









## ABOUT THE MAPS

### What do the maps show?

The maps show all registered common land and open country. The Act requires us to show all open country and registered common land on the maps, even though the right of access will not apply to all of it.

### Where does the right of access apply?

Land with the right of access is called 'access land'. Most open country and registered common land is access land. But, even though we show all of it on our maps, some of this land will not be access land because:

- Earlier laws already give the public equivalent or better rights of access to it. The earlier laws will still govern access on such land and the CRow Act does not apply. We are researching the extent of such areas so we can advise people about the different rules that will apply.
- It is one of several types of land or situation where the right does not apply.

There are a variety of ways people can find out which land has access, including CCW's web site, Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer maps and standard markers in the countryside.

### What is registered common land?

'Registered common land' means land registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965. The registration must be final by the time we issue our draft maps. Our maps cannot include areas where the registration process has not finished.

The definitive boundaries of common land are shown on registers maintained by the 22 unitary authorities in Wales. With their help, we have copied the boundaries faithfully from the registers on to our maps. Our draft maps must show what was on the registers on 30 November 2000, or has since been added. Our maps may also show common land that is taken off the registers after that date. We can only leave out land if it is taken off the registers for the following reasons:

- Someone applied before 30 November 2000 to have it taken off.
- There is a compulsory purchase, appropriation or sale.
- Other land is registered as common in place of the land that is taken off the register.

But, we must include all the remaining areas, however small.

### What is open country?

Open country is land that we consider is made up mainly or entirely of mountain, moor, heath or down. The Act says, "consists wholly or predominantly of mountain, moor, heath or down".

We may include land that is not mountain, moor, heath or down only if it is a small part of a larger area that is mainly mountain, moor, heath or down. Areas which are at least two-thirds mountain, moor, heath or down habitat will normally be open country. The descriptions of mountain, moor, heath and down are:

## Mountain

Mountain is all land over 600 metres above sea level and other upland areas below 600 metres comprising rugged and steep land, crag, scree, fell, or other bare rock and associated rough vegetation. It includes semi-natural upland vegetation and may include areas of bracken, scattered trees, open water, rivers, streams, mires, bare peat, or a mosaic of these.

## Moor

Moor is land usually of an open character with semi-natural vegetation. Moor usually occurs in upland areas but may also be found in lowland areas. The typical vegetation types are mires (including blanket bog), heaths, rough unimproved acid grassland, and upland calcareous grassland. It may include areas of unimproved bent-fescue grassland, scattered trees, scrub, bracken, open water, rivers, streams, bare peat, rock outcrops or other bare ground, or a mosaic of these. (Reference to 'heaths' in this description describes heath vegetation types and not the land type described below.)

## Heath

Heath is land of a generally open nature usually characterised by natural ericaceous dwarf shrubs or gorse. Heath usually occurs in lowland areas on nutrient poor soils. Typical vegetation types are heathers, gorses, bilberry, mires, scrub, unimproved grassland, or bracken. It may include areas of scattered or dense naturally regenerating trees, open water, rivers, streams, carr, sand, other bare ground, or a mosaic of these.

## Down

Down is land comprising of semi-natural grassland in areas of chalk or limestone geology generally within an open landscape. The typical vegetation type is unimproved grassland, often with scattered scrub. It may include areas of scattered trees, dwarf shrubs, streams, springs, or a mosaic of these.

Mountain, moor, heath and down does not include land that is coastal cliff or improved or semi-improved grassland. Land over 600 metres is not mountain if it is improved or semi-improved grassland.

We may use a physical feature on the ground as the boundary, even if that means we leave out some mountain, moor, heath or down, or bring in other types of land.

The Act allows us to leave out areas that are too small to be useful. The Act says "areas of open country which are so small that CCW considers their inclusion would serve no useful purpose". We do not normally include areas smaller than 5 hectares if we cannot identify some useful purpose. A useful purpose for small areas may be anything that improves access or enjoyment of the countryside and may include one or more of the following:

- It gives access to another area of open country or registered common land, that would otherwise have no, or poor, access.
- It gives a useful link between Public Rights of Way and other places where the public have a right to go on foot.
- It is an area of open country on a Public Right of Way that otherwise crosses areas that

are not open country or registered common land.

