

Cross Border Scoping Study

Summary of proposed projects,
recommendations and project area

An extract of the final report,
prepared for a meeting on
29th November 2003

exeGesIS SDM Ltd
Great House Barn
Talgarth
Powys
LD3 0AH



exeGesIS
Spatial Data Management



*Overview of the core and supplementary study areas.
The core study area will focus on the access land along Hatterall Ridge with
supplementary project areas identified by the shaded regions – including Mynydd Du Forest.
(Figure 6.4 in main report)*

Image removed from emailed version to limit file size

Project scope (extracted from section 6 of report)

Ref	Activity
C1	Development of strategy for the management of access land access points
C2	Design and installation of access information points
C3	Hardcopy and published information
C4	Development of technical solutions to optimise the integration of the CA and CCW restrictions management systems
C 5	That the project coordinates partners in the development and testing for communications arrangements and protocols for reaching decisions on cross border restriction applications.
C6	That pro-active work is undertaken with entitled persons to develop, agree and publish an 'access management statement' for the project area.
C7	Develop and define a visitor monitoring strategy
C8	To develop new wardening arrangements (including cross-border wardening liaison) to meet the provisions and implications of the CROW access rights.
C 9	Upgrading of infrastructure
C 10	Development of rights of way improvement plans Part II, section 60
S 1	Improve sustainable transport options
S 2	Continue upland path erosion repair
S 3	Consideration of impacts of changes in levels and patterns of use on bird population of upland area
S 4	Integration of EN 'sheep & wildlife enhancement' project
S5	Develop and implement a programme to manage illegal use of recreational motor vehicles
S6	Social and economic development
S 7	The completion of mapping of registered common land and open country in the project area.
S8	Identify the exact line of the national boundary with respect to access areas, common land and landownership units, recorded and unrecorded rights of way.
OS1	National level communications strategy - Wales

	'Core activity'
	'Supplementary activity'

Figure 6.1b Potential activities for the demonstration study

Elaboration of core projects (6.2)

Local communications strategy

A central component of communications strategies being developed by the CCW and CA are web-based information systems. By the nature of the media, these operate across all geographical and audience scales from local to international.

The CCW is developing the 'Wales National Access Register' (WNAR). This system is being built in-house, and should be available for prototype demonstration purposes in 2004.

The CA is presently waiting for a DEFRA decision on funding allocation for the delivery of the 'National Countryside Access Database' (NCAD). It is very unlikely that the Agency will be in a position to use the project for developing NCAD or integrating with the WNAR.

It is clear therefore that development and testing of these web-based elements of the communications strategy are 'out of scope' with respect to the demonstration study. This does not preclude the CCW from using the project to test and develop it's own systems, but the resourcing and management arrangements would need to be separately identifiable. Further details on this potential 'out of scope' project are presented in OS1.

There remains an important role to develop and test an integrated information provision project at a more local level. This involves a number of inter-related activities shown below as C1, C2, and C3.

C 1	Development of strategy for the management of access land access points
-----	---

A strategic overview of access points needs to be completed based on reasoned criteria relating to factors such as accessibility, social and ecological sensitivities, transport options, amenity infrastructure, etc. This should establish a hierarchy of access points against which information and infrastructure provision, monitoring and maintenance can be identified.

This study will aim to develop a methodology for establishing a hierarchy of access points and should include the forestry of Mynydd Du.

C2	Design and installation of access information points
----	--

The CA will publish national policy and guidance on signage in conjunction with CCW for access authorities and others responsible for implementing the new access arrangements on the ground. The guidance will incorporate design, use, content, location and responsibilities regarding signage and it will cover signs required for visitor management purposes, as well as signage and notices required on restrictions. The work is in its early stages but it is expected that guidance and notice templates will be published in spring 2004.

The opportunity is thus presented for the demonstration study to pilot these outputs as part of a programme of design, manufacture and installation of 'access information points'. It is possible that the new 'countryside access' symbol could also be included in this project. This project could be implemented on completion of C1.

