

21st Feb 2023

Recreational Disturbance and Responsible Recreation Q&A Transcript

Guthrie, Clare

 External

Tue at 4:13 PM

really great event - thank you - so much to think about. Access and managing access is important but it has left me feeling we need more places just for nature.

Gillie Molland

 External

Tue at 4:11 PM

Really great event. Thank you all so much :)

Wildman, Rachael

 External

Tue at 4:10 PM

An engaging conference covering alot of issues, many close to my heart (and work). If anyone wants to discuss joining up further to discuss dog issues in parti...
see more

Paul Hibberd

 External

Tue at 4:10 PM

Excellent event, thank you all

Rogers, Karen

 External

Tue at 4:09 PM

Thank you for a great event. I have really enjoyed it. 2 comments: firstly, the event didn't really cover the uplands and it would be good to have coverage at any follow up event (disturbance is a huge problem in our uplands), and secondly, it would be good to cover the avenues for protected sites that are SSSI or lesser designation only (i.e. non European) as they have a more limited set of strategic avenues available via the planning system.

Brian Tarnoff

External

Tue at 4:08 PM

Thanks again. All has been relevant to work I do for the New Forest.

Thompson, Dawn

External

Tue at 4:08 PM

The session has I think highlighted that amazing people are doing amazing things, but we do need to co-ordinate our approach to truly reap the benefit

Wildman, Rachael

External

Tue at 4:06 PM

Is there a list of which organisation each participant came from? Id like to connect with a few but no idea where they are or who they work for as participant list simply lists as "external"

Emily Lake

External

Tue at 4:02 PM

A note for your polls I work for a cross border partnership project that works in England and Wales on the Dee Estuary but I could only choose 1 location.

Nick Brodin **External**

Tue at 4:04 PM

Similarly. I work in England and Scotland

Giacomelli, Alison

External

Tue at 3:56 PM

Thanks to the National Trust for running all the tech!

Tim Birch

External

Tue at 3:55 PM

But ultimately what do you do with eg dog walkers who are not on board with what you are trying to achieve?

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 3:59 PM

Not a great deal... concentrate on those that want to not cause harm first, work to create a community that doesn't accept that behaviour

Durwyn Liley

 **External**

Tue at 3:54 PM

Tom - is there any evidence for the fence working? I'm aware Ringed Plovers stopped breeding there in the 1970s and the large wader roost (1000s of birds) was also a long time ago. Any signs of birds using it?

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 3:55 PM

We had a snow bunting!

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 3:56 PM

Not yet... the ferry being off hasn't helped as it is an unusual winter...

Durwyn Liley  **External**

Tue at 3:59 PM

snow bunting a good start!

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 4:04 PM

10k for a snow bunting!

Ayliffe, Stephen

 **External**

Tue at 3:53 PM

Who runs the licencing scheme and how does it work?

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 4:04 PM

NT - licence gives access

Tim Birch

 **External**

Tue at 3:51 PM

Did you not get any complaints from dog walkers when you put up that big fence ?

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 3:56 PM

Nope!

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 4:07 PM

Which I think illustrates what is possible - change can happen!

Kieran Foster

 **External**

Tue at 3:50 PM

Interested if anyone is aware of reports identifying differential impact between different recreational user groups - eg dog walkers vs horse riders vs cyclists etc.

Gina Rowe

 **External**

Tue at 3:48 PM

There is some great work being done on nationally important sites, NNRs, SSSIs etc, however many sites do not have even that protection or by laws. Obviously so...
see more

Clarke, Tom

Tue at 4:01 PM

We need more land for nature and people!

Armour-Chelu, Neal

 **External**

Tue at 3:34 PM

Why does NE head up the TBH initiative? This is very different to eg DUHP - local authority / land manager led projects.

Jarrold Sneyd

 **External**

Tue at 3:25 PM

I had been thinking the same as Julianne - but more broadly about a revival of the Countryside Code - and the importance of special places -and how to enjoy them - linked to the Nature Crisis. I appreciate our approach to National Parks and AONB's is different in the UK - but what does a National Park vs SPA vs SSSI mean to most people - it feels like we don't have a clear approach to highlighting the importance and specialness of our unique wildlife sites. Forgive me for saying it - but my sense is that National Parks place landscape as a higher priority than wildlife, wildlife is more important in SPA's and SSSI's . That's very simplistic - but the general public might think National Parks are our special places for wildlife and don't know what the other designations are! It feels like an issue around brand, nudge behaviour, creating greater understanding of nature benefits to people and things we can do to benefit nature - and where. A Defra/NE piece of work to rebrand special places - think about how we might want different audiences to behave in different places.?? Is Morecambe Bay SPA special to most people - what does that mean - and how do most people know. What do SPA's mean nationally. How do we create a wider national sense of pride in our 'jewels' . Perhaps post research - post branding - a national TV/Social media/interpretation campaign - maybe with a long-term end-game (25 yrs from now?). to see a change in attitude. Where is the national investment to co-ordinate all the great stuff from conferences like this and turn it into a national story about the importance of our countryside , the wildlife within it and how to enjoy it positively.... sorry about my random ramblings.....

McCarthy, Ben

Tue at 3:46 PM

The Countryside Code was updated recently and resources on the nationaltrails.co.uk website

Jarrold Sneyd  External

Tue at 3:54 PM

Hi Ben, Thanks for that. I think my point is - that enjoying and respecting our countryside and it's wildlife - is important to grow support, build more nature and create awareness. I work in the environmental sector and I've not heard about the update of the Code! That might be my fault - I struggle to absorb lots of information and have a 'world' view beyond my immediate landscape. But if Asda want to communicate something about their price match... they invest in conveying that message - and they keep investing....

Julian Hughes

 External

Tue at 3:24 PM

SANGs are a whole new thing for me, coming from Wales. Is there any evaluation (or monitoring underway) of their effectiveness in changing use of/impact on SPAs?

Stephen Jenkinson  External

Tue at 3:25 PM

Footprint Ecology doing that for Dorset Dogs

Durwyn Liley  External

Tue at 3:34 PM

Evidence is continuing to build and there is plenty of different evidence. These might be of interest:

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s16045/HREC%20-...>

https://forms.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0...

see less

Julian Hughes  External

Tue at 3:36 PM

Thanks for the links Durwyn (and great talk earlier)

Emma Lowe

 External

Tue at 3:23 PM

are there any national partnerships working at a strategic level? lots of amazing local and regional partnerships carrying out much need work and awareness rais...
[see more](#)

Wildman, Rachael

 **External**

Tue at 3:19 PM

You can navigate forward yourself

Langley, Karen

Tue at 3:14 PM

Interesting to hear about the ways of engaging with dog walkers on sites where dogs are allowed. Does anyone have any experience of dealing with dogs in areas w...
[see more](#)

Julianne Evans

 **External**

Tue at 3:02 PM

All these initiatives are fantastic - but do you think there is any likelihood that there are inconsistent messages between them (I come across differing awareness about picking up poo rather the 'stick & flick' approach) OR that people get confused by all these different initiatives if they travel between areas? Could there be any way of combining forces for a bigger UK-wide public awareness campaign?

