparation of a management plan as a statutory requirement.
- Larger AONBs can establish conservation boards, which should reflect local and national interests in conserving the area and promoting public enjoyment.

Landscape Protection Societies

- Every National Park has its own society of supporters who campaign to protect their aims and status.
- They work closely with the Council for National Parks (CNP).
- The CNP aim to protect and enhance the designated parks and other areas meriting National Park status.

Non-statutory Designations

- These will always fall below National Parks and AONBs in importance.
- In coastal areas, the non-statutory designation of 'Heritage Coast' is used to support the protection of the landscape and the provision of recreation.
- Non-statutory designations are defined by an agreement between the local authority and Natural England / Countryside Council for Wales.
- Local authorities have also used a variety of non-statutory designations in development plans to provide special considerations in planning decisions.
 - Examples of these include Special Landscape Area and Areas of Landscape Value.

Urban Green Spaces

- Open and green spaces are an important part of urban areas.
- Local planning authorities have a variety of options available when assessing green space provision.
- The National Playing Field Association standard suggests a minimum of 6 acres per 1000 people.
- Examples of open spaces include parks, recreation grounds and corridors such as rivers, canals and rights of way.
- Although not necessarily considered 'countryside', urban green and open spaces contribute to the local landscape.

- The natural quality of these spaces is highly beneficial for the health and well being of local communities.

European Landscape Convention

- The European Landscape Convention was ratified by the UK in November 2006.
- The Convention aims to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and also to encourage European cooperation on landscape issues.
- This should mean that landscape issues are given more recognition in a range of decisions in the UK.
- Signatories must do the following:
 - Recognise landscape in Law
 - Implement policies for landscape protection
 - Involve the public in policy discussions
 - Integrate landscape into regional and local policies, as well as across national government departments

Nature Conservation Designations

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- These are the most significant wildlife and geological sites in the UK.
- There are over 4,000 sites in England, covering 7% of land area.
- There are 1019 sites in Wales, covering 12% of land area

Ramsar Sites

- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.
- A full list of UK sites can be found here:
 - www.jncc.gov.uk ⇒ Ramsar Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

- SAC are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive (1994).
- Obligations are placed on Britain to provide a list of important nature conservation sites.
- The listed habitat types and species are considered to be ones in need of European-level conservation (excluding birds).
- A full list of UK sites can be found here:
 - www.jncc.gov.uk Protected Sites

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

- SPAs are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds.
- These sites are classified for rare and vulnerable birds.
- For a list of sites, see the link under SAC.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

- NNRs ensure the protection and management of important wildlife habitat areas.
- As well as being areas of scientific research they also have a recreational role to encourage enjoyment and education.






This role was confirmed by the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act* (2006).



What you can do...

- Check that any proposed development in your area does not fall under designated protected land.
- If a development is proposed within designated boundaries, check that it conforms to the stricter guidelines on environmental protection and character.
- Consider applying to sit on the boards of National Parks or AONBs. We strongly encourage members to apply for these positions to represent walkers' interests.
- Look at the development and transport plans for protected areas. Do they give enough priority to walkers?

Further Reading

- European Landscape Convention:
 www.coe.int/europeanlandscapeconvention
- Council for National Parks:
 www.cnp.org.uk
 -  National Parks for history of National Parks, Facts, Figures etc
 -  Publications for Policy reports
- National Association of AONBs:
 www.aonb.org.uk




What the Ramblers' Association thinks...


- We believe that access on foot to the countryside does not conflict with nature conservation or the need to preserve biodiversity.
- We do not usually campaign on biodiversity issues, unless as part of a wider countryside and landscape protection agenda.

- It is estimated that during the 20th Century the UK lost over 100 species of plants and animals.
- There are now several strategies and plans in place to prevent further biodiversity loss.

Convention on Biological Diversity

- The UK signed up to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.
- This introduced a commitment to:
 - the conservation of biological diversity
 - the sustainable use of its components
 - the equitable sharing of the benefits of genetic resources
 -  www.biodiv.org

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

- The Convention on Biological Diversity led to the development of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
- This was established in 1994 and its key aims are:
 - To identify the UK's biological resources
 - To provide a detailed plan for protecting these resources via:
 - 391 Species Action Plans
 - 45 Habitat Action Plans
 - 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans
- Implementation of BAP is the responsibility of UK Biodiversity Partnership, made up of individuals, businesses and both government and non-government representatives.
 -  www.ukbap.org.uk



England Biodiversity Strategy

- A government strategy prepared with a number of stakeholders.
- It highlights considerations to be taken into account when making policy decisions.
- The approach to conserving biodiversity includes:
 - Protecting best wildlife sites
 - Promoting recovery of declining species and habitats
 - Embedding biodiversity in all sectors of policy and decision making
 - Enthusiasing people

- Developing the evidence base
- www.ukbap.org.uk Plans
- The England Biodiversity Strategy *Working With the Grain Of Nature* is currently under review by Defra.
 - www.defra.gov.uk Wildlife & Countryside – Biodiversity
- Natural England has its own Species Recovery Program that aims to reverse the decline in biodiversity and achieve the goals set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan.



