

# ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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## **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – review of maps of open country and registered common land deferred**

Natural England is required under section 10 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to undertake a review of the eight conclusive maps of open country and registered common land in England, some of which were first published in 2004 and others in 2005.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires Natural England to undertake the first review not more than ten years after the issue of the conclusive map. Further reviews must also then be undertaken within ten years of that first review.

As a consequence of the Government's overall budgetary situation, which means that not all of the work that the Department and Natural England consider useful and important can be given priority at the moment, Ministers have decided to defer the review of the maps.

Regulations, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, will therefore be made to extend the review period in section 10(2)(a) of the 2000 Act to not more than fifteen years after the issue of the original conclusive maps, and to also extend the period in section 10(2)(b) of the Act to not more than twenty years after each previous review.

## **Proposed extensions to Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks**

In January 2012 Natural England made Variation Orders recommending extensions to the boundaries of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Over 3,000 representations were received in response to the proposals, including objections from five local authorities.

On 29 January 2013 Richard Benyon announced that a local Public Inquiry into the proposed boundary changes has been commissioned. As a first step, a pre-

Inquiry meeting will be held in early March. It is expected the Inquiry itself will open in early June and last approximately four weeks. The Planning Inspector will then set out his conclusions in a report to the Secretary of State.

Once the Secretary of State has received the Inspector's report he will take a decision as to whether the case for designation has been made and he will either confirm one or both of the Variation Orders (with or without modifications) or reject them.

For more information on Natural England's proposals see:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/new/northwestdesignationproject/default.aspx>

## **Paths for Communities**

Paths for Communities is a funding scheme set up to develop and enhance the network of public rights of way in England in order to deliver benefits to rural areas. Local community partnerships are eligible to bid to Natural England for funds. The scheme is funded by the Rural Development Programme for England and will operate over the 2 year period from May 2012 to March 2014, with a total fund of £2m. The first grant offers were made before Christmas last year.

Applications have been received which vary in shape and size and from many different areas of the country. We hope that the full £2m scheme will be awarded by the summer so email [P4C@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:P4C@naturalengland.org.uk) as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Further information on Paths for Communities is available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx> including the first issue of a newsletter.

If you have any queries about the above, please email us at:

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