Elliott, Kate  **External**

Tue at 3:04 PM

ugh 'stick & flick' gives me the boak every time I hear the term

Steve Rowland  **External**

Tue at 3:04 PM

I think a lesson coming out of today for me is the value of learning from others and working together. and that could include getting better at coordinating comms, although there will always need to be a local flavour. I see in the chat that folk are already plotting joint work on jet ski comms for example

Jonathan Preston  **External**

Tue at 3:09 PM

I certainly think we could learn a lot of lessons from some of the partnerships highlighted today on the Norfolk coast - we've been talking about a joined-up approach for ages but need action !
see less

Stephen Jenkinson  **External**

Tue at 3:11 PM

NE's Countryside Code is a great place to start for England given all the work put into that. Equally the recently updated messages in Scotland via the National Access Forum. And working with partners as suggested :) If we can't collectively be clear as professionals what we want, then comms with visitors is always going to underperform.

Jonathan Preston  **External** in reply to

Stephen Jenkinson  **External**

Tue at 3:21 PM

I think it's a starting point but doesn't go far enough for dogs in many situations - 'in sight' on a Norfolk beach could be 200m away! 'Effective control' means different things to different people - I like the 'dog alongside' slogan - but that takes us back to different language/phrases. Not an easy one.

Stephen Jenkinson

 **External**

Tue at 3:02 PM

Here's a link to the course you can click: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-dogs-in-the-countrysid...>

McCarthy, Ben

Tue at 3:01 PM

@anneke how did you go about pulling together the funding to do your work?

Vivienne Booth

External

Tue at 3:00 PM

Do Dorset Dogs (or anyone else) do anything to address the issue of toxic chemicals from flea treatments poisoning freshwater species? Even responsible dog owners seem to have low awareness of this issue.

see less

- **Anneke Kempton** **External**

Tue at 3:32 PM

Hi Vivienne, we have just started to do some work on this. The BVA released this guidance in 2022:

[Responsible use of parasiticides for cats and dogs | British Veterinary Association \(bva.co.uk\)](https://www.bva.co.uk/parasiticides-for-cats-and-dogs).....

see more

Brian Tarnoff **External**

Tue at 3:43 PM

Just a slight sidebar but the Habitats and Landscape committee of the New Forest Association are in the process of pursuing research on this with a view to test...

see more

Tim Birch

External

Tue at 2:55 PM

Question for Heather - has there been a decrease in jet ski disturbance of seabirds through Operation Seabird on Yorks Coast ?

Be the first to like this

Heather Davison-Smith  External

Tue at 3:06 PM

It is hard to tell - issues were rising in 2019 and have dropped significantly (Op Seabird launched in summer 2020) however we can't attribute that directly to Op Seabird (pandemic, fuel costs, weather etc. would have all had an impact) Anecdotally, I think it has raised more awareness and Jet Skiers tend to avoid the heavily visited, and therefore, 'watched' areas but it remains to be seen whether that trend continues in the long term

Tim Birch  External

Tue at 3:09 PM

Has jet ski exclusion zones ever been considered during breeding season similar to no climbing on seacliffs during sea bird breeding times? Also have you had repeat offenders documented and have you considered legal action?

[see less](#)

Heather Davison-Smith  External

Tue at 3:21 PM

Yes, exclusion zones have been considered but enforcing them would need significant resources. We currently have a 'no wake zone' around the SPA which is voluntary but serves to raise awareness of the sensitivities and asks Jet Skiers to go slowly when close to the breeding site. We had repeated offenders in 2016 who were served with a 'stop notice' by Natural England under the SSSI legislation. They were prevented from using their Jet Skis within the SPA for 2 years. Other enforcement action has been taken by the Police and RSPCA for dolphin disturbance by boat last summer, in Scarborough.

[see less](#)

Wildman, Rachael

 External

Tue at 2:53 PM

Sorry, I missed the intro from Dorset Dogs, are they part of a national scheme ie., similar available in other countries - Hampshire and West Sussex in particul...
see more

Stephen Jenkinson  **External**

Tue at 2:56 PM

The first one doing this type of thing, but Devon Loves Dogs and Heathland Hounds have taking this forward since

Brian Tarnoff

 **External**

Tue at 2:50 PM

Does the Dorset Council Dog related PSPO apply in your area? Has any study been done to record its efficacy, or reports of success or failure in enforcement?

Robinson, Harriet

 **External**

Tue at 2:44 PM

Question / idea for Heather Davison-Smith:: on the North Wales Coast we have issues around jetski's but as you say, they come from places like Manchester /Cheshire and Liverpool (or in your case Leeds / Bradford) I wonder if we could coordinate our messages / thoughts around how to promote responsible recreation in those areas? Sort of like a coast to coast idea? Capturing the bits between us :) Just a thought - you've got my email - so feel free to get in touch if you think it's a good idea, and I can float the idea past the Wild Seas Wales group as well. Great talk by the way! :)

Heather Davison-Smith  **External**

Tue at 2:49 PM

Yes, I think that would be great! I'll be in touch :)

Julian Hughes  **External**

Tue at 2:49 PM

I think that's an excellent thought Harriet. I've also just emailed the police co-ordinator of Op Seabird in Wales with a similar thought about co-ordinated comms

Bayford, Philippa

 **External**

Tue at 2:33 PM

Is there a recognised definition of disturbance? It would be great as an outcome from this to have a united approach and definition for what disturbance is, in...
see more

Abby Crosby

 **External**

Tue at 2:31 PM

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files...>

Parry, Anna

 **External**

Tue at 2:31 PM

my contact details are anna.parry@portsmouthcc.gov.uk. I'd be very pleased to hear from any of you.

Heather Davison-Smith

 **External**

Tue at 2:31 PM

Abby - Do you have a lot of uptake for the WiSe courses? And how do you approach the costs for the training?

Abby Crosby  **External**

Tue at 2:32 PM

We do get a good response as I think operators and people feel they are 'doing their bit' and its an easy win for them to tick a 'we are thinking about wildlife' box. We always charge for a course, as it gives the attendance value.
see less

Julianne Evans

 **External**

Tue at 2:30 PM

And of course there's the impact on for example rockpool habitats, not just disturbance but also chemicals such as sunscreen. There are hardly any crabs on one...

see more

Jackson Sage

 External

Tue at 2:22 PM

I said i'd put my email in the chat if people had follow up questions -
jackson.sage@humbnature.co.uk

Nick Brodin

 External

Tue at 2:21 PM

How much uptake for WiSE courses have you had in Cornwall? Did you have to do anything to promote/incentivise interest??

Sarah Mason  External

Tue at 2:32 PM

I used to work in the Isles of Scilly (Wildlife Trust) & we paid for boat operators to go on the Wise Courses otherwise there wasn't any uptake, so incentives definitely work

Buckland, Nicola

 External

Tue at 2:18 PM

Measuring disturbance to ground-nesting birds on lowland heath is such a challenge, considering that flushing isn't always witnessed. For this reason, describing disturbance to dog owners can be tricky. Questionnaire results have shown that dog owners may have an awareness of disturbance but often think that other dog owners are causing harm, not themselves. Also believing that dipping into the heather off path, even only 1m in, causes no harm.

see less

Vivienne Booth

External

Tue at 2:14 PM

I hear that in the uplands, there is also a trend of areas which were once inaccessible to most people, now being visited by lots of people, in that case on electric bikes.

Kate Williams **External**

Tue at 2:19 PM

Not just uplands, coast paths are also widely used by electric bikes and they don't stick to the paths!