- It is close to a settlement.
- It fills in a gap between the edge of a registered common and the nearest physical feature, so providing a clear boundary to land shown on a map.
- It combines with a small area of registered common land to give a larger area for access.
- It is in an area with little other open country or registered common land, thus increasing its local significance as a potential resource for access.

Our maps show an area of land as open country or registered common, but not both. So, areas of registered common land cannot also be open country.

### What will the draft maps look like?

We are using a computer based Geographical Information System (GIS) to make the maps. We are digitising the boundaries of open country and registered common land over the Ordnance Survey's most detailed digital map; a product called Master Map. We will publish maps on our web site on a scale of at least 1:25,000. Individual paper extracts are available on request, but these will only show a small area so it is recommended that you look at the maps on CCW's website.

## COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT MAPS

### When can people give views on the draft maps?

CCW will be issuing draft maps for the whole of Wales on 16/07/2012. You will have until 23/11/2012 to tell us if you think we have got any part of it wrong.

### Who can give views on a draft map?

Anyone can give us views on a draft map.

### How will people know we have issued a draft map?

We will tell people we have issued a draft map by:

- Advertising in a daily newspaper that circulates in the area of the map and other newspapers that we consider appropriate.
- Advertising in farming publications.
- Putting information and the draft map on our web site.
- Contact our statutory consultees. These are the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, British Mountaineering Council, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Country Land and Business Association, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Farmers' Union of Wales, Forestry Commission, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Local Access Forums whose area of responsibility covers land included in a draft map, The Ministry of Defence, National Farmers' Union Wales, National Park authorities in Wales, National Trust Wales, Natural England (where land included in a draft map has a border with England), Open Spaces Society, Ramblers' Association, town and community councils in Wales whose area of responsibility covers land included in a draft map, Unitary Authorities in Wales whose area of responsibility covers land included in a draft map.
- Informing the press and media to generate articles in a wide range of newspapers, publications, radio and TV.

We will also use a range of other methods, tailored for each area. We aim to alert people before we issue the maps.

### How do people get to see a draft map?

The notices advertising the draft map will tell people how to see a copy of the map. You will be able to see maps in the following ways:

- CCW's web site. If you do not have internet access, you can get web access at all public libraries. Maps can also be viewed online in unitary authority offices.
- We will put relevant hard copies of the draft map on deposit in all CCW offices, the National Park Authorities and with the Local Access Forums.
- People with a legal interest in land shown as open country or registered common land may request an extract of the map from us, free of charge. A legal interest means landowners, tenants, commoners and others with legal agreements or rights to occupy the land.
- You can already visit the common land registers to compare our copies of the common land boundary with the original registers. Please contact your unitary

authority to do this. You are welcome to give us informal comments about these any time before we issue the draft maps.

- CCW will also provide printed maps on request or on CD.

### How do people make comments?

You should send your comments in writing to the address that we publicise when the map is issued. Your representation should include:

- Your name, address and postcode.
- Enough information for us to understand which area of land you are referring to and the changes you want made to the draft map.
- The nature of any interest you may have in the land you are referring to. For example, if you are the owner, tenant, grazier or hold shooting rights.

The best way to provide this information is by using the form that is available on our website and marking the boundaries clearly on a map. You will be able to print a map from our website and you can mark the boundaries on that.

It is important that you include all of this information in as much detail as necessary. We will receive comments from many people, so it will help if you can give us your full name. If you miss out any of the information listed in the points above, we may ask you to send it before we can consider your comments. We can ask you to send a map if we cannot understand clearly which land you want added or removed from the draft map. Even if you choose to write a letter as well, we would be most grateful if you also complete a form for each area you want added or removed. This will help us record your comments accurately. As well as via our website, forms are also available from CCW offices and from places where maps are on deposit.

### What can CCW change in response to comments?

People may make any representation to have land added to, or removed from, the draft map before it is issued as a provisional map. We can change the draft map if a representation shows we have made a mistake or have not applied policies correctly and in accordance with the Act. You may comment about any aspect of the maps, but the things we especially want to hear about are:

- Mistakes in copying boundaries from the common land registers.
- Mistakes in identifying mountain, moor, heath and down.
- Where we may have included other types of land in open country without good reason, such as improved grassland.
- Reasons why we should add or remove open country so a boundary can follow a more appropriate physical feature.
- Evidence about whether or not a small area serves no useful purpose.

## What happens next?

We will acknowledge all written comments that we receive.