Wales Biodiversity Partnership

- The Wales Biodiversity Partnership works to maintain and monitor biodiversity in Wales, working to implement the UKBAP.
- The Welsh Assembly Government chairs the steering group for the Partnership and its members advise the government on biodiversity issues.
 - www.biodiversitywales.org.uk
 - <http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ Biodiversity

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

- Local action plans are in place across England and Wales.
- These help ensure biodiversity targets are met locally and also manage community involvement in local projects.



What you can do...

- Check the Local Development Plan and Regional Spatial Strategy for any planned developments that could affect protected areas, or have an impact on biodiversity.

Further Reading

National Biodiversity Network

www.nbn.org.uk Information



PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation

www.planningportal.gov.uk ⇒ PPS9

The Wildlife Trusts

www.wildlifetrusts.org



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Care must be taken when locating telecom masts or advertising hoardings in the countryside, in line with local and national government policy guidelines.
- We have opposed such developments when they damage the visual amenity and walking experience of an area.

Communications

- The mobile phone network is now well established and applications for new telecommunications masts are increasingly rare.

Policy

- There are a number of considerations when planners are reviewing an application for telecommunications masts:
 - Visual Impact
 - Inappropriately sited masts can have an adverse impact on landscape quality.
 - Health Concerns
 - The potential health effects of radiation from telecommunication masts are not fully known.
 - Both the *Stewart Report* (2000) and *Mobile Phones and Health* (2004) suggest that there should be caution over mast location until the effects are more fully understood.
 - The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is an international body that gives support and advice about the health hazards of radiation exposure.
 - All existing and planned sites now must be certificated by ICNIRP.
 - Mast Sharing
 - Planning guidance encourages the sharing of both masts and sites.
 - Design
 - Masts can be disguised to make them less visually intrusive.
 - Planning authorities can encourage developers to use innovative designs, especially in rural areas.

Further Reading



PPG 8: Telecommunications

 www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ PPG8



TAN 19: Telecommunications

 <http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ TAN 19



What you can do...

- Check local authority plans for clear policies on the erection of any new telecommunications infrastructure and if the plan specifies sites to be protected from development.
- When new applications are made check the following. Does the application:
 - state why alternative sites are not acceptable?
 - provide options for mast sharing or adding to existing structures?
 - provide options for camouflaging the mast?

Outdoor Advertising

Policy

- Outdoor advertisements have been controlled since 1948.
- They are controlled using Areas of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCAs). These are defined under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- Local authorities for reasons of scenic, historical, architectural or cultural importance can apply ASCAs.
- Applications for these areas must be approved by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (England) or the Welsh Assembly Government.
- National Parks, AONBs and conservation areas have stricter controls.
- Within designated areas, some advertising such as public notices, indoor advertising and deemed consent adverts are allowed.
- Within ASCAs hoardings alongside roads and railways are banned.
- There have been attempts to relax the controls on outdoor advertising.
 - In 2000 the Government proposed the relaxation of controls but due to a lack of consultation asked local authorities to review their ASCAs.
- Following an increase in illegal hoardings the Government issued a circular in 2007 asking local authorities to focus on removing illegal advertising hoardings.



What you can do...

- Ask your local authority for details of ASCAs in your area and find out if there are options to extend them.
- Check the Local Development Plans for details of any proposals to reduce ASCAs.
- Look out for any roadside advertising and report it to the relevant authority.

Further Reading



PPG 19: Outdoor Advertisement Control

www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ PPG 19



Circular 03/07 Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007

www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ Control of Advertisements



TAN 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control

<http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ TAN 7



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...


- We fully support diverting money away from production subsidies to land-based schemes and increasing the funding for these schemes.
- Major improvements in the provision of access should be achieved through these schemes.
- This will help the public enjoy the enhancement of the landscape and increase in biodiversity.

Policy

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

- Established 1957.
- Budget £30 billion per year.
- Aims to maintain affordable food supplies and farm income across the EU.
- In the past the link between financial support and production led to problems such as lack of biodiversity.
- New Single Payment Scheme has broken that link and better rewards environmentally-friendly practices.
 -  www.europa.eu  Agriculture

Land-based Environmental Schemes

- Pays farmers to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive way.
- Environmental Stewardship replaces Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme.
- Primary objectives:
 - Conserve wildlife
 - Maintain and enhance landscape quality and character
 - Protect historic environment and natural resources
 - Promote public access and understanding of the countryside
- Entry level stewardship open to all farmers and encourages simple land management such as maintaining hedgerows and field margins.
- High level stewardship targets land management in high priority areas.
 -  www.defra.gov.uk ⇒ ERDP



Tir Cynnal is the entry level scheme, requiring positive management and a minimum of 5% land reserved for wildlife habitat. Tir Gofal is the higher level scheme.

- www.countryside.wales.gov.uk ⇒ Agri-Environment
- Problems with over subscription and late payments could lead to fines of over £300 million

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

- Government claims to be open minded about GMOs, stating in 2004 that an outright ban is not necessary.



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- We are concerned about the impact GMOs will have on biodiversity.

Disease

- Outbreaks of diseases such as Avian Flu and Foot and Mouth disease can lead to footpath closures and withdrawal of public access.



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Quarantine measures should be sensible and proportionate. There should be a presumption in favour of maintaining access to the countryside wherever possible.