Brian Tarnoff

External

Tue at 2:14 PM

Has the well meaning promotion of the England Coast Path exacerbated any of your issues?

Rolls, Ruth

External

Tue at 2:09 PM

How can we request/enforce Local authorities to improve their wording and include Natural England as consultee for Temporary Event Notice when events are near SSSI or Protected Sites? There's been damage to heathland SSSI (under oak trees away from the actually heather) from recreational campfires. A warning letter has been issued to charity landowner by NE and education and rapport being worked up. However LA is, for TENS we only have to have Police and Environmental Health as our statutory consultee under their Licensing legislation. What approach would you advise?
see less

Jackson Sage **External**

Tue at 2:16 PM

For the Humber, I know that TENS do have to go before the LA.

Local Authorities must also abide by Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, so might be worth reminding them.

Vivienne Booth

External

Tue at 2:07 PM

Why is the onus on conservationists to provide so much evidence of aerial disturbance rather than a precautionary principle for any SSSI designated for birds or mammals?

Anna Moscrop  **External**

Tue at 2:10 PM

this is a really good point, similarly with cases of vessel disturbance of marine mammals - and it is very hard to present sufficient evidence of disturbance (behaviour change) to be able to prosecute
see less

Jackson Sage  **External**

Tue at 2:21 PM

Whenever I deal with potential prosecution issues, I have to ask myself "Can a dodgy lawyer defend these actions". The evidence has to be frustratingly irrefutable to be able to proceed with action. All legal proceedings cost money, which a lot of Government agencies are short on. It is very frustrating.
see less

Ayliffe, Stephen

 **External**

Tue at 2:05 PM

Could SSSI byelaws be used to help manage paramotor activity especially if CAA can't enforce?

Jackson Sage  **External**

Tue at 2:12 PM

Technically, it already falls into our Operations that Require Natural England Consent (ORNEC) list under both "Vehicles/Craft" and "Recreational Activities". I would like to see byelaws, but it becomes tricky with airspace management. especially as Byelaws technically need to be signed off by the landowner.

Emily Lake

 **External**

Tue at 1:52 PM

Will speakers/attendees contact details be shared to all so we can follow up with any additional questions etc.?

Emilie Brignall  External

Tue at 1:54 PM

Hi Emily, I won't be sharing all of their contact details in the follow up email. Speakers have put their own details on their slides if they're happy to be contacted. The slides/recording will be shared.

[see less](#)

Nick Brodin

 External

Tue at 1:52 PM

Is there any information about the average 'lifespan' of jet ski ownership? I've been told that a number of the jetskis in my own area are used once or twice then sold on. Would be interesting to know if this pattern is repeated elsewhere as the mechanisms for engagement with short-term owners will be very different than for long-term owners.

[see less](#)

Heather Davison-Smith  External

Tue at 2:00 PM

Yes, I've heard this too, Nick! I think it's pretty accurate. I was expecting a big rise in Jet Ski use/ownership after lockdowns ended, but it doesn't seem to have materialised. Maybe due to fuel costs?!

[see less](#)

Nick Brodin  External

Tue at 2:04 PM

Fuel costs were one of the big reasons I was given for why jetskis are sold on so frequently.

Stephen Jenkinson

External

Tue at 1:50 PM

Re watercraft / marine disturbance worth looking at the RYA's Green Blue scheme for engagement: <https://thegreenblue.org.uk/>

Stephanie Walsh

External

Tue at 1:46 PM

would it be possible to provide all the chat in a document at the end? some really useful comments here

Emilie Brignall **External**

Tue at 1:52 PM

Good question! We will try.

Falkingham, Becky

Tue at 2:05 PM

IT support have said they can get the transcript of the Q&A for us to send on

Stephanie Walsh **External**

Tue at 2:27 PM

Thank you!

External

nikostsiopelas

External

Tue at 1:45 PM

Apart from disturbance is there any indication that visitors / trespassers at seabird colonies can facilitate the dispersal of Avian influenza ? (Nikos Tsiopelas - Birdlife Greece)

Emilie Brignall  External

Tue at 1:53 PM

The United Nations Convention on Migratory Species convened a Scientific Task Force to advise on responses to HPAI in wild birds ([Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds HPAI winter 2021-2022 210122 final.pdf \(cms.int\)](#)) This recommends that human disturbance should be reduced around wetlands subject to a HPAI outbreak to minimise unnecessary flight among infected birds (using energy could inhibit their ability to fight the virus) and spread of the virus. The report also recommends that there is no benefit to be gained in attempting to control the virus in wild birds through culling or habitat destruction.

see less

Emilie Brignall  External in reply to

Emilie Brignall  External

Tue at 1:53 PM

I can't take any credit for that - the wonderful Claire Smith here at the RSPB sent me this in advance of the conference in case this question came up.

Ford1, Simon

Tue at 1:41 PM

We have understandably focussed on impacts on birds of recreational disturbance, but what about impacts on cetaceans, seals and mammals which can be a significant impact, as can trampling of flora e.g. orchids and hay-meadows? Great conference by the way and brilliant speakers.

[see less](#)

Emilie Brignall  **External**

Tue at 1:44 PM

Hi Simon, we will have a few less-birdy examples in Abby's talk at the end of this session and in the Heathland session. The speakers somewhat reflect where the majority of this work is taking place.

[see less](#)

Heather Davison-Smith  **External**

Tue at 1:58 PM

We're working with a local group at the moment to reduce disturbance to seals. This again includes collecting data but also working with the LA to close off footpaths/discourage people getting too close etc. Didn't have time to include it today, but happy to chat if you have any specific questions

[see less](#)



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Ford1, Simon

Tue at 2:07 PM

Thanks Heather. That is great to hear. Really interesting to hear your talk. Simon

Julian Hughes

 **External**

Tue at 1:41 PM

would be useful to know more from Heather about how they did go about engaging with personal watercraft users given there is no representative user group and PWCs presumably come from a wide area, often outside the Yorkshire coast
see less

Heather Davison-Smith  External

Tue at 1:55 PM

Hello, Yes it is very challenging but we found it to be incredibly important to increasing the efficacy of the code/agreement. With Jet Skis, we had to find other methods - either those who we knew launched on the Yorkshire coast (through registering at council launch sites) or in-land lakes. When we first tried to engage with Jet Ski users, I think only about 2 users attended, at our last meeting we had about 20 users - we held an event at the in-land lake on a Saturday morning - when they would probably have been there anyway. Happy to chat about this further, if that would help.

see less

Emily Lake

 **External**

Tue at 1:41 PM

Heather Davison-Smith I would love to talk to you about how you got groups together to create your codes of conduct as I am trying to do that for the Dee Estuary and I am finding it very challenging.

see less

Sudworth, Steve

Tue at 1:50 PM

It would also be really useful to share any codes of contact that have been created for others to use or work with as a baseline to engage with similar user groups.