Consumer survey work should be undertaken to determine the effectiveness and efficacy of this provision.

C3	Hardcopy and published information
----	------------------------------------

In addition to information provision at the point of access there are many opportunities to inform and promote that are 'off-site' but within the locality. These include printed materials available or displayed at local activity points and articles and notices in regional publications.

A particular aspect of this work may be a trial and evaluation of the new 'code of conduct' that is presently being finalised, it's development having been jointly sponsored by the CA and the CCW. The Agency make the point that the testing of information products requires a broad cross-section of the population and any evaluation work undertaken through this project would clearly form only a part of a larger testing programme.

Consumer survey work should be undertaken to determine the effectiveness and efficacy of all information provision.

Restrictions decision making and consultation

This is perhaps the key area of focus for the demonstration study. The process of administrating and implementing exclusions and restrictions will be similar irrespective of the initiating agent or restriction rationale.

The present situation is that the CA and the CCW are developing independent, IT and GIS based administrative systems. It is unfortunate there is no likelihood of a common system, or of common underlying data structures.

There are a number of projects related to restrictions decision making that demonstration project could explore. These are listed below as C4, C5, and C6

C4	Development of technical solutions to optimise the integration of the CA and the CCW restrictions management systems
----	--

Whilst the systems are being separately developed, it is possible for each system to include functionality that minimises the negative impacts of discrete systems. For example an IT system might:

- trigger a relevant authority receiving a notification or application concerning border land to notify the 'opposite number', as well as the local access forum (where appropriate);
- trigger discussion of a joint decision on any application between relevant authorities (or in the event that a notification is rejected because the person has exceeded their statutory allowance, to check if the same has happened on the other side of the border) and to stall decision until the discussion has taken place and (potentially) agreement has been reached between them;
- enable an entitled person to view parallel decisions on the same piece of land through a convenient weblink, or by sharing data on the small number of parcels to which this situation applies (so that the whole parcel is shown on both websites);
- enable a member of the public to view restrictions either side of the border through a convenient weblink, and/or by sharing data on the small number of parcels to which this situation applies.

Although exploring these options is an important task for the CA and the CCW, this work could be undertaken without significant involvement of dedicated project staff and possibly without implications for project funding.

C5	That the project coordinates partners in the development and testing of communications arrangements and protocols for reaching decisions on cross border restriction applications.
----	--

In parallel with the development of IT solutions, a number of bodies need arrangements and protocols for reaching decisions on borderland:

- relevant authorities;
- local access forums (who are statutory consultees on applications for restrictions exceeding six months);
- relevant advisory bodies; and possibly
- access authorities (where the relevant authority wishes to take their views).

It is these arrangements and protocols – rather than the IT which facilitates them – which it would be invaluable to pilot and develop in the study area – preferably with the IT solutions in place, and which have potential application not just on the national border, but on any parcel of land where one or more relevant authority or local access forum operates.

Upon reaching a decision (which may or may not be an agreed decision) the relevant authorities will need to notify the applicant and the access authority (and any others required by regulations). Again, the solution to this will be IT based, but the project could helpfully look at where and how a joint decision (or, in the worst case, separate decisions) could be communicated to the public locally, and by whom.

This activity could take place in the core project area, but might be extended to Mynydd Du to directly involve the FC. This is an important consideration as established arrangements and protocols need to be developed that are acceptable to all relevant authorities and all parties will need to satisfy themselves of the efficacy of arrangements.

C6	That pro-active work is undertaken with entitled persons to develop, agree and publish an 'access management plan' for the project area.
----	--

Within the project area there are multiple landowners and other 'entitled persons', whose spatial interests are defined by a complex network of ownership and common land boundaries. Ad hoc and uncoordinated restriction applications from entitled persons will be difficult to manage and in many cases may fail to achieve the desired management effect on the ground. It has been proposed that there should be pro-active working with these interests to agree a reasoned basis for restrictions applications and also the arrangements for coordinated applications, where this is required to achieve land management objectives.