We will wait until we have all the comments for the draft map before considering how we may need to change it before publishing it as a provisional map. We will record the reasons behind our decisions. The appeals stage will require us to share those reasons with people involved in the appeal.

## How long do the maps last?

The maps will last for up to 10 years after we issue them in conclusive form. Before 10 years is up, we must review and amend them, to take account of changes to the land, new common land and any common land taken off the registers for the few specific reasons explained in this booklet. This is the first review. Subsequent reviews will follow a similar process, with draft maps, a public consultation, provisional maps, appeals and new conclusive maps.

## CONTACTING US

If you can, please visit our web site for up to date information [www.ccw.gov.uk](http://www.ccw.gov.uk)

You can also write to, e-mail or telephone the contact for your area to get more information. If you need clarification about this process, please contact the relevant office for your area or, if you deal with us already, you may prefer to ask your regular contact in CCW.

Local contacts and areas covered

### Headquarters

Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW

Tel: 0845 130 6229, E-mail: [openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk)

### North Wales Regional Office

**Bangor** CCW, Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 4BN

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Areas covered: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Snowdonia National Park

**Mold** CCW, Glan y Nant, Unit 19, Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1XP

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Areas covered: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Snowdonia National Park

### South and East Wales Regional Offices

**Abergavenny** CCW, Cantref Court, Brecon Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 7AX

Tel: 01873 737 000, E-mail: [openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk)

Areas covered: Blaenau Gwent, Brecon Beacons National Park, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan.

**Cardiff** CCW, Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, Fortran Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0EY

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**Newtown** CCW, Ladywell House, Park Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1RD

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## West Wales Regional Office

**Aberystwyth** CCW, Welsh Government Building, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Abersystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR

Tel: 01970 631 160, E-mail: [openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk)

Areas covered: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Pembrokeshire National Park, Swansea

**Llandarcy** CCW, Maes Newydd, Britannic Way West, Llandarcy, Neath Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ

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Areas covered: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Pembrokeshire National Park, Swansea

This booklet is only a guide and should not be taken as a definitive statement of the law. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Countryside Access (Draft Map) (Wales) Regulations 2001 can both be read at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)



## MAP AREAS

A The Berwyn, Llantysilio & Ruabon Mountains

B Pembrokeshire

C Eastern South Wales Valleys

D Eastern Brecon Beacons National Park

E Meirionnydd

F North East Wales

G North Snowdonia

H Ceredigion

I Western Valleys & Swansea

J Central and Western Brecon Beacons National Park and South Brecknockshire

KL Montgomeryshire (except Berwyn), Radnorshire and Northern Brecknockshire

M Carmarthenshire

N Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Newport and Monmouthshire

O Pen Llŷn & Ynys Môn

## Types of land with existing public access where access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 does not replace the existing laws

Registered commons that fell at least partly in one of the old Urban or Metropolitan District Councils have rights of access under Law of Property Act 1925.

Registered commons dedicated for public access under the same Act. These include Crown commons and commons owned by the National Trust.

Registered commons with schemes under the 1899 Commons Act that include public access.

Areas, such as the Elan Valley reservoirs, where public access was granted by a local or private act.

Land with an access agreement or access order under Part V of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Monuments under public control and which the public have access to under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

## Land where the rights of access allowed under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 do not apply.

People will not be allowed on areas mapped as open country or registered common land while they fall in to one of the categories listed below.

- Land covered by buildings or the curtilage of such land.
- Land within 20 metres of a dwelling.
- Land used as a park or garden.
- Land used for the getting of minerals by surface working (including quarrying).
- Land used for the purposes of a railway (including a light railway) or tramway.
- Land used for the purposes of a golf course, racecourse or aerodrome.
- Land which does not fall within any of the preceding categories and is covered by works used for the purposes of a statutory undertaking or a telecommunications code system, or the curtilage of any such land.
- Land as respects which development which will result in the land becoming land falling within any of the above is in the course of being carried out.
- Land within 20 metres of a building which is used for housing livestock, not being a temporary or moveable structure.
- Land covered by pens in use for the temporary reception or detention of livestock.
- Land habitually used for the training of racehorses.
- Land for the use for which is regulated by byelaws under section 14 of the Military Lands Act 1892 or section 2 of the Military Lands Act 1900.
- Land on which the soil is being, or has at any time within the previous twelve months been, disturbed by any ploughing or drilling undertaken for the purpose of planting or sowing crops or trees.