Anna Moscrop  **External**

Tue at 1:50 PM

Defra are in the process of producing a new marine and coastal wildlife code of conduct - there is also a Scottish Gov one that is worth considering

Robinson, Harriet  **External**

Tue at 1:53 PM



Edited

Hi Emily, In Wales we have the Wild Seas Wales partnership focussed on marine codes in Wales - maybe that they could be a useful group to go to for help. We have a basecamp collaboration tool set up which includes all partners in the WSW group - and would be a great question for them :) if you're interested, feel free to contact me and I can get you in touch with the partnership leads - PCF :)

[Home | Wild Seas Wales](#)

see less

Heather Davison-Smith  **External**

Tue at 1:57 PM

Hello, yes happy to have a chat. Finding the right way in (either an individual or group) is really important, but that can be very hard. Happy to chat offline if that would help



Sarah Mason

External

Tue at 1:35 PM

Are Bird Aware Solent happy to have their operating model and brand etc replicated in other areas of the UK? It seems daft to reinvent the wheel if the model works.

Emilie Brignall **External**

Tue at 1:39 PM

Hi Sarah, not a direct reply to your answer but I believe Bird Wise is a similar model: [Bird Wise | Wising Up to Bird Disturbance](#)

Braine, Darren **External**

Tue at 1:39 PM

it is being replicated already www.birdaware.org/essex

Sarah Mason **External**

Tue at 1:40 PM

Thanks Emilie

Chantal Macleod-Nolan **External**

Tue at 1:41 PM

There is also Space for Shorebirds which is replicating it in Northumberland

Parry, Anna **External**

Tue at 1:45 PM

Absolutely happy to share it all with as many Partnerships as possible. We already have close links with our brand partners Bird Aware Essex Coast, and would love to see the brand grow further. I see it as a win win for all including coastal users and of course the birds. Please contact me if you want to find out more anna.parry@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
see less

Sarah Mason **External**

Tue at 1:47 PM

Amazing thank you Anna, I'll be in touch; we would love Bird Aware Morecambe Bay to be born very soon!

Jarrold Sneyd

 **External**

Tue at 1:34 PM

Sorry if I've missed this - but the dog stuff is also likely to be of interest to farmers and the NFU. Is there anything about conservation bodies/NFU working around some of the positive language/behaviour change stuff with national dog organisations (Kennel Club??) - also RSPCA around the broader animal welfare issue?
see less

Stephen Jenkinson  **External**

Tue at 1:41 PM

The KC and NFU etc do lots of liaison on joint messaging. Lead use is also a key issue around cattle where nuanced messaging is needed.

Stephen Jenkinson  **External**

Tue at 1:42 PM

eg <https://theoutdoorguide.co.uk/blog-togs-dog/kennel-club-nfu-...>



Paynton, Ceinwen

Tue at 1:42 PM

it would be a huge win if we worked together beyond our boundaries like this, different organisations having different asks is confusing for dog owners

Jackson Sage

 **External**

Tue at 1:31 PM

Anna, we had an old project (stopped due to funding) that provided free basic obedience such as dog recall alongside info about disturbance. Good way to engage, but obviously you only attract those who are interested in training their dogs.
see less

Parry, Anna  **External**

Tue at 1:35 PM

That sounds just like the work Shona is doing. we are working on the basis that if you can get 25% of people to change their behaviour and show best practice, then others feel the need to follow that and it can lead to whole scale change
see less

Brian Tarnoff

 External

Tue at 1:29 PM

Do any of the Solent areas have PSPO's requiring dogs on lead on request of authorised persons?

Parry, Anna  External

Tue at 1:39 PM

None on the coast, but there may be some that cover inland areas that we recommend people use for recreation.

Brian Tarnoff  External

Tue at 1:41 PM

Thanks. Been looking to propose for future NFDC PSPO to address the fuzziness of guidance for the England Coast Path.

Giacomelli, Alison  External

Tue at 2:07 PM

The Isle of Wight have some dogs on leads PSPOs: [Environment Officers - Service Details \(iow.gov.uk\)](#). I think they were mainly put in to manage conflicts between dogs and people. But IoW Council might be a good contact.

see less

Andy Nelson

 External

Tue at 1:24 PM

For Bird Aware Solent: How did you decide on the particular language "Keep Dogs Alongside"?

Dante Munns  External

Tue at 1:29 PM

some dogs can be on a lead, but a long way away! Alongside is a very helpful phrase....

Hands, Natalie  External

Tue at 1:31 PM

We felt 'alongside' was a clear ask, rather than 'under close control' as that could mean different things to different people.

Andy Nelson  External

Tue at 1:32 PM

Thank you. The language around this is something that has come up in my role, but I hadn't heard that particular phrase before. I think I like it!

Vivienne Booth

 **External**

Tue at 1:21 PM

Has anyone tried communicating with dog owners through local vets? Or even just leaflets in vet waiting rooms? My feeling is that they are generally respected and might be listened to. People might be receptive in that environment.

see less

Stephen Jenkinson  **External**

Tue at 1:28 PM

As with all groups, peers and already trusted people have more influence than signs etc. Ditto the work that's been done with commercial dog walkers passing good info to clients and becoming ambassadors for people, dogs and wildlife.

see less

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Paynton, Ceinwen

Tue at 2:39 PM

We have been experimenting with familiarisation events (behind the scenes tours after work for vets and their families) and are now routinely inviting local vets to programmed events like dog days. Its fairly early, and we've mainly concentrated on areas where we have very threatened red list species but, anecdotal evidence from our rangers seems to show that it is having an effect because its supporting visitors understand the ask for certain behaviours (like leads)

see less

Vivienne Booth  **External** in reply to

Paynton, Ceinwen

Tue at 2:41 PM

Ooh - thats really interesting. It would be great to hear more when you're at a stage to share the results (if you're not already).

Gillie Molland  **External**

Tue at 3:06 PM

We distribute ground nesting bird awareness posters throughout vets and other dog related businesses such as groomers here in the New Forest

Thompson, Dawn

 **External**

Tue at 1:19 PM

Dog walkers need to be as aware of the effect of bird/wildlife disturbance as they are of sheep worrying

Natalie Holt

External

Tue at 1:15 PM

A reflection: one problem with signage is that we can be very good at putting out temporary/ seasonal signage but then rubbish at taking them down when they are no longer relevant. I think this undermines confidence with the general public about how relevant signs are at any given point in time.

[see less](#)

Helene Jessop **External**

Tue at 1:23 PM

Seen this on Dartmoor re dogs on leads for lambing and ground nesting birds. Also issue with 'sign blindness' if a seasonal sign is left up, it just becomes part of the landscape and not a timely warning.

[see less](#)

Stephen Jenkinson **External**

Tue at 1:23 PM

For sure. Behaviour change needed on all sides to make good places for people and nature :) Conflicting messages to visitors from different partners also makes communicating wanted visitor behaviours needlessly difficult, as it lacks clarity and consistency and thus credibility and influence.

[see less](#)

Teresa Hughes

 External

Tue at 1:15 PM

I came across this at lunch <https://www.bsupa.org.uk/2021/06/15/bird-life-paddle-boardin...>

Paddle board association code of conduct.

Any thoughts from the audience

see less

Natalie Holt  External

Tue at 1:17 PM

Some user groups are challenging to engage with when they aren't necessarily 'club' sports. I have a paddle board but I wouldn't have thought to look for a code of conduct.

Teresa Hughes  External

Tue at 1:20 PM

I was thinking of education and signage at known launching point. I quite liked the approach that they had taken. As an open water swimmer I have some thoughts about how to engage with users/visitors

.

see less

Brian Tarnoff

 **External**

Tue at 1:13 PM

The proposed New Forest stretch of the England Coast Path is dismally problematic, pointing up all the rough edges of the legislation and NE guidance, particularly the Coastal Margin definition (which had not been in the consultation), which creates, or creates the misapprehension, that sensitive sites between the path and the water's edge is now access land.

