

## CCPR statement on sustainable access to land, water and air

### Introduction

CCPR has a long-standing history of supporting its members' desire for increased public access to land, water and air to pursue their activities. One of CCPR's key strategic priorities is to secure '**sustainable access to land, water and air for sport and recreation, underpinned by good practice in outdoor and adventurous activities.**' In the UK.

CCPR will seek to improve the quality and quantity of sustainable access to land, air and water for its members for sport and recreation, underpinned by good environmental practice in outdoor and adventurous activities.

Sustainability means that the current generations' pursuit of their sport or recreation should not be to the detriment of future generations' ability to enjoy their lives.

Good environmental practice incorporates systems, procedures and actions that seek to minimise an activity's adverse environmental impact. It also seeks to promote the awareness of conservation of the natural environment and its bio diversity.

This document outlines what CCPR believes to be the key components in delivering sustainable access for all, namely clear information on existing access, responsiveness to change and ultimately improved access. It also outlines the role that relevant stakeholders, including CCPR members, can play in achieving this.

### Information

Participants in sport and recreation activities need to know what areas they can use and when. Easy availability of accurate and up to date information is key. For example, access to certain sensitive sites may be restricted, or it may be necessary to impose restrictions at certain times of the year, for example to protect wildlife, or for health and safety reasons.

CCPR supports:

- Provision of appropriate information (such as clear but unobtrusive signage where appropriate) and improvements to maps in an easily accessible form, such as online
- the development of a definitive database available to recreational users
- area-based access, not just rights of way

Reaching new heights in access information  
*Highlighting Members' Good Practice – The British Mountaineering Council*

The British Mountaineering Council's Regional Access Database provides the latest cliff access information, backed-up by their team of voluntary regional BMC Access Representatives

Dr Cath Flitcroft, BMC Access Officer says: "Our database provides climbers with the information they need to climb responsibly; where they can climb and when access needs to be restricted and why. The BMC's online database is dynamic too, as access

sometimes needs to be restricted to protect wildlife and habitats at certain times of the year, but can sometimes be relaxed if birds fledge early.”

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmcCrag/>

### Responsiveness to change

Land use and topography change with time. Climate change and rising sea levels may accelerate this change, particularly in low-lying coastal or tidal areas. There may be changes to the built environment, or the planning legislation that helps control it. Patterns of usage may change as new sports emerge or traditional ones evolve. Access must be dynamic and adapt to these changes.

CCPR believes:

- development of the built environment and associated infrastructure should not adversely impact existing access rights or arrangements (a policy of net gain)
- developments should have appropriate access facilities that support and encourage active lifestyles for the widest range of users
- public rights of way and their management must be responsive to changing landscapes, such as those caused by erosion, climate change or changes in usage
- maintenance of public rights of way should be timely and standards monitored by an appropriate authority

### Improved Access

Many CCPR members rely on the outdoors and the natural environment to enjoy lawful pursuits. Greater and secure access to land, water and air can increase the opportunities for members to enjoy and plan their activities. With rights come responsibilities; access must be sustainable and respectful of landowners/land managers, other users and the natural and cultural environment. At the same time, others should respect the lawful rights of outdoor recreationalists.

CCPR

- works for sustainable and inclusive access to land, water and air, including coastal areas for all sections of the community
- supports the rights of way improvement plans, lobbying for appropriate funding and encouraging the political will to implement
- supports improvements to poorly maintained public rights of way
- supports the protection of existing access arrangements

### Highlighting Members' Good Practice

You **can** have the best of both worlds!

The Best of Both Worlds website helps increase opportunities for outdoor sports and recreation, and at the same time commits to protecting the sensitive environments in which they take place. In fact, outdoor recreationalists can be the biggest champions of protecting the environments that they enjoy.

The website is jointly-funded by CCPR, the Countryside Council for Wales and Natural England and is a valuable resource for outdoor pursuits enthusiasts, conservationists and land owners alike.

[Www.bobw.co.uk](http://www.bobw.co.uk)

## Long Distance Walkers Association

The LDWA aims to further the common interests of those who enjoy long distance walking, especially in rural, mountainous or moorland areas. The Association has published guidelines to assist organisers in all aspects of putting on a walking event.

Tony Willey, Chairman of the LDWA says, “ A sustainable approach to outdoor recreation is in everyone’s interest. Our guidelines encourage organisers to minimise the impact of their event by, for example, routing the walk along little used rights of way and avoiding over-walked sections of popular paths. The LDWA will not publicise or promote mass participation events with over 500 starters, but on some routes a much smaller number might be appropriate.”

Further details can be found in the Library section of the LDWA website  
<http://www.ldwa.org.uk/>

### Conclusion

CCPR is undertaking a range of activities to deliver and support the delivery of sustainable access as expressed in this statement.

For further information on this work, or to find out how you can contribute please contact Duncan Carter on 020 7976 3904 or email [dcarter@ccpr.org.uk](mailto:dcarter@ccpr.org.uk)

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