

ACCESS

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Issue 12

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Forestry Commission dedication launch event

On 16 August the Forestry Commission held a successful event at Moreton Plantation in Dorset to celebrate and publicise the dedication of 160,000 hectares of its freehold estate for public access. As dedicated land, the public will have the same right of access as for other access land under the CROW Act.

Jim Knight, the Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity, commended the Commission for its vision and leadership. He hoped that other landowners in the public, voluntary and private sectors will be encouraged to follow the Commission's lead by dedicating suitable land.

More information about dedication can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/accessopen/accessopen07.htm>

The Access to the Countryside (Correction of Provisional and Conclusive Maps) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005

Regulations, which make provision for the Countryside Agency to correct errors in provisional and conclusive maps came into force on 22 August 2005.

The Regulations and Explanatory Note can be viewed at:
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20052027.htm>

Decision on the mapping of registered common land in East Sussex

Because the common land register for East Sussex was destroyed by fire in 1993, the Countryside Agency was unable to show registered common land in East Sussex on its conclusive map of open country and registered common land for the South East area which was issued on 4 May 2004. Any land which might have been common land but otherwise met the criteria for open country was included on the conclusive map.

Following reconstitution of the register, a decision has been made to map registered common land in East Sussex at the same time that the Agency reviews the conclusive map for the South East. A link to the decision letter follows:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/accessopen/accessopen03.htm>

The Defra LAF webpage

Defra has updated and improved its web page on Local Access Forums. It contains links to useful information, and will be kept up to date as new information becomes available. The webpage is at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/accessopen/accessopen13.htm> .

Public consultations

Defra is consulting on proposals to amend the *Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002* (closing date 29 November 2005). The aim is to improve the effectiveness, operation and administration of forums. We are also considering whether to issue revised guidance to local authorities and forums, and invite views on how the existing guidance might be revised, and any examples of good practice for inclusion. The consultation paper has been sent to all LAF secretaries and other interested bodies. Further information is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/laf/index.htm> .

Advance notice: On 10 October Defra will be issuing a public consultation paper on proposals for making Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005. Details will be published on the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/current.htm> .

Byelaws consultation

A consultation has been launched seeking views on the Government's proposals to improve procedures for confirming countryside recreation byelaws made under a number of Public and Local Acts of Parliament.

We propose to request byelaw-making authorities, when seeking confirmation of byelaws, to set out what alternative approaches they have explored and why these are not sufficient to meet identified needs.

The closing date for responses is **21 November 2005**.

Further information can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/recreation-byelaws/index.htm.

The Access Management Grant Scheme Bulletin

The fifth Access Management Grant Scheme Bulletin has been published. Topics covered include articles on Ham Hill, The Black Mountains, Disabled Ramblers, Reducing the Risk of Fire and many more.

A copy of the bulletin may be obtained from AMGS Administration, Countryside Agency, Bridgewater House, Whitworth Street, Manchester, M1 6LT. Telephone 0161 237 1061 or e-mail AMGSAdmin@countryside.gov.uk