Has any work been done to quantify the impact on stretches of the path that have been opened, particularly where they have created new access (or due to the OS maps unsupportable decision, the perception of new access).?

[see less](#)

Giacomelli, Alison  **External**

Tue at 1:41 PM

Hi Brian, I've worked for NE on the coast path for the past couple of years. There is monitoring on certain stretches where there are particular concerns about new access. Our examples are increasing as more stretches are opened to the public. Where there are issues changes can be made. Research will be done (or it might have already started, I'm not sure) on the effectiveness of mitigation measures and how we can use adaptive management techniques to address issues.

[see less](#)

Brian Tarnoff  **External**

Tue at 3:04 PM

Thanks. Are you aware of any time frame for the Highcliffe Calshot route, it seems there should be an enquiry by now.

David Illsley

 **External**

Tue at 1:11 PM

Earlier in the workshop I think it was stated that Natural England aim to have all SSSI condition assessments up to date. The New Forest SSSI alone has over 500 units and some of the condition assessments for these individual units are dated. Any clarification appreciated. Thanks
see less

Emilie Brignall  **External**

Tue at 1:13 PM

Hi David, I'm not sure if anyone from NE is still online to answer this but will take the question away.

Blanaid Denman  **External**

Tue at 1:24 PM

Defra's recently published Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) commits NE to ensuring all SSSIs have an up-to-date condition assessment by 2028

Ayliffe, Stephen

 **External**

Tue at 1:05 PM

Beach nesting birds - how much is warden capacity an issue to manage disturbance?

Mark Thomas

 **External**

Tue at 12:58 PM

A brilliant new guide to recreational disturbance has just been published in Scotland - cant seem to add a link here ?

Emilie Brignall  **External**

Tue at 1:01 PM

I'll send the link to this guidance to everyone in a follow up email. Thanks Mark.

Teresa Hughes  **External**

Tue at 1:06 PM

If anyone has this link please could they share.

Emilie Brignall  **External**

Tue at 1:07 PM

[Guidance - Managing public access in areas of wildlife sensitivity in Scotland | Scottish Outdoor Access Code \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#)

Emilie Brignall  External in reply to
Emilie Brignall  External

Tue at 1:07 PM

I'll still send it in the email!

Caroline Fyfe  External

Tue at 1:10 PM

Edited

I can't seem to add weblink either. 'Managing public access in areas of wildlife sensitivity in Scotland' guidance note is available on [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

Robinson, Harriet

 External

Tue at 12:36 PM

Hi Mark Thomas: With the Yorkshire bell Jet ski case study. Do you think that, although the Yorkshire Bell was going slowly, it meant that it would attract jet skiers to that location close to rafting birds? Would it be better for all boats to not get too close, regardless of whether they were doing fast or not? I'm guessing those in this case, the Yorkshire Bell wasn't breaking the law - but could be encouraging others behaviour? Is there a marine code for the area that all boats should follow? Interested to get you're thoughts on this.

[see less](#)

Mark Thomas  External

Tue at 12:41 PM

Thanks Harriet, the jet ski's were heading directly past the cliffs en-route to Filey - so they were not loitering in the area. However they were going at full speed through huge numbers of birds. The presence of the Yorkshire Belle visitor boat was co-incidental really and the same thing would have happened if it was/wasnt present.

Jarrold Sneyd

 External

Tue at 12:36 PM

Disturbance by microlites over SPA estuaries - is there any work being undertaken by NE with the Civil Aviation Authority to formalise minimum flight heights to avoid disturbance of high tide roosts. Also, paramotors? drones? I have engaged with owners of paramotors that were most apologetic - they didn't realise they had landed on an SPA - nor that it was RSPB owned intertidal area - apparently they use flight apps that tell them where they can and can't fly/land....

see less

Mark Thomas  External

Tue at 12:50 PM

Huge issue, have seen it lots of times at Bempton - entire cliff face flushed by para-motor, developing a user code is essential - zoning etc.. if ignored and the site is a SSSI or SPA then legal framework can be used - same as Jet ski case.

see less

Jackson Sage  External

Tue at 1:01 PM

Jarrod, my talk in this session covers a lot about drones and paramotors. Really happy to have a chat after though to hear about your issues on site.

Ayliffe, Stephen  External

Tue at 1:03 PM

A colleague in NE has been considering this and I will make him aware of this.

Jarrod Sneyd  External

Tue at 1:04 PM

Thanks Jackson - would like to catch up - perhaps you can e-mail me a contact number to jarrod.sneyd@rspb.org.uk. Cheers

Teresa Hughes  External

Tue at 1:09 PM

BTO published a review on the impact of drone flying on wintering birds. Know it's not microlites....

<https://www.bto.org/press-releases/drones-can-be-source-dist...>

see less

Bernie Fleming

 External

Tue at 12:35 PM

No question this time, just acknowledging an excellent presentation by Mark.

Mark Thomas  External

Tue at 12:51 PM

Thanks Bernie, hope you are well.

Sudworth, Steve

Tue at 12:33 PM

A question that often comes up when speaking to people about disturbance is "what is disturbance?" What is the set definition or list of points that are used legally to define disturbance in legal cases?

see less

Mark Thomas  External

Tue at 12:45 PM

It is legally defined - I don't have it to hand but essentially when abnormal behaviour characteristics are observed in a species as a direct result of the activities of man. Varies for species, Golden Eagles fly away from their territories but WT Eagles will stay and circle intruders - so its crucial to know the signs for each species.

Mark Thomas  External

Tue at 12:52 PM

reckless is when an act is deemed likely to cause an issue but that calculation is then ignored and disturbance occurs - needs good evidence.

Brian Tarnoff

 External

Tue at 12:31 PM

Is anyone aware of instances where SSSI offences (Section 28 W&C Act 1981) have been prosecuted... i.e. "recklessly destroys or damages and of the flora, fauna" etc . There is no CPS guidance on this (whereas there is CPS guidance are for section 9 & 13 , i.e. bird eggs, red data list plants).

see less

Hands, Natalie

 External

Tue at 12:31 PM

Is there any legal protection for non breeding birds?

Helene Jessop  External

Tue at 12:34 PM

yes, from killing. some exceptions.

Hands, Natalie  External

Tue at 12:36 PM

Thank you, any protection from disturbance though?