Waste Management

- Farmers may not use farm tips or burn plastics under 2006 regulations.

Agriculture & Planning

- Planning permission is not required for agricultural operations.
- Permitted development rights exist where changes are necessary for agricultural purposes.
- For other development including removing or changing land or buildings from agricultural use, planning permission is required.



What you can do...

- Make policy makers aware of the interest we have in agricultural practices, and highlight the need for consideration to be given to the economic contribution walkers make to rural communities.
- Encourage communication with local farmers, making it clear how efforts to promote and conserve wildlife and biodiversity are appreciated by walkers.
- Support locally produced foods by using them at your committee meetings, social events etc.

Further Reading



PPS7: Sustainable Development In Rural Areas

🔗 www.planningportal.gov.uk ⇒ PPS7



Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food: Facing the Future

🔗 www.defra.gov.uk ⇒ PB7751A



TAN6: Agriculture and Rural Development

🔗 <http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ TAN6

- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group: promotes better management of agricultural land and supports greater use of local produce.
🔗 www.fwag.org.uk



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- We support the Government's aims for energy production: for secure energy supplies and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- We believe that this should and can be achieved in a way that is harmonious with the landscape.
- We believe there is no need for major renewable energy developments in and around National Parks and valued scenic areas.
- Local Ramblers' Association Areas must decide how to respond to individual proposals outside these protected landscapes.

Renewable Energy

- Renewable Energy means heat and power generated using a resource that can be easily replenished and reduces the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from power generation.
- This includes forces of nature like wind, wave and sunlight, as well as certain crops and trees.

Policy & Planning Guidance



PPS 22: Planning for Renewable Energy

 www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ Planning Renewable Energy



TAN8: Renewable Energy

 <http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ TAN8

- Both these documents promote renewable energy development, but also advise giving consideration to landscape, biodiversity and conservation concerns.

Onshore Wind Power



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Very large wind turbines are often out of scale with local landscape features.
 - The construction of multiple turbines can lead to industrialisation of tranquil areas.
 - Local Ramblers' Association Areas should carefully assess planning applications for turbines to decide the impact they may have on the walking environment.
-
- Land-based wind turbines are one of the quickest and currently cheapest ways of generating renewable energy.
 - This has led to increasing numbers of applications for turbines across the UK.

Energy

- The size and generating capacity of individual turbines is also increasing.
- PPS22 recommends that any turbine should be placed at least 'fall over distance' away from a footpath or right of way.

Offshore Wind Power



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Offshore locations are generally far more suitable for large-scale wind energy generation.
 - Solutions to land-based support (substations etc) can often be found.
-
- Many very large land-based turbines were originally designed for offshore use.
 - Offshore technology is rapidly improving.
 - Windspeed offshore is generally fast and more constant, therefore more efficient.
 - Land-based substations or transformers will be required to transport the generated energy to the National Grid.

Solar, Biomass, Wave, Tidal

- Solar power is generated using panels that capture the heat and light of the sun.
 - It is unlikely that large-scale solar plants will be built in the UK.
-
- Biomass power comes from certain types of crops and wood to generate heat and electricity.
 - When burned these release carbon dioxide, but as plants absorb the gas throughout their life this process is considered 'carbon neutral'.
-
- Marine power includes capturing the forces of waves and tides.
 - Technology here is in the experimental stage, but rapidly improving.

Microgeneration and Combined Heat & Power (CHP)



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Microgeneration and CHP should be encouraged at household and community levels especially in urban areas.
-
- This is energy production on a small scale, in close proximity to the demand.
 - Usually this is through renewable means, through solar panels or small wind turbines etc.
 - CHP is efficient because both heat and electricity are produced and used with minimal wastage.

Renewables Obligation



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- The Renewables Obligation is responsible for the expansion of large, rural wind power developments.
 - This has happened at the expense of smaller, more efficient developments closer to the source of demand.
 - Reform should happen as quickly as possible so that a diverse mix of renewable energy technologies can be achieved.
-
- The Renewables Obligation is a subsidy offered by the government to encourage renewable energy technology.
 - Currently it rewards companies for producing as much renewable energy, as quickly as possible.
 - This has contributed to the expansion of onshore wind turbine construction.
 - Government proposes to reform the Renewables Obligation by 2009.

Energy Reduction

Energy Efficiency and Demand Reduction

- One of the quickest ways to reduce the demand for energy is to ensure more efficient use of power, according to the Sustainable Development Commission.
- This can be achieved through power-saving appliances, better home insulation and changing the way we use energy

Fossil Fuels



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Use of fossil fuels should be as clean and efficient as possible.
 - Caution must be exercised in developing coalfields to avoid lasting landscape damage.
-
- There will still be a need for traditional methods of power generation for some time yet.
 - Traditional power stations provide a consistent stream of energy, giving a base for inconsistent renewable technologies such as wind.
 - As a more diverse mix of renewable energy technologies become available, demand for traditionally produced 'base-load' should decrease.

Carbon Capture

- This is the storage of carbon dioxide resulting from energy production in places where it cannot get released into the atmosphere, disused undersea oil fields for example.
- This technology is still under development.

