
P, T & W ref:

Project Title

1

**BLACK PEOPLE IN A WHITE LANDSCAPE:
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Comments

In 1987 - 1988 European Year of the Environment (EYE) the UK EYE Committee awarded £5,000 to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations for an Ethnic Minorities Award Scheme for environmental projects (EMAS). Vastly over-subscribed. Project for which funding was granted fell under 3 categories: trips to the countryside, general greening, and the 'creation of cultural ecological gardens'.

1988 conference organised by Friends of the Earth and the London Wildlife Trust 'Ethnic minorities and the environment' saw the birth of BEN.

ISSN

0263 7960

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: Project Title

2 ETHNICITY AND THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Description The countryside is popularly perceived as a 'white landscape', predominantly inhabited by white people (Agyeman, 1989a). Thus in the language of 'white' England, ethnicity is rarely an issue associated with the countryside (Derbyshire, 1994; Jay, 1992; Bonnett, 1993). The rural experience of ethnic minorities has been neglected within geography. In this paper Agyeman and Spooner seek to illustrate that racist attitudes do exist in and about the countryside and that these affect the lives of people of colour, both as residents and as (potential) recreational visitors.

The paper is structured around three themes:

- The connections between rurality and ethnicity.
- The ways in which these affect the lives and experiences of people of colour who live in rural areas.
- The issue of recreational access to the countryside, suggesting reasons for low levels of participation among people of colour (including BEN).

Methodology Literature review.

Results N/A

Published Cloke, P. and Little, J. (eds) *Contested Countryside Cultures: Otherness, Marginalisation and Rurality*: 197 - 217.

Author Agyeman, J. and Spooner, R.

Date 1997

Publisher Routledge, London.

Price c. £17.99 (Amazon)

Keywords Ethnicity, rural, exclusion.

Comments The authors emphasise their 'situatedness' (Haraway, 1991). Julian Agyeman was the founder and, until 1994, Chair of BEN. He resigned when the political project of BEN began to drift away from his personal vision.

The authors suggest that ethnicity main remain largely unproblematised within notions of rurality due to the invisibility of whiteness as an ethnic signifier. In contrast the ethnic Other has been constantly redefined and renamed, reinforcing its difference and marginality from a white 'norm'.

Comments

Ethnic identities and fears are closely linked to place. Geographers have shown that space is often conflated with ideas of ethnicity and that the boundaries between ethnicities have come to offer conducive conditions for the construction of distorted cultural representations, e.g. inner city (Anderson, 1988; Sibley, 1995; Duncan and Ley, 1993). The authors discuss attachment to native species and the threat of 'alien' others.

In *Pastoral Interludes* Pollard confronts idealised representations of British rurality with the 'reality of Black experience'.

Historical connections between ethnicity and rurality

There are long-established links between ideas of rurality, ethnicity and ethnic purity. The countryside, at the core of Britain's national identity, was regarded as the ideal location in which to breed a healthy and moral 'race', and country people became the 'essence of England' (Howkins, 1986; Taylor, 1991). The purity of rural areas was juxtaposed with the pollution of urban industry and commerce, and cities were aligned with racial degeneration. The authors discuss the use of the rural idyll by the extreme right yet this also works on a more popular level.

A sense of ownership and belonging to the countryside, and the nation itself, is often constructed through an appeal to heritage (Kinsman, 1993, Agyeman, 1993). The discriminatory nature of some versions of history are being challenged by an increasing number of histories of Britain which are reclaiming the marginalised contribution of Other groups to the British past (cf. File and Power, 1981; Fryer, 1984). History should be viewed as a process, a constant blending and redefinition of cultural practices (Hall, 1990; Gilroy, 1993).

Rural living

The overwhelming conclusion of numerous early reports was that an extensive amount of racial violence, harassment, condescension and bigotry, provoked by a mixture of ignorance, the uncritical acceptance of stereotypes and a resistance to the arrival of newcomers. Among service provider lip service was paid to equal opportunities, and there was much evidence of institutional racism.

National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) set up a Rural Anti-Racism Project.

Rural recreation

The majority of people of colour living in Britain live in urban areas. Their perceptions, experiences and thought about the British countryside are rarely addressed or considered (p. 204). Various explanations have been suggested as to why people of colour are infrequent visitors to the countryside. Here are four key factors put together by Agyeman:

Comments

1. In general, many ethnic cultures have a folklore or mythology that reveres and respects the countryside, but does not regard it as a leisure resource. In addition, the way in which British heritage is constructed as white and rural may evoke patriotic responses among white residents; it may also leave people of colour feeling that they do not share the same attachment to such symbolic icons.
2. 'Getting out' is often difficult and costly.
3. Free time for many people of colour is often devoted to 'intra-community' activities and activities such as further and higher education.
4. Racism is another reason why people of colour do not visit the countryside in numbers commensurate with their numbers in society generally (Taylor, 1993). The authors discuss the notions of 'native' and 'alien' plants and wildlife.

Black Environment Network (BEN)

BEN is at the forefront of promoting access, encouraging participation and challenging the racial exclusivity of environmental issues. Formed in September 1988.

The Countryside Commission's *Visitors to the Countryside* (1991) incorporated many of BEN's suggestions, especially those concerning the need for positive imagery and for targets for the employment of people of colour as rangers. Although they were later accused of 'racism via the back door'.

Many people think of BEN only as promoting access to the countryside among people of colour. This is due in large part to Coster (1991) and Deedes (1992). The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) initially saw BEN as an irrelevance, yet later they brought out reports on ethnicity and the countryside (Jay, 1992; Derbyshire, 1994). No approach to BEN was made in researching these projects. Taylor hints that BEN's projects have been assimilated by white individuals and organisations. During 1995 it had a white chair and only one black management committee member. To this extent, while it aims to reach people, communities and organisations of colour, it can no longer claim to represent their expressed interests in that their voices are no longer heard on the management committee.

The authors praise the pro-active stance of BTCV.

The authors conclude that studies of ethnicity in the countryside should turn towards constructions of whiteness, and how it is related to questions of power and exclusion as well as exposing its whitewashing as simplistic and false.

Comments

References:

- Agyeman, J. (1993) 'Alien species', *Museum Journal* December: 22 - 23.
- Agyeman, J. (1989a) 'Black people, white landscape', *Town and Country Planning* 58 (12): 336 -338.
- Anderson, K. (1988) 'Cultural hegemony and the race definition process', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 6: 127 - 149.
- Bonnett, A. (1993) 'Contours of crisis: anti-racism and reflexivity', in Jackson, P. and Penrose, J. (eds) *Constructions of 'Race', Place and Nation*. London, UCL Press.
- Coster, G. (1991) 'Another country', *The Guardian (Weekend)* June: 4 - 6.
- Deedes, F. (1992) 'Another country', *Daily Telegraph (Weekend)* April: p. 1.
- Derbyshire, H. (1994) *Not in Norfolk: Tackling the Invisibility of Racism*. Norwich, Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council.
- Duncan, J. and Ley, D. (1993) 'Introduction: representing the place of culture', in Duncan, J. and Ley, D. (eds) *Place, Culture, Representation*. London, Routledge.
- Haraway, D. (1991) *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. London, Free Association Books.
- Howkins, A. (1986) 'The discovery of rural England', in Colls, R. and Dodd, P. (eds) *Englishness, Politics and Culture 1880 - 1920*. London, Croom Helm.
- File, N. and Power, C. (1981) *Black Settlers in Britain, 1555 - 1958*. London, Heinemann Educational Books.
- Fryer, P. (1988) *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain*. London, Pluto Press.
- Gilroy, P. (1993) *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. London, Verso.
- Hall, C. (1990) 'Cultural identity and diaspora', in Rutherford, J. (ed) *Identity, Community, Culture, Difference*. London, Lawrence and Wishart.
- Jay, E. (1992) *Keep Them in Birmingham*. London, Commission for Racial Equality.
- Kinsman, P. (1993) 'Landscapes of national non-identity: the landscape photography of Ingrid Pollard', *Working Paper 17*. University of Nottingham, Department of Geography.
- Pollard, I. (1989) 'Pastoral interludes', *Third Text: Third World Perspectives on Contemporary Art and Culture* 7: 41 - 46.
- Sibley, D. (1995) *Geographies of Exclusion: Society and Difference in the West*. London, Routledge.
- Taylor, P. (1991) 'The English and their Englishness: a curiously mysterious, elusive and little understood people', *Scottish Geographical Magazine* 7 (3): 146 - 161.