In practice this will require the identification of 'entitled persons' and a series one to one and group meetings. It is suggested that an important part of this process will be explaining the implications and ramifications of the CROW legislation to the landholding and farming community as well as building a consensus on the best way of using and managing the restrictions process.

The Agency is currently preparing guidance for land managers on public access management and operation of the restrictions system in England. This and the results of equivalent work being undertaken by the CCW should form the basis of discussions in the project area, although the point of this project is to apply and interpret this guidance in the local and cross-border context

This process will require time, understanding and careful management if it is to be productive and it is suggested that the wardening and other knowledgeable staff of the NPA and HCC have a prominent role in the process.

An appropriate output from this process may be an 'access management plan' that:

- summarises and reasons the agreed basis for potential restrictions applications
- relates these reasons to land units, so that it is clear which types of restriction application require coordinated applications to be made from multiple interests
- Details the local communication and application process, including individual roles and responsibilities

C 7	Develop and define a visitor monitoring strategy
-----	--

It is desirable to establish quantitative visitor use at the earliest opportunity to serve as a baseline against which the results of future monitoring can be compared. Such information will help to establish which subsequent management actions (such as implementation of a restriction) are effective. In the longer term these data will provide justifiable and objective trend information, which at present is severely lacking.

There are however limitations to the benefits of this work in that establishing relationships between 'cause and effect' is not always straight forward, with simple factors such as weather conditions having 'masking' effects that are difficult to quantify.

It may be that in the short term therefore that qualitative data will be of greater use to the project. This might focus on visitor profiles and experience in order to identify under-represented groups which the project might target in-line with the national diversity agenda.

There has also been a technique developed by a joint CCW and NPA project on the Black Mountain (Carmarthenshire) to produce 'use density' mapping over an upland area. This may prove useful to establish whether the way people use access land (i.e. whether they stick to recognised paths or start to 'roam' more freely) changes as the CROW Act is implemented.

It is suggested that deployment of the visitor and vehicle counters (Appendix H) is completed as soon as is possible so that baseline data can be generated prior to the commencement of other projects.

C 8	To develop new wardening arrangements (including cross-border wardening liaison) to meet the provisions and implications of the CROW access rights.
-----	---

New responsibilities are placed upon both the NPA and HCC in respect of their 'on the ground' management of new access rights and the ways that present wardening arrangements need to be adapted and expanded to meet these responsibilities should be explored. The cross border situation further requires that practical liaison arrangements are established between field staff and possibly joint operational working agreed upon.

Many of the other core projects will in practice require significant input from wardening staff if they are to be effectively delivered. This project needs to be informed by recently completed research work commissioned by the CCW.

C9	Upgrading of infrastructure
----	-----------------------------

Within the project area there are several access points and paths that need upgrade of furniture, facilities and information. In particular the NP has indicated that extensive work needs to be completed at the northern end of the project area.

C10	Development of rights of way improvement plans Part II, section 60
-----	--

Part II of the Countryside and Rights Act confers a duty on Highways Authorities to develop rights of way improvement plans by 2007. Although the Park Authority is not itself a highway authority, it is presently concluding arrangements with its partner authorities that it prepares a single improvement plan for the National Park. Both parties have expressed interest in piloting the development of their improvement plan in the cross border area.

The process of developing the plan would be highly complementary to several of the other core and supplementary activities, and would also help to develop an access related policy context into which other activities should fit. In particular improvement plan guidelines require authorities to consult with neighbouring authorities in the development of their improvement plans.

Lessons from the project should be included within the Rights of Way Good Practice Guide.

Elaboration of supplementary projects (6.3)

S 1	Improve sustainable transport options
-----	---------------------------------------

Beacons Bus is one output of a long-standing commitment from the NPA to the furtherance of sustainable transport options within and around the National Park. Herefordshire Council has for a long time been an active and supportive partner in the Beacons Bus team.