Nuclear Energy



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Nuclear power is just one of a range of energy supply options.
 - New nuclear power stations are a choice rather than a necessity.
 - Local Areas need to judge applications for new nuclear plant in their region.
-
- In the 2007 *Energy White Paper* the government decided that private companies should be allowed to build a new generation of nuclear power stations.
 - It will be up to these companies to identify suitable sites and finance the construction of each station.

Energy Transmission



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- We support localised generation of power wherever possible, reducing the need for transmission lines through the countryside.
 - This also prevents loss of energy through transmission, saving money and reducing pollution and waste.
-
- Energy in the form of heat, electricity or gas often needs to be transported long distances from the source of generation to the area of demand.
 - This requires constructing pipelines or power cables often through rural landscapes.
 - Power lines can be progressively removed from National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty through funding from the electricity regulator.



What you can do...

- Check your local authority development plans to determine whether they are giving priority to sustainable energy sources and energy conservation.
- The plan should also give protection against large-scale energy development in valued scenic areas. Check to see if your local plan does.
- If appropriate large-scale energy projects are proposed ensure that walkers' access is secured and that environmental impacts are minimised.
- Support appropriate sustainable energy developments wherever possible and let the Countryside team know of any appropriate projects.
- If a local plan or an individual proposal does not match our policies you may need to lodge objections on our behalf. You can contact the Countryside team for advice and support on this.

Further Information



For more information on Ramblers' Association policies on energy:

- 🔗 www.ramblers.org.uk/energy
- Government Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly Department of Trade & Industry) responsible for energy policy.
🔗 www.berr.gov.uk
- British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) is the trade and professional body representing companies producing wind and marine power.
🔗 www.bwea.com
- National Energy Foundation: Campaign for promoting better and more sustainable use of energy.
🔗 www.nef.org.uk



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Access on foot should be extended to as much woodland as possible, and should be a condition of any purchase or planting of new forests.
- Blanket afforestation, especially in areas without a history of woodland, has been of concern over the years.
- Forestry management should promote biodiversity and recreational opportunities.

Woodland Types

Ancient Woodland

- Consists of trees at least 400 years old.
- Britain is thought to have 80% of Northern Europe's ancient trees.
- 50% of ancient woodland recorded in the 1930s has been lost.

New Woodland

- Planting of new woodland has the following benefits:
 - Protects ancient woodland
 - Promotes biodiversity
 - Regenerates urban areas
 - Helps to alleviate flooding
 - Timber can be harvested and used as a source of energy.



Policy

Forestry Commission

- Responsible for forests and woodlands in the UK and implementing the strategies in England and Wales.
- Mission statement: 'To protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment'.
- Pledged to dedicate all its land as access land under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).
- The Forestry Commission administers programmes to ensure that communities benefit from woodlands:




Better Woodlands for Wales: this EC Objective 1 funded scheme offers grants to projects that meet the Woodland Strategy

Vision (see  'Woodlands for People' below).



England Woodlands Grants Scheme (EWGS): a range of grants aimed at delivering great public benefit from English woodlands. Includes planning and regeneration grants.

 www.forestry.gov.uk 'Industry, Grants & Licences'.



A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests

- Published June 2007 and in place for 10-15 years.
- Key principles:
 - Long-term sustainable management of trees, woods and forests
 - The right tree in the right place
 - Effective use of public investment
 - Synergy with other Government policies.

 www.forestry.gov.uk/england  'England Forestry Strategy'



Woodlands for Wales

- Sets out strategy in Wales for the next 50 years.
- Key principles:
 - Sustainability
 - Social inclusion
 - Quality
 - Partnership and integration
- Policy advice given by Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel.

 www.forestry.gov.uk/Wales  'Woodlands for People'

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

- Made by local authorities prohibiting cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping or wilful damage to trees.

 www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ Tree Preservation Orders



What you can do...

- Ensure that developments do not infringe on forested land unnecessarily.
- Check the local authority development plans for proposals to re-forest areas, and ensure that this will be done in line with policies to encourage biodiversity.
- Check for any proposals that affect protected or ancient trees, forests and woodlands.

Further Reading

- Woodland Trust: Charity campaigning for the protection and expansion of natural woodlands throughout England and Wales.

 www.woodland-trust.org.uk

- England's Community Forests: Organisation responsible for regenerating land in or near urban areas into forests and woodland.

 www.communityforest.org.uk



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Extracting minerals for energy or construction damages the countryside and must be managed sensitively.
- Quarrying is contradictory to the purposes of National Parks.
- The 'minerals hierarchy' should be followed, with new extractions only as a last resort.
- Restrictions are needed to control activity to where it is needed for nationwide supply.

Energy Minerals

Coal

- Coal extraction has a number of environmental consequences especially when excavated via opencast workings.
- Deep mining can result in the release of methane and affect ground water supplies.
- Coal-fired power stations are a major contributor to the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.
- When planning guidance was reviewed in 1999, the Ramblers' Association and others successfully lobbied for a presumption against coal extraction, giving the countryside much greater protection.
- Many coal extraction sites are now under regeneration, generally a positive step. There are some concerns, for example development pressure from new housing.

MPG3: Coal Mining & Colliery Spoil Disposal

 www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ MPG3

Non-energy Minerals

- The extraction of non-energy minerals such as aggregates (sand, gravel, crushed rock etc.) generally causes more environmental problems than energy minerals.