P,T & W ref:

Project Title

2

ETHNICITY AND THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Comments

Other references:

Agyeman, J. (1995) 'Environment, heritage and multiculturalism',
*Interpretation: A Journal of Heritage and Environmental
Interpretation*: 5 - 6.

Agyeman, J., Warburton, D. and Ling Wong, J. (1991) *The Black
Environment Network Report: Working for Ethnic Minority
Participation in the Environment*. London, BEN.

Cohen, A. (ed) *Belonging: Identity and Social Organisation in British
Rural Cultures*. Manchester, Manchester University Press.

Malik, S. (1992) 'Colours of the countryside a whiter shade of pale', *Ecos*
13 (4): 33 - 40.

ISBN

0 415 14074 9 (hbk)

0 415 14075 7 (pbk)

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

3 SENSE AND ACCESSIBILITY: HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS ON COUNTRYSIDE PAHS, ROUTES AND TRAILS FO PEOPLE WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS CAX26

Description	The main objective of the project was to identify policy recommendations for improving access for people with mobility limitations on the National Trails in the South East of England.
Methodology	Focused on the Thames Path. Consultation with users and potential users, planners and managers via questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, workshops, information exchange meetings and a literature search. [See Appendix 1]
Results	<p><i>Summary of findings</i> [selected]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barriers to access come under several headings: information, physical, cultural, psychological, transportation and financial.• Information about the NTs did not provide enough detail to encourage or enable potential users.• The most 'limiting' physical barriers were constructed barriers such as stiles, etc.• A cultural shift is required amongst site providers and potential users.• Access by public transport is particularly difficult for those with mobility limitations.• There were no national 'information' guidelines for access for all.• There were few guidelines for 'improved access' in rural settings.• There was an absence of national design guidance to facilitate the use of motorised scooters in the countryside. <p><i>Priorities for action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The NTs would benefit from the adoption of a detailed Information System providing comprehensive physical information about routes.• Consultation is needed with users and potential users with disabilities, with land managers, planners, and access officers.• Recommended that the NTs be separated into Management Zones in order for them to plan accordingly for access opportunities, while balancing the requirements of users, the landscape and ecology.• Updated guidelines for countryside design of barriers and other countryside structures need to be developed.
Published	Report produced for The Countryside Agency.
Authors	Alison Chapman Consultancy
Date	May 2000
Publisher	The Countryside Agency
Price	

3

SENSE AND ACCESSIBILITY: HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS ON COUNTRYSIDE PAHS, ROUTES AND TRAILS FO PEOPLE WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS CAX26

Keywords

Access, disabilities, barriers.

Comments

The consultants begin with a short discussion of the DDA (1995) and the Countryside Rights of Way Bill (p. 3).

Information

Participants stressed that people should be given sufficient information to make their own decisions about accessibility of routes and facilities.

Recommendation = Guidelines should be set for a National Standard of provision of information.

Physical

People's needs differ however, physical barriers (steps, stiles, natural gradients, severe rutting, unstable surfaces) affect most disabled users. No individual felt that the NTs should have a formal surface designed for wheelchair use and many people expressed concern that natural characteristics might be removed. Infrequent access points can also be a barrier.

Recommendations = It is necessary in mot areas to provide parking and adapted toilets for disabled people, signpost for the nearest phone box were also highlighted as useful. There is also a need for universal design in terms of gates, etc. Current design guidance is not comprehensive enough to accommodate all vehicles suitable for countryside use. Information should be given about the presence and location of natural physical barriers.

[The zoning audit and criteria for the physical elements of the path are listed on pp. 10 - 11]

Cultural and psychological

A lack of confidence may prevent some individuals from even considering the countryside as an option for an outing. Those responsible for managing and maintaining trails may not even notice the absence of disabled users. Neither is it in the culture of land managers to provide very detailed information about sites or routes.

Recommendations = The most important element of provision is accurate, detailed and regularly up-dated information. Circular routes off trails were desirable as were activities such as theme days. Managers and volunteers should take part in 'Disability Awareness Training'. Guidance for the provision of suitable information is being provided by the CA.

3

SENSE AND ACCESSIBILITY: HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS ON COUNTRYSIDE PAHS, ROUTES AND TRAILS FO PEOPLE WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS CAX26

Comments

Transportation

Concerns included the lack of transport; lack of confidence in reliability of public transport; lack of knowledge of accessibility; lack of confidence in car parking facilities; lack of confidence in rail travel; and, inconsistencies in Dial 'a' Ride schemes.

Recommendations = There must be dialogue between users and transport providers. There are opportunities for support for public transport projects through the CAs Rural Transport Partnership (RTP) and Rural Transport Development Fund (RTPF).

Financial

Finance underpins all the above barriers.

Recommendations = Schemes which loan scooters to people for use in rural areas ameliorate the inability to afford motorised scooters.

Policy Recommendations

1. Access for All information Standards should be developed and an Information Project piloted.
2. Interpretation should be accessible to all.
3. Appropriate access information should be incorporated onto websites.
4. Information should be available in multiple formats.
5. Policy recommendations should be incorporated into management strategy.
6. Have different levels of formalisation at different sites.
7. Risk assessment should account for specific risks for disabled.
8. Access audits should become part of general management.
9. Vegetation clearance should accommodate a clear walking tunnel.
10. Where possible surfaces should a level cross-slope, be free from ruts and holes, and be firmly packed.
11. Improvements, furniture and signing should be accessible for all.
12. Constructed physical barriers should be eliminated where possible, tiles replaced by accessible gates and steps removed.
13. Future bridge design and restoration should take into account Access for All.
14. Circular routes should be developed where possible.
15. Involve participants of S&A project in upcoming improvements.
16. Accessible events should be included in events timetables.
17. All management staff and volunteers should have disability awareness training.
18. Facilities for people with disabilities should be available.
19. Partnerships with transport provider should be encouraged.

3

**SENSE AND ACCESSIBILITY: HOW TO
IMPROVE ACCESS ON COUNTRYSIDE PAHS,
ROUTES AND TRAILS FO PEOPLE WITH
MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS CAX26**

Comments

20. Disabled people should be represented on forums.
21. National guidance on the management of trails should be redeveloped.
22. All new rights of way developments should take into account improving access from the outset.
23. *Informal Countryside Recreation for Disabled People* should be updated accounting for the use of Class 2 and 3 vehicles.
24. Consideration should be given to enhancing the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines.

[The document gives information on improving information and design.]

Appendix 2 gives a comprehensive list of barriers.