Giacomelli, Alison  External

Tue at 12:46 PM

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the disturbance offence only relates to breeding birds. There isn't any legal protection for disturbance to non-breeding birds in the wider countryside. But there is legal protection on SSSIs. It's an offence for 3rd parties to intentionally or recklessly damage a feature of an SSSI. And then there are duties on owners and occupiers of SSSIs, and public bodies, to manage SSSIs in favourable condition. It's these duties (and through the Habitats Regulations) that tend to drive mitigation for recreational disturbance.
see less

Mark Thomas  External

Tue at 12:48 PM

Yes, on SSSI'S SPA etc.. if the fabric of the designation is disturbed, so say its a SSSI for wader roosts and someone repeatedly lets a dog off - if they are spoken to and still continue then police/NE need to be involved, issue a 'stop notice' - leading to legal action
see less

Teresa Hughes  External

Tue at 1:05 PM

In my old job we used the planning system that model aircraft flying over land which was functionally linked feeding and roosting at Morecambe Bay (PF geese and swans). Planning was used to remove the 30 day PDO (permitted development) and to require planning to be sought. We (GMEU worked with the local bird group Fylde Bird Group to gather the evidence and to win an Appeal from the flying club. Increased usage of drones was also a big factor in changes in usage.
see less

Julianne Evans

 External

Tue at 12:27 PM

Apologies if I missed reference to this but re. SANGs has there been any research or is there any research ongoing on their effectiveness, i.e. not just whether they are well-used but do they reduce the numbers of people in the areas you want them to avoid?
see less

Stephen Jenkinson  External

Tue at 12:34 PM

There's a session on this from Footprint Ecology at this event next week:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/519675382057>

Stephen Jenkinson  External in reply to

Stephen Jenkinson  External

Tue at 12:38 PM

A few spaces left I think - Anneke from Dorset Dogs may mention this in the 14.45 session if that helps too.

Julianne Evans  External

Tue at 1:04 PM

Unfortunately I can't attend this but would be useful to be pointed to any references too

Durwyn Liley  External

Tue at 1:28 PM

Hi Julianne, there's a range of references I can point you too. I've emailed directly

Bernie Fleming

 External

Tue at 12:26 PM

Intriguing data from NE earlier on relating to the condition of SSSIs that are also Country Parks, access land and so on. If this is driving NEs approach, how reliable is the condition assessment data relied on? Many have not been assessed for over a decade. Given the impact of the pandemic and other drivers does NE intend to catch up in future?

Furthermore, does the condition assessment methodology effectively capture damage from recreational pressure?

see less

Meriel Harrison  External

Tue at 12:31 PM

Also feels that rather than comparing to a national condition average, it would be more illuminating to compare condition of sites with similar habitats/features in places with high and low recreational pressure. National condition average probably skewed by large upland sites often being in unfavourable condition

see less

Blanaid Denman

 **External**

Tue at 12:19 PM

Is there a risk that increasing public access to wider countryside could reduce the effectiveness of SANGs? Or is it likely that most people would still choose the "easy" options for visiting (e.g. SANGs, country parks etc)?

[see less](#)

Brian Tarnoff

 **External**

Tue at 12:18 PM

For SANG's to be effective shouldn't they offer a standard as close as practical to the landscape it "supplants". Our local council's standard is not much more than asking developers to provide some grass, a couple of paths and a dog waste bin.

[see less](#)

Giacomelli, Alison  **External**

Tue at 12:31 PM

Definitely - the Thames Basin Heaths SANGS criteria are based on survey information about what the visitors to the heaths value about the landscape and how they use it. SANGS don't necessarily need to replace the exact habitat as people aren't necessarily visiting to see heather. But they do need to provide what heathland visitors want in order to have a chance of attracting them to other sites. Some things people want are generally applicable, but others might be locally specific. The key is understanding the people.

[see less](#)

Crabb, Nina

Tue at 12:17 PM

SANG: Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, SAMM: Strategic Access Management & Monitoring. Sorry, forgot to explain acronyms

Samuel Demmen-Sewell  **External**

Tue at 12:18 PM

Thanks Nina!

Armour-Chelu, Neal

[External](#)

Tue at 12:15 PM

How do you integrate management of recreational disturbance into the planning of Nature Recovery Networks? Will 'stacking' of multi purpose functions be a problem for NRNs?

Giacomelli, Alison [External](#)

Tue at 12:25 PM

I think there can be opportunities for co-location of different uses of land. So Nature Recovery Networks can be used to provide spaces for nature and people, it's all about the planning and design of those networks. SANGS that are designed principally for people can be part of the NRN, and so can areas managed for wildlife.

[see less](#)

Armour-Chelu, Neal [External](#) in reply to

Giacomelli, Alison [External](#)

Tue at 12:38 PM

Is this setting up potential conflict and compromising the effectiveness of different functional use eg dogs off leads in SANGs vs ground nesting birds in NRNs?

Brian Tarnoff

[External](#)

Tue at 12:12 PM

Various local constraints have meant that most mitigation funding is spent on education/engagement, rather than creation of SANG or other alternatives. The efficacy of education is extremely difficult to measure. Shouldn't mitigation be focussed on areas where measurable benefits may be shown?

[see less](#)

Brian Tarnoff [External](#)

Tue at 12:14 PM

For context: while the efforts of the likes of Bird Aware Solent are important, there is a tendency in the relevant authorities to regard their contribution to mitigation as sufficient to meet their responsibilities.

[see less](#)

Moore, Sophie

 External

Tue at 12:12 PM

Can I ask what NE SANG criteria is being referred to? I have never managed to find a general document from NE.

Ayliffe, Stephen

 External

Tue at 12:07 PM

It can be difficult to get the moratorium on permissions. Advice on how examples made that case would be useful.

Brian Tarnoff

 External

Tue at 11:57 AM

Recreation Mitigation schemes tend to rely on the work done for Thames Basin Heaths, however this does not necessarily scale appropriately to other areas. The ...
[see more](#)

Brian Tarnoff  External

Tue at 11:59 AM

For context, the latest NFDC local plan went forward after the examination ignored the advise of wildlife charities inc. HIOWWildlifeTrust & RSPB categorically stated that the council had not shown that they could adequately mitigate their current provision, let alone the fourfold increase in the latest plan.
[see less](#)

Ayliffe, Stephen

 External

Tue at 11:56 AM

Strategic mitigation schemes through planning often only deal with the additional pressures on European sites from new housing. There still needs to be complementary approaches and funding for existing pressures
[see less](#)

Rogers, Karen  External

Tue at 1:49 PM

And they only work for European sites.

Brian Tarnoff

 **External**

Tue at 11:49 AM

Has any work been done to suggest efficacy of Lead mandates in Public Space Protection Orders (formerly Dog Control Orders).?

Jarrold Sneyd  **External**

Tue at 1:16 PM

Speak to Alex Piggott at RSPB Marshside - apparently her local council (Sefton ?) have been using PSPO's in their local parks and there has been an offer of extending these and potentially giving RSPB staff training to be able issue fines (not sure Alex has gone for this as I'm sure it's more work and potentially adversarial - maybe some training with TurningMoment!!)

[see less](#)

Paul Hibberd

 **External**

Tue at 11:47 AM

The issue with people and cars is very relevant to us at Glenmore Forest Park - it's really challenging for staff when we have little control over the numbers of people who choose to drive to the site a sunny day.

[see less](#)

Dave Barrett  **External**

Tue at 11:58 AM

Sorry to hear that Paul, it sounds really tough.

Nick Brodin

External

Tue at 11:29 AM

How much is the language of dog ownership a problem in getting people to control their dogs in sensitive areas i.e. the increasing tendency to describe dogs as 'part of the family' or dog owners as 'parents' to their pets?

see less

Wildman, Rachael **External**

Tue at 11:33 AM

A response I've received is "are dogs not allowed to be dogs then?" - implying that it should be accepted that the dog will naturally chase the wildlife and that its enjoying itself doing it so should be accepted

see less

Jessie Fitts **External**

Tue at 11:33 AM

Hi Nick,

Thanks for this question. I am not sure there is a direct link between potential perceptions of dogs in a family unit to owner behaviours. However, it's important to understand how dog owners consider their dogs and how that can be a barrier to them changing behaviour.

see less

Jackson Sage **External**

Tue at 11:34 AM

One response I've had before is "Dogs are wildlife too!"