Old Permissions

- Many permissions for mineral extraction were granted decades ago, when environmental standards were different.
- The Environment Act 1995 requires all old permissions to be reviewed under modern conditions upon restoration.
 - The Act does not allow the permission itself to be revisited.

Dormant Sites

- Where sites have lain dormant for some time there can be serious environmental consequences if they are reworked.
- Planning authorities are able to remove dormant permissions if there is no interest shown in working them.

Method of Working

- Aggregates are often extracted in large opencast quarries.
- These leave a major landscape scar, especially in upland areas where topography limits restoration options.

National Parks

- Many permissions for sites within the Parks existed before designation and there are several working quarries within National Park boundaries.
- Some Regional Assemblies have policies to reduce the amount of aggregates extracted from National Parks and AONBs.

Policy

Responsibility

- Government Policy and guidance on minerals forms the basis of development plans that are produced by Minerals Planning Authorities (MPAs)




In England responsibilities fall to County, Unitary or National Park authorities.



In Wales responsibility falls to Unitary or National Park authorities.




England

- Minerals Policy Statement (MPS) 1 provides key advice and guidance to planning authorities and the minerals industry. It ensures that the need by society and the economy for minerals is managed in an integrated way, balanced against its impact on the environment and communities.
- It introduces the concept of a 'minerals hierarchy', where use of aggregates is first minimised, then reused or recycled resources are sought, with fresh extraction being only a last resort.
 -  www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ Minerals Policy Statements



Wales

- Minerals Planning Policy 2001 supported by Minerals Technical Advice Notes
 -  <http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ Minerals Planning Policy

Aggregates Levy







- Introduced in 2002 the levy intends to reduce demand for primary material and encourage use of secondary and recycled material.
- About 10% of the income from this levy is used for the Aggregates Levy Sustainable Fund.
 - The fund is used to explore methods to reduce the environmental impact of minerals extraction.
- The fund's immediate future is secure but will be considered as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.



What you can do...

- Check your local authority Minerals Local Plan and see if it:
 - Recognises the disturbance to communities and the countryside that quarrying causes
 - Identifies the environmental capacity for existing quarrying sites
 - Specifies the use of secondary and recycled material in preference to new quarries.
- Watch for planning applications for new minerals extraction sites, especially within protected areas.
- Engage with planners and decision makers at the earliest possible stage of both LDP consultation and individual proposals.

Further Reading

- Minerals UK, centre for sustainable mineral development
 www.bgs.ac.uk  'Minerals UK'
- CPRE publications on quarrying
 www.cpre.org.uk  Quarrying
- CNP: Old mineral permissions and National Parks
 www.cnp.org.uk  Publications





What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Transport infrastructure has a major effect on the beauty of the countryside.
- The environmental and landscape costs of any scheme must be weighed against any economic or social benefits anticipated.
- Walking is the most sustainable form of transport and all new development should be as walker-friendly as possible.

Policy

National Policy

- The most recent transport strategy *The Future of Transport* was published in 2004.
- This set out how the Government intended to meet increased demands while minimising environmental impacts.
 -  www.dft.gov.uk ⇒ Transport Strategy
- The *Eddington Transport Study*, published in 2006, identifies the role that transport has to play in the UK's future economic growth.
- It suggests reforms in planning, funding and delivery of transport policy.
- The study highlights the need to minimise the environmental impact of transport.
 -  www.dft.gov.uk ⇒ Eddington Study

Local Transport Plans (LTPs)

- These set out a local authority's strategy on transport, its implementation and funding.
- They run for a period of five years and the current period runs from 2006/7 to 2010/11.
- Each authority should run ongoing consultations for these plans, and some may produce customer satisfaction surveys.


Local Development Plans (LDPs) & Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS)

- Contain policies on transport, and consider transport impacts on other sectors such as tourism, recreation and rural areas.

Regional Transport Strategy (RTS)

- A component of the RSS and acts as a guide for LTPs.
- They stress the need for sustainable transport and planning.

Walking Strategy

- The *Walking and Cycling Action Plan* was introduced in 2004.
- It aimed to encourage walking and cycling by:
 - Improving spaces to walk and cycle in
 - Planning to influence transport behaviour.
 -  www.dft.gov.uk ⇒ Walking Action Plan

Further Reading



Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport

www.planningportal.gov.uk ⇒ PPG13



TAN 18: Transport

<http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ TAN 18

Roads



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Road building often damages the countryside and increases pollution and congestion. It can also affect footpaths and rights of way.
- Local Areas decide on a case-by-case basis how to respond to particular road building schemes. If not opposing outright, look for measures to mitigate noise, visual intrusion and affected footpaths.

- UK road traffic has grown by 82% since 1980 (*Transport Trends 2006*, DfT).
- The Eddington Study showed congestion is likely to increase significantly by 2025.
- The Government is considering several options to reduce congestion and increase capacity including road pricing.
- Most pilot schemes for road pricing are in urban situations and, based on the evidence presented by these, could be extended nationwide.
- Increased congestion and road building in the countryside has led to decreased tranquillity and destruction of rural landscapes.

Rail



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- We support investment and expansion of the current rail network, including the introduction of a 'National Railcard' to encourage frequent reduced-price travel.
- Any new rail infrastructure should still take account of countryside concerns, avoiding very scenic areas and obstructing rights of way.