[The document also provides a list of potential funders]

References:

- Blamey, E. (ed.) (1998) *Making Access For All a Reality*. Countryside Recreation Network.
- Campbell, R. (d.n.a.) *The Breakfree Design Brief*. The Sensory Trust.
- Chapman, A. (1999) *Access for All on the Thames Path*.
- Countryside Commission (1998) *Barriers to Enjoying the Countryside* CCRN11.
- Countryside Commission (1999) *Countryside Recreation: Enjoying the Living Countryside* CCP544.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

4 CITIZENSHIP, HOUSING AND MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS: AN APPROACH TO MULTICULTURALISM

Description	The paper discusses the prospects and problems of an agenda for multicultural citizenship in relation to an empirical study of the housing issues facing the British Pakistani population. The paper illustrates the need for debates about multiculturalism to be informed by a broader sociological understanding of the processes of differentiation. The authors argue that to date discourses of citizenship and housing for ethnic minority groups have rarely gone beyond a particularist focus and have maintained a fairly narrow emphasis on issues of racism, culture and specialist policy responses.
Methodology	Literature review and housing history interviews (incl. snowballing) with 183 respondents in Bradford, Glasgow and Luton.
Results	The authors conclude that, whilst there may be a role for multiculturalism in an inclusive society, there is a risk that the recognition of differences may reify them. The potential for multicultural citizenship alone to promote social inclusion is limited because of the intimate links between citizenship and wider patterns of differentiation, notably class and gender.
Published	Housing, Theory and Society 17 (2): 83 – 95.
Authors	Bowes, A., Dar, N. and Sim, D.
Date	2000
Publisher	Taylor and Francis, Basingstoke.
Price	Subscription c. US\$ 173 per volume.
Keywords	Multicultural, citizenship, housing, Pakistanis.
Comments	The authors state that recent discussion of multicultural citizenship has failed to develop a sociological perspective, grounded in empirical research. They argue that the prevailing notion of multicultural citizenship has the potential to be inclusionary, but may also serve to artificially fix cultural boundaries, over-emphasise cultural issues at the expense of other axes of differentiation, underestimate active citizenship, and promote particularist, potentially separatist, policy responses. Certain categories of people are denied access to civil, political and social rights, and cannot participate in the wider society as full citizens. For example, Scott (1994) links social deprivation with exclusion; Lister (1997) examines women's exclusion; and Richardson (1998) looks at heterosexuality and exclusion.

CITIZENSHIP, HOUSING AND MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS: AN APPROACH TO MULTICULTURALISM

Comments

Multiculturalism is often debated as a potential response to question of how to develop versions of citizenship which can incorporate diversity. Yet the following criticisms have been advanced:

1. Multiculturalism can be itself discriminatory by perpetuating rigid and artificial cultural boundaries between different groups in disregard for internal differentiation, and the fluidity and dynamic of cultural boundaries (Lister, 1997). In addition, multiculturalism can serve to reinforce already existing exclusions of minority ethnic groups (Vertovec, 1996) and can be seen simply as a 'token' recognition of cultural difference (Troyna, 1992; Bissoondath, 1994).
2. Many discussions of citizenship in multicultural societies have conceptualised citizenship as a top-down process, thus ignoring active citizenship, the grass-roots activity.

The paper claims that the promotion of multicultural citizenship currently does little to advance thinking about the social inclusion of minority ethnic groups in Britain. Yet, Bowes *et al* do not wish to dismiss multiculturalism as a whole, rather they hope to contribute to Modood and Berthoud (1997) and Modood's (1998) call for new ideals of multicultural citizenship, grounded in empirical research. They further argue that, although the article focused on gender issues, wider societal processes of exclusion were central to their critique of multiculturalism and therefore the research could be generalised to other cases.

With regards to appropriate policy, the authors suggest that future solutions will need to be adaptive, flexible and responsive, not simply to cultural differentiation, but also to other forms of differentiation, which give rise to varied wants and needs.

References:

- Bissoondath, N. (1994) *Selling Illusions: The Culture of Racism in Canada*. Toronto, Penguin Books, Canada.
- Lister, R. (1997) *Citizenship: Feminist Perspectives*. Basingstoke, MacMillan.
- Modood, T. (1998) 'Anti-essentialism, multiculturalism and the 'recognition' of religious groups', *Journal of Political Philosophy* 6: 378 – 399.
- Modood, T. and Berthoud, R. (1997) *Ethnic Minorities in Britain: Diversity and Disadvantage*. London, Policy Studies Institute.
- Richardson, D. (1998) 'Sexuality and citizenship', *Sociology* 32: 83 – 100.
- Scott, J. (1994) *Poverty and Wealth: Citizenship, Deprivation and Privilege*. London, Longman.
- Troyna, B. (1992) 'Can you see the join? An historical analysis of multicultural and anti-racist education policies', in Gill, D., Mayor, B. and Blair, M. (eds) *Racism and Education: Structures and Strategies*. London, Sage.

<i>P, T & W ref:</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
4	CITIZENSHIP, HOUSING AND MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS: AN APPROACH TO MULTICULTURALISM

Comments	References: Vertovec, S. (1996) 'Multiculturalism, culturalism and public incorporation', <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 19: 49 – 69.
ISSN	1403 6096
ECA/HW OPENspace	July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

6 **WATERWAYS FOR PEOPLE**

Description	This brochure describes a cross-section of British Waterways' (BW) activities to promote social inclusion. By providing examples of projects already underway the brochure hopes to stimulate ideas and develop new local partnerships.
Methodology	Case Studies.
Results	N/A
Published	N/A
Authors	British Waterways
Date	2002
Publisher	British Waterways
Price	Unknown.
Keywords	Waterways, inclusion, projects.
Comments	<p>BW is responsible for the 2,000-mile canal and river network in England, Wales and Scotland. Ten million people visit the inland waterways every year, and half of the population of the UK lives within five miles of an inland waterway (p. 1).</p> <p>BW outlines 2 aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To ensure that everyone has the chance to enjoy waterways that are attractive, safe and accessible.2. For waterways to be used as an asset and a resource by groups and organisations working to overcome the different barriers that lead to social exclusion. <p>In particular BW wishes to attract 'greater participation and involvement [...] by people who may feel excluded from them - people on low incomes, people with disabilities, older people and minority ethnic communities' (p. 2).</p> <p>Problem confronting BW include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poorly maintained and unattractive waterways.• Problems of access.• Fear of crime and personal safety.• Lack of appropriate activities to attract excluded groups. <p>The BW is working in partnership with the Fieldfare Trust on the 'Waterways Access for All' programme: review of policy and procedures, implementing awareness training for staff, undertaking disability access audits and pilot projects to demonstrate good practice.</p>

Comments

'A local attraction'

1. *Taranchewer, London*: regular graffiti removal and litter-busting boat (BW, Thames 21 Partnerships + London's Waterway Partnership).
2. *Ellesmere Port, Cheshire*: attractive and accessible towpaths (BW, Environment Agency, Mersey Basin Campaign, EP & Neston BC, Cheshire CC, Shropshire Union Canal Soc, CC, Epicentre P/ship, Cabot Carbon Ltd, Cleanaway Ltd, Assoc Octel Ltd, UK Waste, Euro Reg Dev Funds + Mersey Forest).
3. *The 'Calder Future', Yorkshire*: partnership of local businesses, community and environmental groups and the local authority (BW + Calder Future).