In 2003 a new summer Sundays service was operational providing a comprehensive service through and around the project area. This project should be an important element within a raft of measures aimed at increasing the environmental sustainability of existing use and also tackling some of the countryside access issues relating to social exclusion. Securing the continuation and expansion of this service and integrating it with other initiatives would be an important and valuable activity for the demonstration study.

S 2	Continue upland path erosion repair
-----	-------------------------------------

Several kilometres of path have been repaired in the project area since 1998, although many more are in need of attention. Upland path erosion is one of the most tangible problems associated with countryside access and is essentially the result of an imbalance between the capacity of access land to support the visitor pressure and grazing pressure to which it is subject.

The process of path erosion is essentially that fragile vegetative cover is initially removed through a combination of grazing and recreational pressure, allowing subsequent rainfall to accelerate the erosion process. Even with a 100% reduction in

visitor pressure, many of the erosion areas will continue to grow through water erosion, with natural revegetation being limited by preferential grazing.

Current usage levels in the project area are unsustainable and the only way to address this, without very substantially reducing accessibility, is to increase the robustness of the path network.

S 3	Consideration of impacts of changes in levels and patterns of use on bird population of upland area
-----	---

Conservation interest and in particular the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, have indicated that the study could test and potentially further develop risk assessment procedures designed to establish if 'section 26' restrictions are required to protect the nature conservation interest. Draft guidelines for the relevant authorities have recently been prepared and the study might usefully implement and test these. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has indicated that they would support activity of this nature.

It is probable that in the study area the most sensitive interest will be the ground nesting bird population and these may therefore be a suitable focus for this work. The extension of this work to the monitoring of visitor levels and their impacts on species populations should be considered. However it may be that the long history of accessibility of the project area makes it a less than ideal site to further research that has already been conducted on this theme.

The potential impacts of changing recreational pressure upon conservation interests is being explored in other project areas.

S4	Integration of EN 'sheep & wildlife enhancement' project
----	--

English Nature is actively considering the introduction of a project that addresses the 'unfavorable' status of the SSSI interest in the project area. This project could potentially access agri-environment funds to provide the financial incentives required to more closely manage stocking levels both through stock reduction in agreement with Graziers and shepherding. The area presently under consideration correlates closely with the study area. The involvement of the CCW would clearly be important and this is therefore a development that they are also considering.

Given that such a project would undoubtedly involve a good deal of liaison with the farming community and substantial field monitoring work, there is likely to be significant potential for synergy with the access study. It is difficult to be more prescriptive until English Nature and the CCW complete further work on this.

It would appear to be important though that if this project proceeds that a clear relationship to the cross-border access project is established. This may include definition of overlap areas. Joint working on specific project tasks, sharing of resources and coordinated information provision and community liaison.

It is recommended that links between the project be reviewed at the earliest opportunity.

S 5	Develop and implement a programme to manage illegal use of recreational motor vehicles
-----	--

The most commonly raised issue through the consultation phase of this scoping study is the recent increase in illegal, off-road motorcycling. It is a cross border issue in the core study area and would require action in concert from authorities on both sides of the border if it were to be addressed. This would include the police authorities.

To be a valid demonstration activity it is important that work is not completed with the exclusive intention of removing the problem from the study area. Whilst this could no doubt be achieved, it would simply displace the activity elsewhere. More valuable in a national context would be to build on initiatives in other parts of the country (most notably the Lake District), to demonstrate effective approaches to managing the issue. The project in the Lake District was initiated by the Park Authority which in consultation with users, developed a hierarchy of off-road routes with the intention of limiting use on those that were least able to accommodate vehicular use.

The assumptions behind the view that the activity is always 'illegal' should also be explored, as it is possible, although unlikely, that rights for vehicular use could be established.

S 6	Social and economic development
-----	---------------------------------

The research phase of this project not surprisingly revealed strong interest in developing benefits for the tourism industry and local communities 'on the back' of the new access arrangements. The clearest way of delivering this appeared to be through the integration of tourism marketing information with access information provision. Unfortunately, whilst both the CCW and the CA are developing solutions along these lines (the Wales National Access Register and National Countryside Access Database), there is negligible opportunity for cross-border working and this project therefore falls out of scope. OS1 outlines a project that may be appropriate within Wales.