Policy

- The 2007 White Paper *Delivering a Sustainable Railway* outlines the government's vision for rail over the next 30 years. The government:
 - Will invest over £10billion to attract an additional 180 million passengers.
 - Approves the Thameslink project, upgrades of Birmingham New Street and Reading stations, plus major expansion of rail freight.
 - Does not foresee major additional infrastructure such as a new north-south intercity/cross-country line.
 - www.dft.gov.uk ⇒ Rail White Paper

Aviation



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- We oppose the plans for aviation expansion in the 2003 White Paper.
- There are usually community campaign groups against particular airport expansion plans. Ramblers Areas decide how heavily to get involved in these.

Policy

- The 2003 White Paper *The Future of Air Transport* focussed on planning for expansion in air travel.
- It also presented options for the expansion of the UK's regional airports.
- The 2005 *Civil Aviation Bill* implemented the recommendations of the White Paper.

Planning

- Expanding the capacity of airports has a detrimental effect on the countryside through:
 - Expansion onto green belt and agricultural land
 - Reduction in tranquillity through both flights and associated land traffic
 - Increased carbon emissions from aircraft and airports

Economic Measures

- Many organisations feel that increased taxation on aviation could reduce the growth of the sector, benefiting the environment.
- Air Passenger Duty was doubled in 2007 but there remains no VAT on aviation fuel.

Local Transport




What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- New developments should encourage walking as a key means of access and getting around.
- Local authorities should ensure that urban-rural links integrate well into existing public transport networks, making the countryside as easy to access as possible.

Policy

- The 2007 *Draft Local Transport Bill* suggests key reforms to improve local transport. It:
 - Proposes increasing the number of towns that have a single Passenger Transport Authority to plan for and manage increased demand for public transport.
 - Makes initial preparations for a road pricing scheme.
 - Plans to give local authorities more power over bus policy.

- 2007 *Planning White Paper* emphasises the importance of developments that encourage 'active travel' including walking and cycling.
 -  www.dft.gov.uk ⇒ Local Transport Bill



What you can do...

- Be familiar with the Local Transport Plan, and check for any potentially damaging proposals.
- See if the Plan has the following:
 - Consistent policies on traffic management
 - Positive targets for traffic reduction
 - Sustainable transport options for new developments
 - Plans for sustained improvements in local public transport
 - An understanding of the role and needs of walkers.
- Remember that there are organisations dedicated to each mode of transport (see Further Reading below) that are also campaigning on transport issues. Keep in regular contact with those relevant to issues in your area.
- Promote a greater level of walking at every stage of consultation on the Local Transport Plan.

Further Reading

- Campaign for Better Transport (formerly Transport 2000)
 www.bettertransport.org.uk
- Sustrans
 www.sustrans.org.uk
- Railfuture
 www.railfuture.org.uk
- Airport Watch
 www.airportwatch.org.uk



What the Ramblers' Association thinks...

- Waste disposal can have a serious impact on the countryside through the growth of landfill sites and incinerators.
- We support the idea of a 'waste hierarchy' and policies which minimise the amount of waste created: 'reduce, reuse, recycle' also means less extraction of raw materials from the countryside.

Policy



In England, policy is set out in the *Waste Strategy for England 2007*.

 www.defra.gov.uk ⇒ PB12596



In Wales, policy is set out by *Wise About Waste: National Waste Strategy for Wales*

 <http://new.wales.gov.uk> ⇒ Waste Strategy



Planning for waste is governed by PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

 www.communities.gov.uk ⇒ PPS10

- There are a number of bodies involved in waste disposal:
 - Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) – identify land for waste management facilities and decide on planning for waste disposal activities
 - Waste Disposal Authorities (WDAs) – usually County Councils or unitary authorities, manage and provide sites for waste disposal
 - Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) – usually District Councils or unitary authorities. Responsible for the collection of household waste and preparing recycling plans
 - Regional Technical Advisory Bodies (RTABs) – inform regional assemblies and WPAs on waste management
 - Environment Agency – responsible for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. It provides information and issues licences for waste management.

Waste Management

Landfill

Landfill sites have serious consequences for the countryside:

- They take up large areas of land
 - If incorrectly managed sites can encourage vermin and litter and release gases such as carbon dioxide and methane
 - The transport of waste disrupts tranquillity
 - Land raising caused by buried waste changes the profile of the landscape
 - They have a negative visual impact on countryside
 - Rights of way can be affected.
-
- The EU Landfill directive means that the UK must reduce the amount of waste going into landfill to 75% of 1995 levels by 2010, to 50% by 2013 and to 35% by 2020.
 - Landfill Tax discourages unnecessary waste. The Landfill Community Fund (formerly Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) supports improvements to communities affected by landfill sites.

Incinerators

- As the amount of waste heading to landfill decreases, non-recyclable waste could go to incinerators.
- The amount of waste currently disposed of by incineration is increasing.
- Incineration also has serious environmental consequences:
 - Plants need a minimum level of waste to operate efficiently, which can lead to a *demand* for waste
 - Despite some incinerators generating electricity, more energy is saved through recycling
 - Incinerators can cause pollution from the smoke, gases and particulates that they emit.