'Securing a future'

1. *'Eyes and ears' of the London canals*: new project to set up a series of fully trained volunteer neighbourhood wardens (BWL, Thames 21, LWP, Met Police, DEFRA + Camden Street Management Team).
2. *Wester Hailes, Edinburgh*: CCTV coverage along the Union Canal; timber sculptures (Scot Exec WH P/ship, WH Land & Property Trust, C of Ed C, Lothian Health, Scottish Homes Prospect Community Housing Assoc, WH for Arts and Leisure + Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust).
3. *Lighting up the jewellery quarter, Birmingham*: laser-cut images and lighting by a local artist has led to a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour (BWF, Birm City C, G/work B, Railtrack, Advantage West Midlands, WM Police, local business + public interest groups).

'Access for all'

1. *Swinton, South Yorkshire*: Swinton Lock Adventure Centre, boat trips for people with special needs (Goole Council, ER Council, K upon H CC, Rotherham C, Nat Lottery Charities Board, Euro Social Fund, ER Health Authority, Single Regeneration Budget, Yorkshire Museums Council, HLF, Yorkshire Forward, HTEC, Goole Dev Trust, Partners in Regeneration, Neighbourhood support fund + Coalfields Regeneration Trust).
2. *Ratho, Edinburgh*: easily accessible towpaths and a car park, specially designed picnic areas, new resting places, and a sensory hedge (Ed Greenbelt Trust, ECAS, Ratho Env Group + Steering Group).
3. *Gnosall Healthy Trail, Staffordshire*: encourages walking along the Shropshire Union Canal for people of all abilities and ages; graded according to effort (The Heron Trail org, Staffs CC & Staffs BC, Gosnall Parish Council, The Probation Service).
4. *Website*: www.britishwaterways.co.uk for visually impaired users (Plan 9).

Comments

'Winning wider use'

1. *Laburnum Boat Club, London*: canoeing and sailing for children and young people; watersports training for unemployed people (LWP, Shoreditch New Deal Trust, West Reservoir Project, Pirate Club, LB of Hackney and Cripplegate Trust).
2. *Tividale, Midlands*: National Hindu Temple is under construction on a canal site; project to tap into canal memories of local people (The Temple Trust, Sandwell Health Auth, S Met BC, G/work Black Country, BTCV + The Wildlife Trust).
3. *Young Boaters Club*: various activities and meetings (The YBC, BW, Netscheme + GradU-8).
4. *Outreach work in Warwickshire, Worcestershire and part of Birmingham*: educational events and talks (Allenscroft Initiative, G/work B + Tidy Britain/ENCAMS).
5. *Newark Water Festival*: draws on inspirations of local people (N and Sherwood DC).

'A partnership resource'

1. *Beauchamp Lodge, London*: training for people with learning difficulties; community café; floating classroom (BL Settlement, LWP, The Waterways Trust, Paddington Basin, Dev Ltd, New Life of Paddington, Cleanaway Ltd, Timeplan Educational Group Plc).
2. *Probation deal*: canal clean-ups and graffiti clearance (Various).
3. *Dragonfly, Midlands, South West and South Wales*: educational project (Tarmac).
4. *Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal New Deal, Wales*: towpath improvements and lock gate construction (Newport CBC, Monmouthshire CC, Torfaen CBC, Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canal Trust, Hemmings Waste - Bristol, Corus - British Steel).

'Involvement in change'

1. *Eye on the Aire, East Yorkshire*: over 40 affiliates from environmental groups and businesses (Eye on the Aire).
2. *Festival Waters, Stoke on Trent*: involving local people in the planning process (Middleport Dev Group, G/work).
3. *Osterley Lock, London*: artwork from school incorporated into the lock landscape (G/work, LWP + Elthorne Park High School).

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENSspace

July 2003

7

GROWING IN CONFIDENCE: UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN FRINGE WOODLANDS

Description

The Community Forest programme aims to increase recreation opportunities for people who already use woods and to encourage a wider range of visitors. This research was commissioned to examine the reasons why many people are discouraged from visiting urban fringe woodlands. This project aimed to:

- Find out if different social and cultural groups felt there were any risks in visiting urban fringe woodland.
- Discover the extent to which fear might inhibit people's use of woods.
- Recommend ways to reduce these feelings and increase the use of woodland.

Methodology

97 people divided into 13 single gender groups from different cultures and age ranges went on guided walks through urban fringe woodland and then spent an hour and a half discussing their problems.

The research took people 'into' the woodland on the premise that 'judging and responding to landscape photographs is not the same as actually being there' (p. 12).

Results

In general, the research showed that, most participants found pleasure in visiting urban fringe woodlands, however, anxiety can affect people's use of woodland. Enclosure is often a key to the level and intensity of any fears. Yet enclosure is also a reason why people appreciate woodlands on the urban fringe.

A number of specific points arose during the research:

- All the women feared being in woodland alone. Women from ethnic communities needed to be in large parties before they felt safe.
- Overriding the women's desires to explore and experience 'wildness' was the feeling that they needed to protect themselves and their children from risk of attack.
- Men were slightly concerned about being mugged but more anxious about getting lost and accidentally trespassing.
- The men were acutely anxious about the perceived threat to their wives, daughters and young children of sexually motivated crimes.
- The men and teenage boys recognised that a woman on her own could see them as threatening; this affected their behaviour.

Fears were reinforced by media coverage – violent crime is rare but isolated events receive a lot of coverage.

Offering visitors an informed choice underlies all steps towards making woodlands feel more welcoming to more people.

7

GROWING IN CONFIDENCE: UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN FRINGE WOODLANDS

Published

N/A

Author

Burgess, J.

Date

1995

Publisher

Countryside Commission.

Price

£5

Keywords

Urban fringe woodland, perceptions.

Comments

In urban areas careful design can help reduce crime and fear of crime, yet relative darkness, reduced sightlines and large clumps of vegetation are intrinsic qualities of woodland. Suggested steps towards resolving this include the provision of 'safe' routes and open spaces, increasing sightlines, giving thought to appropriate lighting, improved signs and information, and improving the appearance of a wood.

The report includes an assessment of crime and the fear of crime in public spaces (pp. 10 – 11).

The report also suggests ways of building confidence in woods:

1. Consultation

2. Design and Management

Signs and other information. This gives people more control without reducing natural qualities too much. However, they are not useful if they are unclear and in English only. Maps should also show the wood in relation to its surrounding area.

Sense of ownership and indications of good maintenance.

Burgess provides a list of negative and positive perceptions of woodland features.

3. People need people

i.e. rangers and the presence of a good mix of people. Children's activities, lunchtime events, conservation groups, nightlife walks, and afternoon teas, 'Friends' groups, voluntary wardening.

4. Action for disadvantaged groups

Children. Activities to gain independence and confidence, e.g. tree-planting, den building, stream damming. In particular for girls aged 9 – 14.

Women. Group activities, women with grown up children, mother and daughter events, horse-riding.

Ethnic groups. Culturally appropriate events, tree dressing days.

5. Media strategy

6. Creating a choice

Open wood

Middle wood

Wild wood

P,T & W ref:

Project Title

7

GROWING IN CONFIDENCE: UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN FRINGE WOODLANDS

Comments

Key references:

Burgess, J. and Harrison, C. M. and Limb, M. (1988) 'People, parks and ...the urban green: a study of popular meanings and values for open ...spaces in the city', *Urban Studies* 25.

Harrison, C. M., Limb, M. and Burgess, J. (1986) 'Recreation 2000: ...views of the country from the city', *Landscape Research* 11 (2).

