

Summary of Speakers

Jo Burgon has worked for the National Trust since 1984 as part of the Trust's countryside and environment advisory team. He currently has the brief for providing support for the delivery of the Trust's responsibilities in access to the countryside. It is in this respect that he has the co-ordinating brief for the Trust's policies and practices for common land. The Trust owns 66,000 hectares of common land (12% of the total in England and Wales). Jo is also a member of the National Countryside Access Forum for England and Vice Chair of the Countryside Recreation Network.



Paul Clayden has been involved with the legal side of common land and village greens for much of the past 30 years. He was secretary of the Open Spaces Society from 1976 to 1984. From then until 1998 he worked for the National Association of Local Councils, ultimately as its director. Since leaving NALC he has set up an advisory service for local councils and has written several legal books, including "Our Common Land".

Hugh Craddock is head of common land legislation branch in Defra, and is responsible for preparing detailed measures to take forward the proposals in the Common Land Policy



Statement 2002 on common land and town and village greens. He has worked in Defra, DETR, GOSE and DOE, since 1987, and previously worked on legislation to deliver the Government's manifesto commitment to greater access to the open countryside.

Eamon Crowe works for the Rural Development Service of Defra. He is a Project Officer for the Dartmoor Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme and co-ordinates the management of 25,000 ha of common land under the schemes agreements. He has worked in farming and government advisory services for 20 years, 12 of which have been associated with Hill farming and their various issues. His main recent experience has been involved in the negotiation of common land agreements, drawing up formulas and codes of practices once under agreement.

Ros Daniels is manager of the Forest Education Business Partnership, a not-for-profit organisation helping education and business sectors work together. Ros managed the Dean by Definition public consultation exercise carried out in 2002, finding out what people who live and work in the Forest of Dean think is special about it. Ros was born and brought up on a farm within the Hundred of St Briavels and enjoys access to the rights associated with that.

Paul Hackman has worked for English Nature as a Conservation Officer covering East Gloucestershire for almost six years. He has developed a strong interest in the

management of lowland grassland sites, in particular the Cotswold Commons. He has helped to set up a number of grassland management projects, in particular a partnership with the National Trust to graze Cotswold Grassland sites with Welsh black and belted galloway cattle.

Chris Hill is the manager of the GeoData Institute, a research and consultancy group within the University of Southampton. He has been leading a team that has captured in digital (GIS) form the registered common land in England as part of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. He has also been identifying and digitising Section 15 land (which includes commons with prior rights of access) and advising the Countryside Agency on the potential to convert statutory paper maps into digital definitive form.

Nicola Hodgson is the Case Officer for the Open Spaces Society. She was a solicitor in private practice and assisted Sunningwell Parish Council with their landmark victory in the House of Lords. She helps members to register land as village greens and deals with common land issues. She was involved with the recent publication of 'Our Common Land', and the 'Greenham and Crookham Commons Act'.



Andrew Humphries's career has embraced practical hill farming, agricultural education and advisory work. He is President of Voluntary Action Cumbria and has been involved in regeneration programme development in Cumbria with a particular focus on models of extension working. He is currently involved in developing a Federation of Commoners Associations, and has served on the Stakeholder group on Commons Legislation.

Christopher Short is a Senior Research Fellow in the CCRU. He was the principle author of the DETR Good Practice Guide on Managing the Use of Common Land, published in 1998, and has completed a number of other studies into common land issues. Along with Entec UK Ltd and Asken Ltd he has just completed work on the background material needed for the Regulatory Impact Assessment needed for the reform of common land legislation. He has organised the National Seminar since 1999.

George Thompson is the County Land Agent and Commons Registration Officer for Herefordshire Council. He has been involved with Common Land since the mid 1970's, when Commons were regarded as a nuisance, in private practice, with CCW and with two Councils. Together with Linda Ashton, he set up the Wales and The Marches Village Green and Common Land Forum primarily to exchange information and to find a uniform approach to problems. From this the annual conference came about, and has gone from strength to strength since the first one took place in 1999.

Fourth National Seminar on Common Land and Village Greens



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to be held at the University of Gloucestershire
on Tuesday 9th September 2003

About the Seminar

The Countryside and Community Research Unit has great pleasure in circulating the details of the Fourth National Seminar on Common Land and Village Greens organised by the University of Gloucestershire.

As with previous years, the aim of the seminar is to air important developments concerning common land and village greens. Meeting and discussing these issues with people from different backgrounds and other parts of England and Wales remains central to the event. The conference is relevant to all those who have dealings with commons and village greens, such as local authorities, land agents, solicitors, private landowners, parish council commoners' associations, public bodies and community groups.