Fly Tipping

- Restrictions on waste disposal have led to an increase in fly tipping.
- Local authorities and the Environment Agency are attempting to clamp down on the problem with fines of up to £20,000 and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) for offenders.
- Fly tipping damages the environment and spoils enjoyment of the area concerned.

Recycling and the Waste Hierarchy

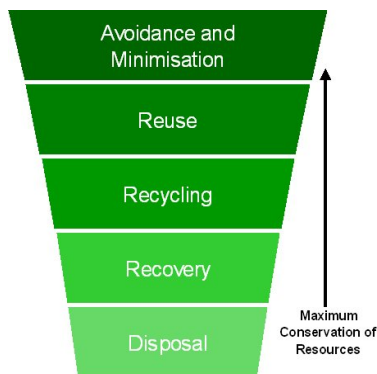


Diagram of the Waste Hierarchy, taken from www.wastenet.net.au

- The waste hierarchy principle is used by decision-makers worldwide to inform waste management policy.
- It encourages planners to make best use of resources and energy.
- Currently the UK is behind most European countries in recycling rates, at around 27%. This compares to around 60% in Austria, Holland and Switzerland.



What you can do...

- Check if your area's Waste Local Plan to see if your authority has set targets for waste reduction, recycling and composting.
- If the targets are in place, are they realistic? Could they be set higher?
- Respond to proposals for new waste developments, either tips or incinerators and check their environmental impacts.
- Encourage other committee members, walk leaders, volunteers and members to report any fly tipping in your area.
- Try to encourage sound environmental practices within your Area and Group activities. Further information on green ideas can be found in the appendices.

Further Reading

Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk Waste

Community Recycling Network: A nationwide membership organisation promoting sustainable community-level waste management.

www.crn.org.uk Publications – The Waste Paper

Acronyms

A

AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASCA Area of Special Control of Advertising

B

BAP Biodiversity Action Plan
BERR Government Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
BTCV British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
BWEA British Wind Energy Association
BHS British Horse Society

C

CABE Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
CAP Common Agricultural Policy
CCW Countryside Council for Wales
CFIT Commission for Integrated Transport
CLA Country Land and Business Association
CLG Communities and Local Government
CNP Council for National Parks
CPRE Campaign to Protect Rural England
CPRW Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
CROW Countryside and Rights of Way Act
CTC Cyclists' Touring Club

D

DCMS Department for Culture Media and Sport
Defra Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DfT Department for Transport

E

EA Environment Agency
EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
EiP Examination in Public
EPA Environmental Protection Act
ERDP England Rural Development Programme
ES Environmental Statement
EWGS England Woodland Grants Scheme

F

FoE Friends of the Earth
FWAG Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

G

GDPO General Development Procedure Order 1995
GMO Genetically Modified Organism
GPDO General Permitted Development Order 1995

H

HA Highways Agency

Acronyms

HFA Hill Farming Allowance

I

IDO Interim Development Order

ICNIRP International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection

J

JAC Joint Advisory Committee

K

L

LA Local Authority

LDD Local Development Document

LDF Local Development Framework

LDP Local Development Plan

LDS Local Development Scheme

LEAP Local Environment Action Plan

LGA Local Government Association

LTP Local Transport Plan

M

MoD Ministry of Defence

MPA Minerals Planning Authority

MPG Minerals Planning Guidance

MPS Minerals Policy Statement

N

NETA New Electricity Trading Arrangements

NFFO Non Fossil Fuel Obligation

NFU National Farmers Union

NNR National Nature Reserve

NPA National Park Authority

NT National Trust

O

P

PPG Planning Policy Guidance

PINS Planning Inspectorate

PI Public Inquiry

PPS Planning Policy Statement

Q

Acronyms

R

RAWP	Regional Aggregates Working Party
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RPG	Regional Planning Guidance
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
RTAB	Regional Technical Advisory Board
RTS	Regional Transport Strategy

S

SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPS	Single Payment Scheme
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

T

TAN	Technical Advice Note
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
TWT	The Wildlife Trusts

U

UDP	Unitary Development Plan
-----	--------------------------

V

W

WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WCA	Waste Collection Authority
WCL	Wildlife and Countryside Link
WCA	Waste Collection Authority
WDA	Waste Disposal Authority
WPA	Waste Planning Authority
WSP	Wales Spatial Plan
WT	Woodland Trust

X

Y

Z













Contacts

Ramblers' Association










 www.ramblers.org.uk

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- Scottish Office
 -  Kingfisher House, Auld Mart Business Park, Milnathort, Kinross, KY13 9DA
 -  01577 861222
 -  scotland@ramblers.org.uk
- Welsh Office *Cymdeithas y Cerddwyr*
 -  3 Coopers Yard, Curran Road, Cardiff, CF10 5NB
 -  0292 064 4308
 -  cerddwyr@ramblers.org.uk





Government Departments

- DirectGov: directory of all public services
 -  www.direct.gov.uk
 -  0800 771234
- UK Parliament
 -  www.parliament.uk
 -  House of Commons Information: 020 7219 4272
 -  House of Lords Information: 020 7219 3107
- Scottish Parliament
 -  www.scottish.parliament.uk
 -  0131 348 5000
 -  sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk
- Welsh Assembly Government
 -  <http://new.wales.gov.uk>
 -  0845 010 3300 (English) or 0845 010 4400 (Cymraeg)
- Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) (previously Department for Trade and Industry (DTI))
 -  www.berr.gov.uk
 -  020 7215 5000
 -  enquiries@berr.gsi.gov.uk