Matthews, H. W. (1992) *Making Sense of Place: Children's ...Understanding of Large Scale Environments*. Hemel Hemstead, ...Harvester – Wheatsheaf.

Valentine, G. (1989) 'The geography of women's fear', *Area* 21 (4).

ISBN

0 86170 429 0

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

8 'BUT IS IT WORTH TAKING THE RISK?' HOW WOMEN NEGOTIATE ACCESS TO URBAN WOODLAND: A CASE STUDY

Description In this article, Jaquelin Burgess explores the reasons why urban woodlands while highly valued and fiercely protected do not always offer a site for easy enjoyment and recreation. In particular, she looks at how fear of crime and feelings of unsafety inhibit the possibility of this pleasure, using Woods Project as a case study. The project explores experiences in a range of focus group discussions and produces recommendations which could allow a wider cross-section of the urban population to enjoy using woodland spaces.

Methodology This article is based on secondary data (e.g. British Crime Survey) and the author's work on popular meanings and values for urban parks and green spaces in Greenwich. Recognising the importance of locality and geographical context, two sites were chosen for the study: Bestwood country park in Nottingham and Bencroft-Wormley Woods just north of M25 near London. A total of thirteen woodland visits and group discussions were conducted, seven in Benroft and six in Bestwood. Then, she triangulated results between:

- four in depth discussion groups with people living in the localities chosen for their different quantities and qualities of green space
- a formal questionnaire survey of residents in the borough
- structured interviews with providers

to explore the extent to which locals' values and concerns resonated with their own understanding and priorities. The groups were chosen to represent a range of different social and cultural experiences, as well as different class and geographical backgrounds. In total, there were nine groups of women, differentiated by age and ethnicity, and four groups of men, differentiated by age. Using the author's words (p117):

«[t]he project entailed many hours of discussion with these different groups - users and non-users of woodlands; women and men; young people and those in later years; women of Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities as well as white women. Their voices and stories ground the account that follows.»

Results The Woods Project show that due to profound anxieties women and children feel and the level of social pressure they experience, the access to woodlands is constrained. However, because of these constraints, people develop a range of coping strategies to reduce their fear and potential risk to which they are exposed. Women's coping strategies, for instance, range from a voluntary self-exclusion and not visiting green space at all to taking a dog, children, a friend, male partner or son, so that one is not going alone. Underpinning the findings of Woods research is a sense that it is very difficult for women (and children) to trust other people who may be present in green spaces.

8 **‘BUT IS IT WORTH TAKING THE RISK?’ HOW
WOMEN NEGOTIATE ACCESS TO URBAN
WOODLAND: A CASE STUDY**

Published R. Ainley (ed.), *New Frontiers of Space, Bodies and Gender*, chapter 9:
115-128.

Authors Burgess, J.

Date 1998

Publisher Routledge Books

Price £15.99 (paperback)

Keywords Accessibility, urban green space and woodlands, risk perception, coping
strategies, flashing, verbal abuse, media and local understanding

Comments In the Woods Project, Burgess was involved in research on how people
responded to the physical qualities of a wooded landscape and so
ascertain why those qualities might give rise to feelings of anxiety. The
fundamental physical quality of woods and forests which distinguishes
them from all other landscape types is that of the enclosure (i.e. density
of tree growth, height of trees, thickness of the tree canopy). For the
participants of the Woods Project, woodland enclosure was experienced
as offering many different places where individuals who might constitute
a threat to personal safety could hide. Even if one of the recreational
strengths of woodlands is the capacity of the landscape to absorb large
numbers of users, people feel more isolated and alone due to its enclosed
landscape. In addition, the three features -listed below- which connote
the most fearful and most dangerous spaces of the built environment, are
intrinsic qualities of the physical character of woods and forests. When:

- Woods are darker than open settings and visibility is reduced;
- trees and bushes are all potential hiding places;
- narrow paths blocked by thick vegetation

can create the sense of entrapment.

Along with the feeling of enclosure and entrapment that these physical
qualities of woodlands cause to people, the existence of ‘environmental
incivilities’ (p121) can create a sense of unsafety and danger. In
particular, people feel under constant threat when they litter, graffiti,
burnt-out cars, drug needles, vandalised buildings in the woods. Instead,
they would prefer to see ‘natural’ untidiness like fallen logs, tree stumps
and brambles of woods which constitute part of the experience of being
in a forest or woodland.

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

8

**‘BUT IS IT WORTH TAKING THE RISK?’ HOW
WOMEN NEGOTIATE ACCESS TO URBAN
WOODLAND: A CASE STUDY**

Comments

According to Burgess, what is more significant, however, in understanding anxieties in woodlands is not the natural setting but social factors. She discusses three such themes emerged from the Woods Project: encounters with strangers, the significance of verbal abuse and flashing in risk perceptions in public open space, and the role of communication networks in disseminating and amplifying people’s anxieties about personal safety. For example, flashing appears to be a widespread and common experience in public space causing anxiety and disgust particularly to vulnerable groups as women and children. The real effect of flashing is the restriction of the freedom of women.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

9

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Comments

Leadership is essential:

Authorities are the *enablers* who help structure plans and give financial support.

The private sector are *partners* and *enablers*.

The voluntary sector are the *energisers* and *leaders* who put the plans into action and harness and focus the local energy.

People are the *resources*, *beneficiaries*, and *owners* who help design and carry out plans and benefit from the completed product.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Comments

60 per cent of people in England visit the countryside each year, at the same time 40 per cent do not, or cannot, visit the countryside even once a year (p. 1). In this survey non-users included low-income earners, young people, the elderly, ethnic minorities, those without access to a private car and the very affluent.

Barriers to the countryside include those which are practical, organisational and psychological. For example, some people are put off by childhood experience of boring walks, whilst other significant factors include a lack of information, maintenance or promotion.

The report makes the following recommendations:

- A change in attitude is required from those who set policy or provide sites.
- Attention should not just be concentrated on the typical countryside enthusiast but also on those who rarely or seldom visit but who might.
- The quality of provision needs to be improved for today's more demanding visitor.
- Better information needs to be provided about where people can go and what there is to see and do.
- Promotion of good practice amongst site managers to meet the needs of all potential user groups.
- Promotion of the countryside nationally as a place for all ages, groups, lifestyles and abilities.

The areas of the Commission's work most likely to break down barriers are 'Greenways', 'Quiet Roads' and 'Community Forests'.

Other references:

Burgess, J. (1995) *Growing in Confidence: Understanding People's Perceptions of Urban Fringe Woodlands*. CCP 457.

Countryside Commission (1996) *Public Attitudes to the Countryside*. CCP 481.

Countryside Commission (1995) *The Visitor Welcome Initiative*. CCP 476.

Milward, A. and Mostyn, B. (1997) *Barriers to Exploring the Countryside: A Qualitative and Quantitative Exploration*. The Countryside Commission.

ISBN

N/A

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

11

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY

Description

This paper is a summary of a research project undertaken at Sheffield Hallam University to investigate how children themselves feel about woods, and examine their experience of woodland in the nineties. It also attempts to establish if there is such a thing as an 'ideal wood' for children and how existing woodland might be better managed to approach this ideal.

Methodology

Based on a research project carried out by Sheffield Hallam University. The study involved 100 children, aged seven to ten years old, from four primary schools with Sheffield. Three techniques were used to explore their perceptions and use of local woodland:

- a questionnaire survey
- discussion groups
- creative artwork exercise.