This year we are again grateful to the Countryside Council for Wales and The Countryside Agency for their sponsorship of the seminar, enabling us to offer a limited number of subsidised places to individuals without funding, such as those from common land management committees, grazier associations, ramblers, charitable organisations such as the National Trust, RSPB, etc.

As with previous years, attendance at the seminar qualifies for 6 hours of CPD training for RICS and RTPI members.

Location

The conference will be held at the Park Campus of the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham. On arrival, please report to the registration desk in the main reception area (Elwes Building) which is signposted. Refreshments will be available.

From M5 Junction 11

Come off motorway and take the exit signposted Cheltenham A40. Take the third exit at the next roundabout (stay on A40) past GCHQ. Take second exit (A40 to Oxford) at next roundabout into 40mph limit. Follow road straight through two sets of traffic lights. At the third set of traffic lights move into the right-hand lane. Follow the road to the right and take the first exit left and then go immediately right into St Stephens Road. Follow the road to the end and turn right for main car park. The entrance to the main car park is approximately 500 metres on your left.

From Train Station

Exit Railway station and turn right onto Queens Road. At the end of Queens Road turn left onto Lansdown Road, one way roundabout with garage in the centre. Follow around the garage and take the third exit into Andover Road. Immediately turn right into St Stephens road. At the end, turn right into The Park, follow around and University car park is signposted first on left.

Registration

Please complete and return the registration form enclosed within. The basic seminar fee is £70.00. Bed and breakfast is available for the evenings of 8th September and 9th September, at £33.00 per night.

Places are limited, so please send in your registration form as soon as possible. Early registration and prompt payment is the surest way of guaranteeing a place at the conference. Cheques should be made payable to the 'University of Gloucestershire.' Invoices can be issued upon request, and we also accept payment by credit card.



Proceedings

Proceedings from the seminar are included in the seminar fee and will be circulated to all participants. They will also be available on our web site.

Contact Details

The organisers of the seminar are Christopher Short and Julie Ryan of the Countryside and Community Research Unit, University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road, Cheltenham GL50 4AZ.

Telephone: 01242 544083. E-mail: jryan@glos.ac.uk

Programme

In recent months there has been considerable activity in the area of policy affecting the management and future usage of commons and village greens in England and Wales. It is these issues that will form the centre piece of the day. The Government has indicated that some areas relating to the management and governance of common land and village greens requires legislation. Other aspects of legislation, such as Section 98 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act relating to village greens, are currently being formulated.

The morning session will focus on the likely implications of such legislation. Workshops will form the basis of the afternoon where examples of 'good practice' will highlight the need for responsible management in four areas: upland commons, lowland commons, village greens and local authority issues. The afternoon sessions will run once for about one and half hours allowing delegates to take in two during the seminar. The aim is to maximise the time available to discuss issues but also account for the fact that most delegates would like to attend two of these themes. Please nominate the two you would most like to attend and the programme will be developed to please as many people as possible!

9:15 – 10:00 Registration in main reception area. Refreshments available

Combined Morning Session – Lecture Theatre TC014

10:00 Introduction and welcome by Chair, Paul Claydon

10:10 Taking the long view: experiences of Common Land and Village Greens

Jo Burgon
National Trust

10:30 Update on Government proposals for Common Land and Village Greens

Hugh Craddock
Defra

11:00 Frameworks of Co-operation and Developing Codes of Practice for Upland Commons

Andrew Humphries
Federation of
Cumbria Commoners

11:20 Understanding what makes an area special: listening to the views of local people in the Forest of Dean

Ros Daniels
Dean by Definition

12:00 Buffet lunch served in the Student Union Bar

Afternoon Sessions

Session 1 13:15 – 14:40

Upland Commons Mid-term CAP Review, codes of practice and issues of Management. Inputs from: Defra, and CCW.

Eamon Crow,
Defra
Buddug Jones,
CCW
Paul Hackman
EN

Lowland Commons Good practice in management issues, access, agri-environment schemes. Inputs from EN, and National Trust

14.40 Afternoon tea to be served in TC007

Session 2 14:45 – 16 :15

Village Greens Good practice, registration, proposed regulations. Inputs from Local Authorities, OSS and CA among others

Nicola Hodgson
Open Spaces
Society
George Thompson,
Wales and the
Marches
Working Group

Local Authority Issues Authority Registration issues, electronic registers, good practice, best value, proposed legislation and consultation. Inputs from Defra and Geodata Institute

16:30-17:00 Plenary Session and Concluding Comments, Chaired by Christopher Short

Please note that this programme may be subject to slight variation. Any amendments will be shown on our web site <http://www.glos.ac.uk/ccru>