There is however potential for integrated information provision within the delivery of the local communications strategy (C2) and the potential for the development of new product and services or the expansion of existing, to the benefit of the local economy.

An interesting link here may exist with 'Landmap' - the 'landscape character mapping' project in Wales. The information collated and generated through this project is now becoming available through map based web media and includes socio-economic data.

It has been suggested that there would be much good practice to be learnt through a review of the activity, management and derived benefits of existing airsports recreation in the project region. This study should be established with the potential for it to lead into a development project with the objectives of increasing the airsport related benefits and engendering similar practice for other appropriate outdoor recreational pursuits.

S7	The completion of mapping of registered common land and open country in the project area.
----	---

It would be desirable for the conclusive maps to be completed before the commencement of the demonstration project, but existing timescales preclude this. However given that most of the access land in the project area is registered common, a high volume of appeals is not anticipated and it is likely that the project can proceed with reasonable confidence using the provisional maps.

S8	Identify the exact line of the national boundary with respect to access areas, common land and landownership units, recorded and unrecorded rights of way.
----	--

At present the 'on the ground' position of the national border (and therefore the boundaries of jurisdiction of relevant organisations) is unknown. This makes any work (definitive map or field) connected with the National Trail difficult, as it is often unclear which Highway Authority has responsibility.

Many of the commonly used paths in the project area are not shown on the definitive map and are in this sense 'unrecorded'. It is highly probable that the evidence required for these paths to be added to the definitive map could be produced, but the process of doing so requires that each path can be ascribed to the correct parish / community. This project provides the opportunity to undertake a sub-metre GPS survey to establish the relationships between paths and administrative boundaries.

Conclusions and recommendations (extracted from section 11)

Resource information

Many of the difficulties experienced in collating relevant information reflect the fact that whilst organisations hold sometimes quite extensive data, they are not always sure what they have, where it is kept or what the level of availability to outside organisations should be. The maintenance of data is also a significant issue. Datasets that are generated through the activities of the study should be maintained by the study officer with an agreement with a project partner for their longer term maintenance. Other datasets should remain with existing curators and arrangements made for updates to be provided to and from the 'master' dataset.

The scoping study has amassed a considerable volume of digital and hard copy data pertinent to the study region. This information should enable the study to make a rapid start without the need to invest much up-front time undertaking research.

RI1 That the meta-databases and such digital and hardcopy data as copyright issues allow, are provided to the study officer at the outset of the demonstration study.

Study scope

The scope of activities to which the demonstration study might potentially apply itself is extensive and are too numerous and broad in their range to be successfully delivered by a single study. In section 6 selected activities have been grouped into core and supplementary categories, according to criteria that relate the activities back to the original study objectives, the practicality of delivery and the degree of support from key partners.

Only a limited number of the activities are concerned with the implementation of CROW and are also sensitive to cross-border issues (e.g. establishing communication protocol between relevant organisations for restrictions decision making). A second group is CROW related, but are not particularly sensitive to cross border issues (e.g. the testing of the new access symbol and codes of conduct). A final group might be characterised as 'good, integrated access management activities', but are essentially independent of CROW and cross border issues (tourism development based on enhanced countryside access).

The conclusion of this scoping study is that establishing a demonstration study based on a limited number of activities and scoped so that it can successfully deliver within the limits of 'assured funding' is the best way forward. This study needs to be built with the flexibility to take on supplementary activities as partner support and funding allow.

SS1 That the study is based on the core activities identified in section 6.1 and also supplementary activities according to funding opportunity and partner support.

SS2 That work is completed leading up to the start of the study in April 2004, to add further detail to the core and supplementary activities. In particular urgent discussions need to be held with English Nature in connection with their proposed habitat management project.

SS3 That whilst the tourism based initiatives have not been prioritised, if they do go ahead they should be focused on increasing visitor spend rather than increasing visitor numbers and should consider the development of infrastructure and marketing that promotes targeted recreational activities, rather than general 'sightseeing'.