The discussions were held with groups of between four and six children from each school. In the artwork exercise, the children were given an A3 sheet of white paper showing an outline of a wood with a path through it. They were asked to draw a map or picture of their ideal world; the teachers encouraged them to add things which might make the wood a place they would particularly like to visit and play in. Each drawing, then, was analysed to produce a list of the different components and these were aggregated - only first appearances were included in the aggregated list (e.g. trees, grass area, people, stream, pond).

Results

The results of this research as the authors claim, attempted to draw together the findings concerning children's feelings about woods, their current use of woodland, and their rich interpretations of their ideal type of wood. The research has emphasised the following points:

- children generally share a perception of woods as fun places to visit and play. Even if woods could be 'scary' they are good for people.
- children hardly ever visit woodlands on their own. However, the authors points out that it is difficult to assess from this research whether the use of woods by children is declining.
- as with other users, children's perception of woodlands is greatly affected by the use or abuse of woods. It is clear that litter and vandalism make children think that the particular area is uncared for and potentially dangerous.
- children viewed the woodland environment on a functional level: woods with a variety of activities were better than those with just trees.
- most children could be kept happy in a woodland area with minimum facilities. «Just a few trees in a very urban area can turn a park into a wood in a child's mind» (p29).

11 **IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY**

Published Landscape Design 261: 26-29.

Authors Crow, L. and Bowen, K.

Date June 1997

Publisher Institute of Landscape Architects

Price £4.00 per issue

Keywords Children's perception of woods, children's maps, urban parks

Comments This article is based on the findings of a study carried out in four primary schools in Sheffield in which 100 children participated. According to both quantitative and qualitative research data, the children generally felt that woods were happy places which were a treat to visit. They enjoyed talking about woodlands and about their experiences with nature. They associated woodlands with freedom and adventure, running free, climbing trees, balancing on roots and finding dens. Woods appeared to provide them with opportunities to be creative and active.

Generally speaking, this research emphasises the importance of woods as enjoyable and creative places for children to visit and play. The authors also suggest that further research is needed to examine if today's children are losing out on such creative and beneficial experiences in comparison to previous generations.

ISBN

ECA/HW July 2003
OPENspace

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

12 OUR TOWNS AND CITIES: THE FUTURE. DELIVERING AN URBAN RENAISSANCE, A SUMMARY

Description This leaflet provides a summary of the white paper *Our Towns and Cities: The Future*.

Methodology N/A

Results N/A

Published N/A

Author Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (Foreword by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister)

Date 2000

Publisher Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Price Free

Keywords Urban renaissance, delivery, sustainable living.

Comments Policy based on engaging local people in partnership or change designed to meet their needs.

The document highlights the fact that at present four out of five people live in urban areas. To some extent all urban areas face one or more of the following issues: depopulation, poor quality of life and lack of opportunity, housing shortage, economic downturn, and a need for greater environmental protection.

The DETR's vision is one in which:

- people shape the future of their own community.
- people live in attractive, well-kept towns and cities. In part this will be achieved by redeveloping 'brownfield' sites and empty property and by making neighbourhoods more attractive through maintenance, including action to improve parks and open spaces.
- good design and planning make it practical to live in an environmentally sustainable way.
- towns and cities create and share prosperity. This will be facilitated by the promotion of a culture of enterprise, innovation and private investment.
- all people have access to good quality services. This includes improving key services such as education, health care, policing, housing and transport, as well as opportunities to enjoy culture, leisure and sport.

In this sense 'urban renaissance' will benefit everyone, make towns and cities vibrant and successful, and help protect the countryside from development pressure.

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

12

**OUR TOWNS AND CITIES: THE FUTURE.
DELIVERING AN URBAN RENAISSANCE, A
SUMMARY**

Comments

The DETR stresses that urban renaissance will only be delivered through a local strategic partnership involving the community, the council, service providers, voluntary groups, business leaders and consulting everybody with an interest at stake.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

13

CHALLENGING RACISM IN THE RURAL IDYLL: FINAL REPORT OF THE RURAL RACE EQUALITY PROJECT. CORWALL, DEVON AND SOMERSET, 1996 - 1998.

Description	<p>Final report of the Rural Race Equality Project. Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, 1996 - 1998.</p> <p>Summarises the experiences of the RREP and outlines the initiatives that were developed and the processes involved.</p>
Methodology	Project report
Results	N/A
Published	N/A
Author	Dhalech, M.
Date	1999
Publisher	National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, London
Price	Unknown
Keywords	Rural, race, equality.
Comments	<p>Rural Race Equality Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- First local initiative to follow Jay's (1992) <i>Keep them in Birmingham</i> - 'highlighted the extent of racial prejudice and discrimination experienced by ethnic minority residents in the South West and by cataloguing the complacency prevalent within the voluntary, statutory and private sectors and within the community in general' (p. 2).- pilot funded by NACAB and RDC (now Countryside Agency) <p><i>Objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to improve services and access to services- to identify minority ethnic groups- to research and quantify their advice needs and develop a model approach which could be transferred easily. <p>Started with limited documented information on needs and experiences of Black people living in rural communities. The effect of 'no problem here' resulted in a more holistic approach.</p>

**CHALLENGING RACISM IN THE RURAL IDYLL:
FINAL REPORT OF THE RURAL RACE
EQUALITY PROJECT. CORWALL, DEVON AND
SOMERSET, 1996 - 1998.**

Comments

Project Outline

1. Black and Minority Ethnic Community: Needs and Issues - need for community development was identified as a major issue; Somerset Race Equality Network; Support Against Racist Incidents; clear lack of community development work undertaken by voluntary and statutory sector; history of lack of consultation; Black and minority ethnic people experience isolation in rural communities which creates a lack of confidence to seek advice and information; lack of awareness of what services are available; lengthy process.
2. Rural Race Equality Officer: Support Issues - staff need to be aware of agency policy on Equal Opportunities and racial equality; need to consider personal safety; pronunciation and spelling of names

Project Initiatives and Activities

Development of resources

1. Directory of Useful Contacts
2. Information Card: where to obtain advice and information (business card size)
3. Evidence: Racist Incidents Evidence Form
4. Web Site
5. Newsletter
6. Posters
7. Leaflet

Working with Race Equality Agencies

Race Equality Councils - 1998, Plymouth and District REC and Devon and Exeter REC obtained first Director posts; local authorities were not taking their duties under the Race Relations Act seriously because of 'small numbers within region'; people may wish to avoid the possible confrontation that might arise from being involved in race equality initiatives.

Black Networking Group - 1995, began as support group for employees in Social Services and Probation Services but expanded in 1996.

Avon and Bristol Law Centre's Race Discrimination Project Training Consortium

Working with Voluntary and Statutory Agencies (see listing p. 45)

Government Office of the South West

Police

Local Authorities - has been fragmented, little consistency even within departments.

Armed Forces

Voluntary Sector (other than CABx and Race Equality Agencies)

CABx

13

CHALLENGING RACISM IN THE RURAL IDYLL: FINAL REPORT OF THE RURAL RACE EQUALITY PROJECT. CORWALL, DEVON AND SOMERSET, 1996 - 1998.

Comments

- ranged from full equality monitoring, posters, making contact with EM communities in their areas, visiting, telephoning or writing to local businesses run by B&EM people

Networking and Multi-Agency Responses

The role and influence of the media

Raising Awareness and the Provision of Training

The Rural Urban Comparison

Evaluation

Frustrated by inability to impose effective changes.

Project is bound to NACAB's bureaucratic structures, however, ability to use long established and respected logo did ease access.

It is not the case that all CABs have the active promotion of race equality high on their agendas.

