

CCPR Access Focus Group

Held on 25 January 2008 at CCPR offices, Burwood House, London SW1H 0QT

Present

Bob Pettigrew CCPR
Bob Milton OSS
Justin Cooke RA
Mark Weston BHS
Paul Bagley NFA
David Gear NE
Chris Gordon NE
James Legge CA
Kevin East BCU
Dave Tilbury TRF
Tony Williams NFSA
Michael Mann NFAC
Andrew Hanson CCPR (Chair)
Duncan Carter CCPR

Apologies

Adrian Lole	Royal Life Saving Society
Gus Lewis	RYA
Roger Squires	Inland Waterways Association

1. Welcome and apologies

Andrew Hanson welcomed all to the meeting and gave apologies as above. Bob Pettigrew congratulated the Group on its continuation.

2. Notes of last meeting (previously distributed and updated following comments)

These were agreed to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting held on 23 May 2008. MM pointed out that the discussion of the Environment Agency's access paper did not appear in the minutes. While CCPR felt the EA's paper was a valuable source of information and guidance, CCPR did not feel it appropriate to adopt the policy of another organisation as it was felt it would not meet the needs of CCPR members and therefore it was preferable for CCPR to develop its own policy.

It was agreed that the notes from the previous meeting of the AFG held on 23 May 2007 would be posted on the CCPR website (**Action: DC**).

BM raised Kate Ashbrook's concern that the AFG did not add any value to the access lobbying landscape. The Group felt that CCPR could play an important role in providing a voice for smaller organisations whose limited resources made it difficult for them to engage in significant lobbying activity.

3. Revised CCPR statement on sustainable access (see paper)

There was some discussion of the sustainable access paper. TW thanked CCPR on behalf of the NFSA for DC's useful paper on access. The issue of maps and

mapping was discussed. There was consensus that Ordnance Survey held lots of information useful to members, but their fees were often prohibitive to charities. Local authorities were sometimes remiss by not informing OS of changes to highways, such as unclassified roads. CG pointed out there was a great deal of inconsistency in the way LAs held data, making it difficult to collate and use. The Best of Both Worlds website was commended for its content and continued success. It was important that it contained a web link to the Scottish Outdoor Code. **(Action: DC)**

4. Consideration and prioritisation of possible actions (see paper)

KE drew attention to the Environment Agency's plans for water recreation, which the EA was currently piloting and which includes coastal waters. This follows a study by Brighton University.

There was some discussion of Natural England's progress on mapping Section 15 land. It appeared that this work was on hold. DG agreed to contact Susanna Perkins (NE) to obtain clarification on the status. **(Action: DG)**.

The map review process for CRoW land was also discussed and DG agreed to seek clarification on the process. **(Action: DG)**.

Some frustration was expressed by the Group about the difficulty in finding out with whom responsibilities for certain areas lay within Natural England. A request for a contact list, along with other concerns expressed by the Group would be sent to Chris Gordon of Natural England **(Action: DC)**.

5. AOB

Issues raised included:

- inheritance tax land, which should be accessible to the public, but frequently isn't
- Stewardship schemes. Lobbying for payments to farmers for opening up/enhancing their land for recreation. CCPR could provide input to DEFRA. Richard Cooke at Natural England may be helpful