SS4 The existing aims and objectives of the demonstration study need to be revised in the light of the findings of this scoping study.

Consumer information

The data concerning visits to the countryside are patchy, with inconsistent evidence from the UKDVS for day visits from home, some data on tourist activity and some data relating to the consumption of sporting activities. As a result, the findings from these data sets have been treated with caution. In general terms, however, trends in the consumption of outdoor recreation in England and Wales have been static over the last decade or so. Within this overall trend, it is apparent that there have been some changes in the types and locations of activity, with visits to woodlands and to the coast becoming relatively more popular than to open countryside, and visits close to home becoming relatively more popular than visits involving travel.

In all cases it would seem that the predominant (and increasingly popular) activity is walking, although there has been increasing participation in 'new' sports such as mountain biking, air sports and water sports. Indeed, the presence in the study area of the paragliding activity demonstrates how even protected landscapes such as the BBNP can cater for a variety of seemingly intrusive activities.

In terms of tourism, the main trend has been away from single long summer holidays towards more frequent shorter stays occurring throughout the year. Over the last decade, however, the focus of short stay breaks has been more towards cities, with a consequent decline in areas such as the Black Mountain region. Against this trend, it would seem that visits to the BBNP have been increasing, and are particularly popular with people living in Bristol, Birmingham and Cardiff. While the season may generally be lengthening, the decline in school activity visits, particularly to enterprises such as trekking centres, has reduced the viability of small scale commercial recreation, which has had a knock-on effect on other tourist and recreation infrastructure, such as accommodation and catering. As a result, 'busy days' in the study area remain busy. Outside of these peak times, however, there has been a marked decline in visitor activity and economic impact.

In terms of the future potential of the case study area, it is clear that recreational demand is heavily influenced by people's personal choices, which in general are becoming more market oriented. Thus, people are increasingly attracted to holiday parks, golf centres and integrated sports facilities, which are in part enjoyed for the exclusivity that they offer. This offers much potential in the cross border region, given the large and relatively affluent populations to the south, south east and east of the area. While there are a number of avenues that might be explored, the existing presence of the air sports suggests that further development of this type, combining power, performance and exclusivity, may have potential to bring new visitors to the area.

However, it is recognised that much improvement to visitor infrastructure will be required to support the natural attraction of the area, as well as improvement management to control illegal and undesirable activities such as rave parties, fly tipping, vandalism and illicit – usually nocturnal - use of country parks and other isolated facilities.

CI1 That subject to proceeding with supplementary project S6, that market research is undertaken to determine the potential for introducing new market-based recreation and sport activities to the area.

- CI2 That concomitant with CI1, initiatives are developed to improve visitor facilities and infrastructure. This encompasses catering and accommodation, but extends to retail and other services supporting the new activities.
- CI3 That best practice evidence is sought on managing illegal and antisocial uses of the local countryside.

Management of the consumer

Although there was some interest in activities to achieve social and economic benefit as part of the study, these have not been identified as being important to achieving the key objectives of the demonstration study. This does not rule them out and if it can be adequately funded and managed, this work could help develop integrated access management within the context of the new management regimes and legislation.

Despite all of the approaches that might be adopted to stimulate the consumer it must be noted that all of the national and more local empirical evidence suggests that the ability to attract more people into the area is probably quite limited. Importantly, too, most of the reasons that limit countryside consumption are more to do with structural shifts in people's lifestyles and therefore largely beyond the influence of area management policies and plans.

It will be important for any management plan produced for the area to give some attention to the management of the consumer and to marketing the area in an integrated way, but it will be important within such a plan to be realistic about any growth in visitor numbers and visitor spend.