There was much apathy and lack of interest with regard to a race equality agenda in many statutory as well as voluntary organisations - prevalent view that there is 'no problem here'.

Key: Any race equality work in rural settings must be focussed on raising awareness that (a) Black and Minority Ethnic people live and work in rural areas and (b) they may experience the effects of a mixture of both institutional and individual racism (p. 39).

In the SW very little data exists which indicates the extent to which Black and Minority Ethnic people access services.

There is concern regarding the evident lack of interest shown by members of the Black community in race equality initiatives.

Organisations must begin to adopt a national, rather than a regional approach to rural race equality development.

Recommendations

- Review effectiveness of the implementation of NACAB anti-racist, race equality and positive action policies within the CAB service.
- Develop positive action strategies and ensure that staff and volunteers know their responsibilities regarding race equality issues.
- Make membership of CAB conditional on comprehensive equality monitoring systems
- Develop a cohesive national social policy strategy to target institutional and individual racism.
- Develop training programmes and monitor attendance.
- Develop relationships with external agencies.
- Seek wider representation of Black people at policy and decision making levels.

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

13

**CHALLENGING RACISM IN THE RURAL IDYLL:
FINAL REPORT OF THE RURAL RACE
EQUALITY PROJECT. CORWALL, DEVON AND
SOMERSET, 1996 - 1998.**

Comments

- Adopt CRE standards for racial equality.
- Develop a racial equality strategy to be incorporated into the corporate plan.
- Undertake outreach work.

- Black and minority ethnic groups should develop an infrastructure for the SW, seek funds for community development, and work with / campaign and lobby for the development of RECs.

- Agencies should work in partnership with relevant race relations organisations.
- Lack of corporate strategy should be addressed within local authorities and voluntary sector.
- Need to develop a monitored and evaluated racial equality strategy to be incorporated into corporate plans.
- Allocate resources to Black and minority ethnic groups.
- Comprehensive race equality training for all staff.
- Encourage a wider range of staff.
- Develop positive action policies.
- Develop consultation mechanisms.
- Support the development of racial equality in rural areas.
- Plans should reflect peoples' needs.
- Grant applications should demonstrate a commitment to racial equality. (adapted from pp. 43 - 44)

Examples are given of promotional literature, posters, report forms and organisations contacted.

Also includes postscript on the Implications of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report.

ISBN

0 906072 40 9

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

14

REVIEW OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY: FINAL REPORT

Description	The purpose of the study was to review the extent to which the Countryside Agency's wider work was addressing the needs of socially excluded people.
Methodology	Desk review of Agency business / management plans. Extensive programme of face-to-face meetings with Agency staff.
Results	<p>It was concluded that most of the teams in The Countryside Agency could do more to address social exclusion. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying the Countryside: 'Emphasise changing from increasing countryside participation to <i>widening</i> countryside participation, However, work is at an early stage (with the exception of disabled groups). Need for considerable research and demonstration projects in this area. Need to establish more contacts and broader partnerships than in the past [...] Need for guidance / good practice on doing this' (p. v).• Wider Welcome: 'Most of the activities undertaken by this team have limited potential for addressing social exclusion in a substantive way. Exception is use of the Rural Transport Fund to help disadvantaged groups access the countryside [...] May also be lessons to learn from the Integrated Access Demonstration projects being undertaken by regional offices' (p. iv).• Finest Countryside: 'There has been relatively little work aimed at widening the range of people who visit AONBs and addressing exclusion issues in AONBs. However, some AONBs have initiated projects of this kind [...]' (p. iv).
Published	N/A
Authors	DTZ Piedad Consulting
Date	June 2001
Publisher	DTZ Piedad, Reading for The Countryside Agency
Price	Unknown
Keywords	The Countryside Agency, social exclusion, review.
Comments	Awareness of social exclusion amongst staff was found to be varied. Most were familiar with the terminology, however there was limited understanding of what 'social exclusion' actually meant. A need was expressed for terminology which could be understood by the average person instead of 'academic' language.

Comments

DTZ Pieda made a number of recommendations including:

- The Agency should introduce internal 'social exclusion proofing' tools (modification of forms, changes in business plans, etc.).
- The practice of setting targets can be a disincentive to work with excluded groups, they should therefore be made part of the target.
- A learning support network should be established on social exclusion to improve information exchange and dissemination.
- There is a need for a good project information system so staff can use experience from previous projects to inform current and future work.
- The Agency should provide more guidance on engaging rural communities in its work in an inclusive way.
- There is a need to provide more guidance for teams on how to develop the necessary contacts and partnerships to facilitate the widening of countryside participation. The Community Forest programme is a useful practice source.
- It must be ensured that staff have access to the best data sources on rural deprivation to help in preparing bids and influencing external programmes, etc.
- There is a need to encourage communities to undertake their own needs assessment work.
- It must be questioned as to whether the spatial prioritisation policy is appropriate.
- Develop briefing material for staff which explains the issues and how they are relevant.
- Try to be more visible in disseminating the above information and provide regular updates on the social exclusion programme.
- Funding could be made available to help internal teams do more to address social exclusion especially those for which this is a relatively new area of work.
- Encourage joint proposals from different teams to promote better internal linkages.

DTZ Pieda acknowledge that social exclusion is 'what happens when a number of factors combine to prevent individuals from participating in society fully'. This way of thinking recognises that people can be excluded in a variety of ways and that the factors giving rise to social exclusion are frequently inter-related. The emphasis is on the processes that give rise to social exclusion instead of waiting for problems to arise and by trying to work in a more joined-up way (p. 7).

The report discusses that ways in which social exclusion in rural areas tends to differ from that in urban areas and the processes that cause social exclusion (pp. 7 - 8).

The report then provides a team by team breakdown of activities relevant to social exclusion outside the social exclusion programme (pp. 16 - 31).

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

14

**REVIEW OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION ACTIVITY IN
THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY: FINAL REPORT**

Comments

Ironically many staff feel that the social exclusion programme itself has been a barrier to tackling social exclusion. The existence of a separate programme has tended to isolate social exclusion issues within the agency rather than integrating them into the day to day work of all Agency staff.

One of the projects supported through the Agency's social exclusion programme is the Amethyst Project - assisting women in rural areas access training and giving mutual support. Denise Servant, Peak District Rural Deprivation Forum 01433621822.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

15

MANAGING FOR ETHNIC DIVERSITY: RECREATION FACILITY AND SERVICE MODIFICATIONS FOR ETHNIC MINORITY VISITORS. FINAL REPORT

Description	This report documents responses received from a nationwide request for information on agency success stories involving ethnic minority recreation from Federal, state, county, and city agencies in United States. This effort involved co-ordination with recreational professionals across US. This report also documents the findings and recommendations of a national workshop on Ethnic Minority Recreation, organised by the Engineer Research and Development Centre, US Army Corps of Engineers.
Methodology	<p>Two main methodologies were used by ERDC to collect valuable data and information for promoting ethnic diversity in outdoors recreation in USA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The US Bureau of the Census' "Population Projections for States by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2025 (PPL-47). This demographic projection identifies population changes that are projected to affect the 50 American States during 1995-2025.2. Telephone contacts with recreational professionals:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The first stage in this systematic approach was to contact each of the affiliated state associations of the National Recreation and Park Association.b. The second stage of systematic information gathering was accomplished with the assistance of the Director of the diversity program of National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). The Director was instrumental in providing ERDC's researchers with a list of 4000 recreation professionals who had attended the NPCA's Mosaic 2000 Workshop held in November 2000, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The researchers contacted 100 individuals from the list of attendees of the Mosaic 2000 Workshop. Certain key individuals from the Workshop's list were later invited to participate in the ERDC sponsored workshop on "Ethnic Minority Recreation".
Results	<p>Main findings from the two stages of ERDC project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Telephone contacts with recreation professionals</u>: The survey showed that not all of the respondents contacted advocated an ethnically neutral design approach. This was particularly true of many academics working in the field of leisure science and tourism.2. <u>ERDC workshop on 'Ethnic Minority Recreation'</u>: the Corps participants at this workshop felt strongly that the Corps is now at a turning point in its relationship with its growing number of ethnic minority customers. To implement the many needed changes in community outreach, communication and recruitment, the participants recommended that the recreation program leadership at US Army Corps of Engineers prepare a policy memorandum for the