It's a difficult one to try to overcome.

Brian Tarnoff

[External](#)

Tue at 11:27 AM

Our local dog advocacy group was adverse to the inclusion of dog images on the signage for Ground Nesting Bird Season (they did not want to be "singled out" as a source of disturbance). As a dog owner myself, but a representative of a conservation charity, I felt this was absurd. Any recommendations? (failing that, what sort of fish should I slap them across the face with?)

see less

Steve Rowland [External](#)

Tue at 11:29 AM

I think one thing we have learned is that dog owners are more likely to look at signs that are relevant to them eg with dogs on, perhaps the language used would help avert their concerns?

Jessie Fitts [External](#)

Tue at 11:31 AM

Hi Brian! There has been some preliminary work on this. Firstly, the RSPB found in a small trial that dog photos on signs were potentially more attention-grabbing for dog walkers. However, other studies have had push back with dog-signage in that it may have the reverse effect of promoting dogs in the area. If we are approaching the problem through understanding the beliefs and attitudes of dog walkers, then we can incorporate these into our interventions.

see less

Brian Tarnoff [External](#) in reply to

Jessie Fitts [External](#)

Tue at 11:36 AM

Hi Jessie, thanks for your response. I've made the points about the eye-catching (walkers will look at what they feel relevant to them, obv). This year FE have made some alteration, partially to be consistent with signage under other local owners / managers (Wildlife Trust, County Council, RSPB).

see less



Paynton, Ceinwen

Tue at 1:10 PM

Hi Brian, we have also found (NT) that using a simple, friendly looking drawing of a dog with the 'ask' for on leads has worked well. We've matched the style of our ground nesting birds signs with our wider countryside code suite. Happy to send you some, if helpful? Cei

see less

Becky Austin

External

Tue at 11:22 AM

Does anyone know of any research in to the barriers for dog owners keeping their dogs on leads? I would really like to understand these barriers so that the work I am doing on disturbance, caused mainly by dogs off of leads and paths, can take these things in to account.

see less

Jessie Fitts **External**

Tue at 11:26 AM

Hi Becky,

This is a great question! And is an outcome of our work gathering qualitative data in Norfolk around the problem. There is also some existing work on this- <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10871209.2021.19...>

see less

Becky Austin **External**

Tue at 11:27 AM

Thank you just as I posted that you came on to the topic :-)

Vivienne Booth **External**

Tue at 11:33 AM

There is report called 'Understanding the Psychology of Walkers with Dogs: new approaches to better management' (2006) by Victoria Edwards and Sarah Knight - University of Portsmouth, which I found online, and might be relevant.

see less

Paynton, Ceinwen

Tue at 1:14 PM

The Dogs Welcome project commissioned some research through our partner, Forthglade, who make natural dog food and who have a wide customer base of dog owners. It was fascinating- the top reason that respondents gave for having their dog off lead was the misconception that dogs need to be off lead and run to have a 'good' walk. The second most common reason was that the dogs pulled and the walking experience was not enjoyable, so the perception was that the dog was behaving 'better' when off lead

see less

Paul Hibberd

 **External**

Tue at 11:21 AM

Forestry and Land Scotland have developed a set of signage based on Ajzen's theory of planned behaviour, to attempt to influence visitor behaviour (I think Forestry England and NRW use this too)

see less

Jessie Fitts  **External**

Tue at 11:24 AM

That's a great example! Thank you for sharing. Many studies in conservation use the TPB to inform their intervention. There are hundreds of behaviour change theories that can sometimes be more relevant or rigorous.

see less

Paul Hibberd  **External**

Tue at 11:27 AM

As you're just saying, measuring effectiveness is rather harder than putting the sign up - but hopefully they influence some visitors.

Teresa Hughes  **External**

Tue at 1:12 PM

Can a link be put up for this from Forest & Land Scotland? I would be really interested to see

Ansell, Kate

 **External**

Tue at 11:16 AM

There has been lots of work at Studland Bay in Dorset on managing recreational activities in an MPA - [Managing marine non-licensable activity in Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone](#) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Wildman, Rachael

 **External**

Tue at 10:59 AM

Dog fouling and disturbance of species by dogs are a particular problem in FE woodlands, are there any other folk online currently who deal with this on a daily basis and would like to share experiences via email, whatsapp after?

see less

Jessie Fitts  **External**

Tue at 11:03 AM

Hi Rachel! The dog fouling intervention with Keep Britain Tidy, Walk This Way, is

a great example of an intervention here.

Guthrie, Clare  **External**

Tue at 11:12 AM

['Walk this Way' to our award-winning campaign | Keep Britain Tidy](#)

Wildman, Rachael  **External**

Tue at 11:14 AM

Thanks, I'm also thinking in the practical dealings

McCarthy, Ben

Tue at 12:02 PM

We'll be hearing from the Dorset Dogs' Approach this afternoon

Paynton, Ceinwen

Tue at 1:17 PM

we also have some great things to share from our National Trust places, if you'd like Rachael :)

Jarrold Sneyd

External

Tue at 10:55 AM

Is there any evidence around the impacts of disturbance on low tide feeding waders on estuaries e.g. what might the impact of large numbers of people crossing Morecambe Bay as part of a guided walk be - also dogs running from the periphery of the shore out into the Bay. Impacts of vehicle access across an estuary on low tides?
see less

Ansell, Kate **External**

Tue at 11:05 AM

Chichester Harbour Conservancy are doing a study on the impacts of paddlesports on birds.

Durwyn Liley **External**

Tue at 11:17 AM

Footprint did some work in Morecambe Bay in 2015 - disturbance surveys for the Morecambe Bay partnership

Helen Lawless

External

Tue at 10:55 AM

Is anyone aware of examples where recreational access has been redistributed by increasing access on less sensitive land through incentives in farm payment schemes? More access close to home would also reduce emissions from travel.
see less

Brian Tarnoff

[External](#)

Tue at 10:54 AM

A key problem in the New Forest, very relevant to Durwyn's points, are conversations about creating zoning, but this is within an area that is all SSSI. The suggestion that some areas are more "robust" than others is a false dichotomy where it is all "protected". SANG provision would be an answer, but funding, availability of land, and very poor SANG standards from local council have led to very little creation.. How do we get this prioritized?

see less

Durwyn Liley [External](#)

Tue at 11:03 AM

With zoning I was meaning to look wider than a sites designated boundary. Imagine for example if it were possible to put parking and visitor provision on the edge or outside sites. .. visitor use concentrated on the outside or edge. So many sites have car parks that were established in the 1970s and spread across a wide area - I don't think those distributions would be ones that would be chosen now if doing from scratch.....

see less

Ayliffe, Stephen [External](#)

Tue at 11:06 AM

Is there a strategic mitigation scheme in place - this can help address Habitat Regulations Assessment and fund SANGs

Kieran Foster [External](#)

Tue at 11:06 AM

Its notable that although some of the more sensitive sites have been closed down (permanently or seasonally) FE manage, IIRC, 127 car parks in the New Forest.

