



## Jargon busting sheet

(For an excellent all encompassing introductory website see [www.naturenet.net](http://www.naturenet.net))

### Parliamentary Acts

Here are some of the key acts and European legislation that affect countryside and urban greenspaces.

#### ***The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000***

This created a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land – including moorland, mountains, downs and common land. It also modernised the public rights of way (PROW) system, strengthened nature conservation legislation and facilitated better management of AONBs and introduced a new country code

#### ***The Hedgerows Regulations Act 1997***

Gives important 'countryside' hedges protection, but this piece of legislation is a nightmare to interpret and understand!!

#### ***European Habitats and Species Directives 1994***

Gives higher level of protection for certain habitats and species see local BAP for species that may come under this directive

#### ***The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981***

This is the main act in the UK that protects wildlife. It gives different levels of protection for various species, including import and export of species.

#### ***The Countryside Act 1968***

This act established the need for country parks, definitive maps for footpaths enabling more access to the countryside, particularly near centres of population.

#### ***The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949***

This was the first act parliament passed which recognised habitat conservation and access through site designation; included the setting up of National Parks, NNR's, LNR's, SSSI's and the Nature Conservancy Council (pre-runner to English Nature, SNH and CCW)

### Land Designations

**SSSI** – Site of Special Scientific Interest is the most protection a small area of land can have for habitat conservation – they can be found within some of the following designations .

**NNR** - National Nature Reserves have a high level of conservation protection and are often managed by EN.

**LNR** - Local Nature Reserves are almost always owned by local authorities. They are declared for wildlife and educational value, and importance to the community.

**ESA's** – Environmentally Sensitive Areas are large areas of land under agri-conservation land management agreements

**SPA's and SAC's** – Specially Protected Areas and Special Areas for Conservation are areas of land protected under European legislation and are superimposed on UK designations, with a higher degree of protection. SPA's are particularly important for birds.

**Ramsar sites** – Wetlands of international importance, from a treaty signed at Ramsar, Iran in 1972

**SINC** – Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, agreed by local wildlife trust and endorsed by the local authority

**TPO's** – Tree Preservation Orders, can be for one tree, a group of trees or a woodland

**RIGS** - Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites, identified by locally developed criteria, are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology

**Regional Geopark** – Area of land protected for its geological and geomorphological features

**AONB's** - Areas of outstanding Natural Beauty have special funding and additional planning powers (PPG7) to help promote good management and sustainable development within them. Local authorities within an AONB often employ an AONB officer or team to support this.

**National Scenic Areas** are the equivalent to AONB's in Scotland

**NP's** - National Parks, large areas of land under a national park authority, who work with landowners to conserve the landscape and provide open air recreation and education

**CP's** - Country Parks are on the edge of centres of population to provide 'open green space'

**Green Belt** - a certain area around a town or city that has certain controls against development in place. Green Belt boundaries, are laid out in Local Plans. (see PPG 2)



**Commons** – Land registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965, over which someone other than the owner has a legal right.

**ROW** – Right of Way, includes bridleways, footpaths, byways, green lanes, tow paths, pavements etc

## **Other plans and strategies – there are lots the key ones for FS are:**

**LBAP's** – Local Biodiversity Action Plans, response to Agenda 21, all counties have plans for key species and habitats for Worcestershire BAP see

<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-bio-index/wcc-bio-action-plans.htm>

**Management Plans** – plans for areas of land with conservation and community value

## **Organisations**

### **Government**

**EN** – English Nature, the government's nature conservation body

**CA** - Countryside Agency is responsible for landscape designations and integrating rural development with conservation and recreation

**RDS** – Rural Development Service, the part of DEFRA delivering environmental grant schemes to farmers

**NE – Natural England came into being in 2006 and brings together EN, CA and the RDS – it is now the government body responsible for landscape and habitat conservation and recreation.**

**DEFRA** – Department for farming and rural affairs responsible for agriculture and rural development

**FC** - Forestry Commission is responsible for the protection and expansion of woodlands in the UK. **FE** - Forest Enterprise is part of the commission that owns and manages woodlands – there are two FE's in England and Scotland.

**EH** - English Heritage make sure that the historic environment of England is properly maintained and cared for. They provide policy, advice and own monuments.

**EA** - The Environment Agency is responsible for a massive range of things and is the main government environmental regulatory body with regard to pollution and flooding. They do have some very good conservation and ecology staff working with water-related issues.

**CCW & SNH** are the government agencies responsible for conservation in Wales and Scotland

**LA's** – Local Authorities responsible for lots of things to do with countryside and green space

### **Non-Government**

**There are loads of these, too many to mention, here are some key ones.**

**WT** – Local Wildlife Trusts operate on a county basis and have many functions, including owning and managing nature reserves, education, advising on any wildlife matter and often take the lead in the local BAP's.

**NT** – The National Trust is Britain's largest charity and landowner. The majority of the land it owns is countryside and open space, open free of charge to the public at all times and preserved in perpetuity. It has the unique statutory power to declare land inalienable

**RSPB** - The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charity dedicated to "developing a public interest in wild birds and their place in nature". It also owns nature reserves.

**The Woodland Trust** - is a charity dedicated to the preservation and creation of woodlands.

**WWT** - The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is a charity working to save wetlands for wildlife and people. It has a particular emphasis on birds.

**FWAG**- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group is an umbrella organisation for local Action Groups

**CPRE** – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (there is the equivalent in Wales) campaign for countryside to be protected and enhanced (campaign within the planning system)

**BTCV** – British Trust for Conservation Volunteers is a charity supporting practical conservation work by volunteers throughout Britain. It supports many local groups across the country.

**CLA** – Countryside Land and Business Association represents private landowners in the UK. It claims to represent 60% of all the countryside in the country.