Contacts

- Communities and Local Government
 -  www.communities.gov.uk
 -  020 7944 4400
 -  contactus@communities.gov.uk
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
 -  www.defra.gov.uk
 -  0845 933 5577
 -  helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Department for Transport (DfT)
 -  www.dft.gov.uk
 -  020 7944 8300
 -  see website, no direct contact given

Government Agencies

- Association of National Park Authorities
 -  www.nationalparks.gov.uk
 -  029 2049 9966
 -  c.marcus@anpa.gov.uk
- Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
 -  www.ccw.gov.uk
 -  0845 130 6229
 -  info@ccw.gov.uk
- Environment Agency
 -  www.environment-agency.gov.uk
 -  0870 850 6506
 -  enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Forestry Commission
 -  www.forestry.gov.uk
 -  0131 334 0303
 -  enquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 -  www.jncc.gov.uk
 -  01733 562626
 -  comment@jncc.gov.uk
- Natural England
 -  www.naturalengland.com
 -  0845 600 3078
 -  enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
- Sustainable Development Commission
 -  www.sd-commission.org.uk
 -  020 7270 8498
 -  enquiries@sd-commission.org.uk

Key Countryside Organisations

- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
“...dedicated to the protection of rural England – protecting local countryside where there is threat, enhancing it where there is opportunity.”
 www.cpre.org.uk
 020 7981 2800
- Campaign to Protect Rural Wales (CPRW)
“... values the distinctiveness of all Welsh landscapes and the identity of it’s rural communities.”
 www.cprw.org.uk
 01938 552525
- Council for National Parks (CNP)
“...national, voluntary sector organisation dedicated to National Parks. CNP is an umbrella of over 40 environmental and amenity groups across England and Wales.”
 www.cnp.org.uk
 020 7924 4077
- Friends of the Earth
“...exists to protect and improve the conditions for life on Earth, now and for the future.”
 www.foe.org.uk
 020 7490 1555
- National Trust
“...protects special places in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, for ever, for everyone.”
 www.nationaltrust.org.uk
 0870 458 4000
- Wildlife Trusts
“...the largest UK voluntary organisation dedicated to conserving the full range of the UK’s habitats and species.”
 www.wildlifetrusts.org
 01636 677711

Planning Organisations

- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)
"Promoting design and architecture to raise the standard of the built environment."
🌐 www.cabe.org.uk
☎ 020 7070 6700
- Planning Aid
"...provides free, independent and professional town planning advice and support to communities and individuals..."
🌐 www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk
☎ 0121 693 1201
- Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
"Works to improve the quality of people's lives and their environments through promoting and improving the art and science of planning."
🌐 www.tcpa.org.uk
☎ 020 7930 3280

Transport Organisations

- Airport Watch
"...working to control and reduce the local, national and global environmental impacts of the air transport industry."
🌐 www.airportwatch.org.uk
☎ 020 7248 2227
- Campaign for Better Transport (formerly Transport 2000)
"...helping to create transport policies and programmes that give people better lives."
🌐 www.bettertransport.org.uk
☎ 020 7613 0743
- Living Streets
"...campaigning organisation for pedestrians and public spaces."
🌐 www.livingstreets.org.uk
☎ 020 7820 1010
- Railfuture
"Independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight."
🌐 www.railfuture.org.uk
☎ 01603 627217
- Sustrans
"...the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects so people can choose to travel in ways that benefit their health..."
🌐 www.sustrans.org.uk
☎ 0845 113 0065

Environment Organisations

- British Wind Energy Association (BWEA)
“...the trade and professional body for the UK wind and marine renewables industry.”
🌐 www.bwea.com
☎ 020 7689 1960
- Community Recycling Network
“...promoting community waste management in the UK.”
🌐 www.crn.org.uk
☎ 0117 942 0142
- England’s Community Forests
“...deliver[ing] a comprehensive package of urban, economic and social regeneration, creating high-quality environments for millions of people by revitalising derelict land...”
🌐 www.communityforest.org.uk
☎ 0114 257 1199
- National Association of AONBs
“...independent organisation representing Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.”
🌐 www.aonb.org.uk
☎ 01451 862007
- National Biodiversity Network
“...new and innovative way of sharing wildlife information in the UK and is building tools to make this information accessible in a digitised and exchangeable form.”
🌐 www.nbn.org.uk
☎ 01636 670090
- RSPB
“Promotes conservation of birds and other wildlife through the protection and re-creation of habitats.”
🌐 www.rspb.org.uk
☎ 01767 680551
- Wales Environment LINK
“...active in a range of policy areas and the official link between the Welsh Assembly Government and Wales’ environmental voluntary sector.”
🌐 www.waleslink.org
☎ 01970 611621
- Wildlife & Countryside LINK
“Brings together environmental voluntary organisations, aiming to maximise efficiency and effectiveness through collaboration.”
🌐 www.wcl.org.uk
☎ 020 7820 8600