[?](#)

Brian Tarnoff [External](#) in reply to

Ayliffe, Stephen [External](#)

Tue at 11:31 AM

The New Forest has a range of "mitigation" schemes, mostly education funding through developer contribution. This leads to very little on the ground change.

[?](#)

Brian Tarnoff [External](#) in reply to

Kieran Foster [External](#)

Tue at 11:42 AM

Very happy with FE's current car park closure regime, they work closely with local wildlife groups to refine the list. Unfortunately the criteria for car park closure is not applied to their campsites, some of which are in equal or greater proximity to nesting of curlew and other key SPA species. Campsites operate 24/7 v car parks only open dawn to dusk (officially- ish).

see less

Burke, Richard  External in reply to
Ayliffe, Stephen  External
Tue at 2:20 PM

Work is underway on this for the NF.

Clare Rawcliffe
 External
Tue at 10:53 AM

Has anyone trialled the use of promoting apps which log walking routes to their visitors to try and gather data?

Nick Brodin  External
Tue at 10:54 AM
Strava Metro provides some data on that

Jackson Sage  External
Tue at 10:56 AM
As Nick mentioned, Strava Metro is a good tool to give an idea of where people are going. You have to apply for access, but it's free.

Nick Brodin  External
Tue at 10:58 AM
<https://metro.strava.com/>

Musgrove-Ward, Ruby
 External
Tue at 10:53 AM

In my experience, people can be highly defensive of their 'right' to have their dog off lead.. is there any evidence that signage helps to deter off-lead dog walking?

Jackson Sage  External
Tue at 10:58 AM
The only example I know of was with somewhere (not mentioning where) putting up signs stating there were Adders in the grass, despite there not actually being any. Not the best example of Best Practice...but it had the desired result.
see less

McCarthy, Ben
Tue at 12:01 PM
We'll be hearing from about the Dorset Dogs Approach this afternoon to hear about some of their successful approaches

Kieran Foster

External

Tue at 10:52 AM

Does the current restricted level of access to the wider countryside artificially focus access on the most sensitive sites - zoning could be worse solution than spreading the load across a much wider area.

see less

Durwyn Liley **External**

Tue at 11:22 AM

absolutely, nature conservation and access overlap. Most sites already have access spread across a wide area. By zoning I was meaning creating areas - perhaps...

see more

Brian Tarnoff **External**

Tue at 11:46 AM

I liken zoning across an entirely protected site to choosing in which order you allow the hostages to be shot.

Burke, Richard **External** in reply to

Brian Tarnoff **External**

Tue at 2:24 PM

The problem is Brian that we can't start from zero now. We have to be realistic as to what's achievable. I think there are huge gains to be made by making some changes but it's a real challenge as it seems the habs regs stand in the way of making changes.

see less

Burke, Richard **External** in reply to

Brian Tarnoff **External**

Tue at 2:25 PM

Also with the NF the "back up grazing" conundrum doesn't help whereby the ring of undesignated land outside the SAC is seen as key in supporting commoning activity.

it would be great if some of this land was available for SANG.

see less

Nick Brodin

External

Tue at 10:44 AM

Is there any evidence on the relative frequency/impact of recreational dog walking versus commercial dog walking?

Wildman, Rachael **External**

Tue at 10:46 AM

Id be interested to know if any survey studies have been done. Commercial dog walkers are very common in FE woodlands.

Gina Rowe **External**

Tue at 3:16 PM

We also have problems of commercial dog walking on our nature reserves across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, many being increasingly encroached on by new housing nearby, and a high level of off lead dog walking
see less

Emily Lake

External

Tue at 10:42 AM

A fact I was given early on in my coastal recreational disturbance work that I have been unable to reference or confirm is that 5 minutes of disturbed flight requires 1 hour worth of feeding to recoup that energy? Is there any published evidence for this?
see less

Durwyn Liley **External**

Tue at 11:14 AM

Hi Emily, not quite the figures you quote but this might help: Collop, C. *et al.* (2016) 'Variability in the area, energy and time costs of wintering waders responding to disturbance', *Ibis*, 158(4), pp. 711–725. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.12399>.

see less

Vivienne Booth

 **External**

Tue at 10:34 AM

Pirri-pirri burr seems to be turning up at an increasing number of places. We urgently need an effective way to deal with it

Vivienne Booth

 **External**

Tue at 10:27 AM

Lack of correlation between access and SSSI condition may just reflect that sites which can't be visited are also damaged but by other things.

Ayliffe, Stephen  **External**

Tue at 10:31 AM

Interesting, perhaps an analysis of those protected sites that are accessible is needed?

Kieran Foster

 **External**

Tue at 10:26 AM

Is there a risk that a focus on improved access close to urban areas and honeypots risks increased hostility to access in more rural/remote areas?

Stephen Townley

 **External**

Tue at 10:23 AM

In terms of the Analysis by Pippa of Public Rights of Access have the percentages included Rivers within an SSSI/SAC where a public right of Navigation exists ...
see more

Alan Lauder

 **External**

Tue at 10:22 AM

Is a dense network of paths an attractor or is the site the attractor and the path density simply a function of visitor pressure?

Brian Tarnoff

 **External**

Tue at 10:16 AM

Sites are not necessarily more robust, they may simply be less prone to pressure or access. Do not conclude robustness based on that interpretation of statistics.

○

Brian Tarnoff

Rupert Hawley

External

Tue at 10:15 AM

Are NE still allowed to class SSSIs as favourable & recovering JUST because they are in a Stewardship Agreement?!

Ayliffe, Stephen **External**

Tue at 10:24 AM

All reasons for unfavourable condition need to be addressed for it to be fav or recovering

Giacomelli, Alison **External**

Tue at 10:25 AM

Sites can be classed as unfavourable recovering if all the actions needed to restore the site are being implemented. So if the stewardship agreement will restore the habitat, and that is the only action needed to restore the features, then that site can be recorded as in unfavourable recovering condition.

see less

?

Emilie Brignall

External

Tue at 10:16 AM

Hi Stephen, I think there were a couple of technical issues at the start of the video. I'll share the video link at the end of the event so you can watch it back.

Stephen Jenkinson **External**

Tue at 10:20 AM

Thanks - maybe how it was recorded then :)

Sudworth, Steve

Tue at 10:07 AM

As many conservation projects and partnerships have shown there's great strength in working together with a joint approach to effectively communicate messages and engage people.

Can we collectively as NT, RSPB & NE develop a consistent piece of signage that is available to site managers to communicate why these sites are important and explain how people can act when visiting them to help reduce disturbance to the wildlife and habitats that make them so special.

The idea would be a consistent sign, available for use across each site, with joint logos from NT, RSPB, NE and any other conservation organisations that wanted to partner with sections of text to choose from e.g.

this site is a SSSI/NNR/LNR/AONB

it is special for xxx habitats, xxx species

Please help us look after this special place by keeping to the designated paths, keeping your dogs on a lead during bird breeding season (dates) etc.

Thanks,

Steve

see less

Like 

Comment

 Sarah Mason and
4 others

Emilie Brignall  External

Tue at 10:18 AM

Hi Steve, there's a lot of research going on in the signage realm (some of which you'll hear a bit about today). We'll take this question away. Thanks!

Hands, Natalie

 External

Tue at 10:05 AM

Will the slides be shared after the workshop?

Teresa Hughes and

2 others

McCarthy, Ben

Tue at 10:11 AM

Yes