- MC1 There should be an element concerned with serving the customer in any management plan produced for the demonstration study area. This should pay full recognition to the fact that there is unlikely to be any significant increase in visitor numbers into the area, although visitor spend might be increased through an improvement in the facilities on offer.
- MC2 Such a plan also might usefully acknowledge that whilst visitor numbers on the whole are not increasing, there is a noticeable national shift away from passive recreation, towards more active forms of recreation, making use of more sophisticated sports equipment. This kind of use also has an increased likelihood of more visitor spend locally. Available evidence might suggest air based sports offer some potential here.
- MC3 Policies to attract the disadvantaged and the disabled should be encouraged as they increase visitor numbers and the possibility of selective forms of grant aid. Urban young people (from Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff) might be considered in this respect, particularly in relation to inner city areas. There are a number of youth organisations in these cities that can be contacted in this respect.
- MC4 Policies to inform and educate the customer should be encouraged as these increase consumer satisfactions, can afford a greater degree of control over the environment and may also raise revenues. Actions under this recommendation might include education programmes in the city areas mentioned in MC3 above, so that disadvantaged groups have an awareness of the locality before they arrive.

Management of the resource

- MR1 There will not be a change in administrative arrangements in the area, but a partnership should be introduced to sit on top of existing administrative arrangements across the border.
- MR 2 There should be a dedicated study officer charged with orchestrating and integrating all relevant management arrangements in the area. Ideally (s)he should be based at a geographical location that is considered to be 'neutral'. This might entail it being outside of the demonstration study area itself, for example in Hay on Wye. However, given that the Park Authority has offered to host the study officer, it may be that an alternative venue is required.
- MR3 A working group comprising members of both the Brecon Beacons Eastern Area Local Access Forum and the Herefordshire Access Forum along with existing partners should be established to advise the study officer on the integration of access arrangements across the border both in respect of the CROW Act, and more widely. An executive of this group should comprise the major funding partners.
- MR4 A management plan with a strong focus on access arrangements should be produced to embrace land management, consumer management, nature conservation considerations and above all the harmonisation of the implementation of CROW Act Regulations.
- MR5 The demonstration study should be monitored and reviewed throughout its duration.

Funding strategy

- FS1 The majority of the core funding for the 'study management' as identified in section 9.5 should be provided by the CA, the CCW and the FC. This recognises that securing the study management is a prerequisite for the remainder of the work to proceed and also that a significant component of the study officers job will be in delivering core projects of direct relevance to these partners. There would be some merit and justification for contributory funding from the NPA and HCC, although this may best be provided as 'resources in kind'.
- FS2 Budgets for core projects should be provided by all beneficiaries in broad proportion to their interest and benefit. For instance S2 (upland erosion work) should be substantially funded by the NAP where this work falls within the national park.
- FS3 We recommend that sourcing funding should be an on-going process as sources of funds often have limited time spans and new source of funding are coming on stream all the time. This might be a reasonable element of the study officer's work programme.
- FS4 The partners should consider the establishment of a charitable trust and or limited company to give the demonstration study as a whole integrity, but also so that it becomes eligible for funds that otherwise might not be available to it.
- FS5 Core funding should come from main sponsoring organisations as identified above, but special initiatives should seek funding from directed sources: additional research from the Cardiff Foundation for Environmental Research; economic development initiatives from the WDA and AWM jointly, environmental

initiatives from Biffaward and disadvantaged and disabled initiatives from Orange Community Futures.

Timetable and reporting

- TR1 Key partners need to liaise with English Nature to establish a clear working relationship with the habitat improvement project. This is an immediate action.
- TR2 Key partners need to make minimum funding commitments for the 2004/5 financial by early 2004 to enable the recruitment of the study officer to proceed
- TR3 Visitor monitoring equipment should be deployed in the current financial year to start to establish a base line of recreational activity.
- TR4 Key partners should keep the wider community apprised of development and plans and in particular consider the information needs of organisations and individuals that were involved with the scoping study workshop.
- TR5 It is suggested that the study formally commences with the appointment of a study officer early in February 2004, with a start date in early April 2004.
- TR6 The study should run through to March 2006, although most core activity should be completed by May 2005
- TR7 Reporting should be continuous and should principally be via a web site, although should also include a workshop and written report.