

For further information concerning our research and consultancy projects, or professional development services, please contact

Dr Ian Rotherham or  
Lynn Crowe  
Faculty of Organisation and Management  
Sheffield Hallam University  
City Campus  
Sheffield  
S1 1WB  
United Kingdom

Telephone +44 (0)114 225 2882  
E-mail [i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk](mailto:i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk) or  
[l.crowe@shu.ac.uk](mailto:l.crowe@shu.ac.uk)

# TOURISM, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE RESEARCH UNIT



This information can be made available in other formats.  
Please contact us for further details.

# Tourism, Leisure and Environmental Change Research Unit

The Tourism, Leisure and Environmental Change Research Unit focuses on the development and evaluation of tourism and leisure in relation to urban greenspace and rural regeneration, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage. Tourism and leisure play a significant role in shaping and using the natural environment, as well as contributing to sustainable development and enhancing the quality of people's lives.

We undertake research and consultancy projects to assess and evaluate the economic, environmental and social impacts of nature and heritage-based tourism, and countryside recreation. We seek to promote an integrated approach to rural and urban regeneration based on the broad themes of nature and heritage conservation, regional distinctiveness, and sustainable development. This has led to links with other research areas, such as social inclusion, environmental education, food and farm-based tourism, leisure and cultural events, and nature therapy where we work closely with colleagues throughout the Faculty of Organisation and Management.

Our industry partners include Government agencies in the UK and throughout Europe, local authorities and regional agencies, and a wide range of voluntary groups. We work alongside these partners to evaluate policies and plans; undertake environmental impact assessments and market research to support new programmes and initiatives; and provide management plans and feasibility studies.

The research unit consists of academic staff, technical support staff, and research associates. Our academic expertise and industry experience is wide ranging. Including ecologists, landscape and countryside recreation managers, we also have expertise in environmental education, outdoor activity management, environmental economics, leisure events management, and organisational change and professional development. We also work closely with other research centres within the University, such as the Centre for Tourism and

Cultural Change, and the Leisure Industries Research Centre.

Members of the research unit teach at undergraduate and postgraduate level on a range of courses designed to meet the needs of this industry sector. In response to training needs identified by our professional contacts, we are also developing short courses and seminars for staff within the sector.

## Previous research and consultancy projects

- An evaluation of the Humberhead Levels as a regional recreational resource
  - Countryside Agency
- The management and promotion of outdoor recreation in English National Parks
  - Countryside Agency
- An evaluation of nature-based tourism and economic development in Poland and Ukraine/Lithuania
  - TACIS - European Union Cross-border research programme
- A review of the economic value of outdoor leisure
  - Central Council for Physical Recreation
- Good practice in the promotion of outdoor sports in Yorkshire and Humberside
  - Yorkshire Regional Sports Board
- An assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of Carsington Reservoir
  - Severn Trent Water Authority
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans - demonstration projects
  - Hampshire County Council and Devon County Council
- Monitoring the impact of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
  - Scottish Natural Heritage
- Assessment of the socio-economic impacts of HLF grants for the Old Moor Nature Reserve, Barnsley
  - Heritage Lottery Fund

## Countryside Recreation Network

The Tourism, Leisure and Environmental Change Research Unit manages the Countryside Recreation Network (CRN) - a network of 26 Government departments, agencies and other national organisations, with an interest in countryside recreation in the UK and Ireland.

The aims of the CRN are to encourage research and disseminate good practice throughout the countryside recreation profession. This is achieved through the production of a quarterly professional journal Countryside Recreation (mailed to 3000 professionals working in the sector), workshops, seminars and conferences (all with published proceedings), and the management of the CRN website - [www.countrysiderecreation.org.uk](http://www.countrysiderecreation.org.uk).

Recent workshops include Visitor payback schemes; Opening up access in and around towns; Funding for Social Projects; Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans; A Country Parks Renaissance; and Accessible Greenspace.

We also recently published A Countryside for Health and Wellbeing, the results of a major piece of research commissioned by the CRN in 2004 and launched at a major conference in London in February 2005.

## Countryside For All Forum

The Tourism, Leisure and Environmental Change Research Unit also acts as secretariat for the Countryside For All Forum. This network of Government agencies and disabled groups seeks to enhance access to the countryside for all sections of society, with a particular emphasis on removing barriers which prevent disabled people from enjoying the countryside.

## Professional links

As a research unit, we believe it is essential to work closely with our relevant professional bodies to disseminate research findings and promote good practice. We do not work in academic isolation. We are actively involved with professional bodies and other agencies including

- the Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers
- the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
- the Landscape Institute
- the Institute of Outdoor Learning,
- the Countryside Management Association, and
- the Institute of Professional Development

In a professional context, members of the unit are active regionally and nationally, as Government appointees or members of committees on organisations such as

- the Council of English Nature
- the South Yorkshire Biodiversity Group
- the South Yorkshire Landscape Forum
- the Peak District National Park Authority
- various Wildlife Trusts
- Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, Sheffield.

## Research links

The unit has research links across the UK and internationally. We regularly take part in conferences and training seminars in Britain and abroad (Malaysia, Italy, Norway, Singapore and Holland for example), as well as undertaking research and consultancy work in countries such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Ukraine.

We have collaborative links and exchanges with the Universities of Istanbul, British Columbia, Florence, and Palacky University in the Czech Republic. Current and past PhD students have come from countries such as India and Libya.