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

15

**MANAGING FOR ETHNIC DIVERSITY:
RECREATION FACILITY AND SERVICE
MODIFICATIONS FOR ETHNIC MINORITY
VISITORS. FINAL REPORT**

Results

field (460 - plus projects) that sets forth a long-range strategy that prioritises better and more effective community outreach, communication and recruitment in a clear, forceful and proactive manner.

Published

Managing for Ethnic Diversity: Recreation Facility and Service Modifications for Ethnic Minority Visitors. Final Report.

Authors

Dunn, R.A.

Date

June 2002

Publisher

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Price

Free

Keywords

Ethnic diversity; National Parks; acculturation; USA.

Comments

The first part of this report documents responses received from a nationwide request for information on ethnic minority recreation success stories. Ethnic neutrality in recreation design is based on a social philosophy of cultural assimilation. The alternative approach explored here is not based on the hope of eventual cultural assimilation but on the practical acceptance of America's cultural pluralism. This approach is based on Gomez's research (1999) which indicates that the sense of belonging a minority visitor has to American society directly impacts his public recreation. If a minority visitor does not feel accepted, s/he is not likely to participate in public recreation, regardless of the strength of their subcultural ethnic identity. The implication of this finding is that public use areas should foster the sense of belonging through the creation of recreation programs that are more inclusive of ethnic cultural diversity. In particular, the Corps should strive for ethnically universal designs that strongly appeal to day-use oriented ethnic minority groups as well as its traditional white middle-class customer base. The Corps should develop day-use recreation complexes that offer a variety of options to a multiethnic customer base. The precise configuration of day-use features would depend upon the ethnic composition of a particular region.

The second part of the report documents the findings and recommendations of ERDC's "National Workshop on Ethnic Minority Recreation," held in Estes Park, CO, during the week of October 15-19, 2001. The report concludes with a discussion of ERDC's ongoing research on Ethnic Diversity and Corps Recreation Participation and current plans to conduct demonstration projects at Corps lakes across the country to determine the impact of these facility and services modifications on ethnic minority visitors' behaviour and degree of participation.

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

MANAGING FOR ETHNIC DIVERSITY:

**RECREATION FACILITY AND SERVICE
MODIFICATIONS FOR ETHNIC MINORITY
VISITORS. FINAL REPORT**

Comments

References

Gomez, E. (1999) *Reconceptualising the Relationship between Ethnicity and Public Recreation: A Proposed Model*. PhD Thesis, Michigan State University, Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources and Urban Affairs Programs.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Description

The report is based on an 18 month research project carried out in partnership with twelve local authorities – Bristol, Bromley, Cardiff, Dublin, Greenwich, Hounslow, Leicester, Merton, Middlesbrough, Sheffield, Southwark, and Sutton

The report asks how parks and other open spaces can be managed in future to add to a new quality of urban life. Public parks are one of the most enduring and defining types of public space in Britain's towns and cities, and yet their use and the contribution they make to urban quality of life has been undervalued and taken for granted (p. 3).

The research shows that successful parks fulfil many complex urban needs (often in highly sustainable ways), are local facilities and are accessible to all ages and walks of life, are meeting points and centres of community, and a source of local continuity and 'sense of place'. The authors describe the urban park as a realm of freedom with a different sense of time, closeness to the elements, a sanctuary. Yet they acknowledge that contemporary fears over safety are symbolised by the decline of urban parks.

The report is based on the following arguments:

1. That not all open space is sacrosanct.
2. That many established parks may have to be developed to suit a more modern purpose or set of local needs.
3. That it is possible to have too much open space to warrant any local sense of ownership or affection.
4. That parks may make ideal settings for the development and siting of new educational, social and cultural facilities.
5. That the best will only be achieved by different sectors and interests working together.

The report is split into several themes:

- Modern parks, the pleasures and problems.
- Cities in transition.
- Open-minded spaces.
- The pressures for change
- Park life today, the research findings.
- Questions of management.
- New perspectives.
- Ways forward.

Methodology

Observation, discussion groups and individual interviews.

Results

The report makes the following recommendations:

- Local authorities should draw up local strategies for parks management and development.

Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgets should be re-formulated so that expenditure is tied to objectives. • Future budgets should allow for a regular programme of monitoring use of local parks and open spaces. • Strategy objectives should include a greater pro-active approach to encouraging the use of parks by local communities and to the involvement of local people in the development and management of parks. • Local policies on safety and security in parks and open spaces should be part of a wider strategy for public spaces. • Local authorities should ensure that policies on parks and open spaces are at the centre of local Agenda 21 policies. • Urban parks should be placed at the centre of DoE urban regeneration policy. • The DoE should establish an Urban Parks Unit. • Urban parks should be considered as suitable sites for investment from lottery funds.
Published	N/A
Author	Greenhaigh, L. and Worpole, K.
Date	1995
Publisher	Comedia and Demos
Price	Unknown
Keywords	Urban parks, social renewal.
Comments	<p><i>Modern parks, the pleasures and problems</i></p> <p>Open space is often unevenly distributed across urban space and, in the cases of parks accompanied by stately houses, what was an act of generosity in one generation, may become a liability in the next. Often a lot of public space may appear to have no management philosophy at all. Parks are often subject to vandalism though not always by the young. Too many green spaces look the same and no longer possess any distinguishing or distinctive features, they are mass produced and maintained as such.</p> <p>Yet, parks and open spaces can be a source of great pleasure to many people, providing a focal point and source of spatial identity to neighbourhoods. For regular users a park can be a lifeline to another world, of fresh air, trees, greenery, ponds, birds and animals, friendship and sense of community. Parks are important to ethnic minorities because they allow public statements of positive cultural identity. Parks can also be places of solitude and sanctuary.</p>

Comments*Cities in transition*

In many cases the Sunday stroll to the local park has been replaced by the car-based trip to the country park. This has been accompanied by an increase in the number of households with access to a private garden – visits to garden centres have also become a popular alternative to visiting the local park.

There is a need to shift the strategic arguments about parks and open spaces from crude statistical approaches, to more specialist, need-based approaches (p. 21). The ‘position common to many local authorities is that they are now responsible for a large number of open spaces, which have through management practices tended to lose their distinctiveness; budgets on the whole have declined; parks provision has lost status within the wider leisure field; and some local authorities are now wondering aloud how they can continue to manage the infrastructure of open space, other than by simply overseeing a process of continuing decline’ (p. 23).

Open-minded spaces

Richard Rogers had begun to articulate the value of the public realm as places where individuals get a sense of taking part, of communality and of citizenship. The opportunity to let people define, develop and manage public areas is an opportunity to encourage new kinds of participation and more radical notions of what decision-making might involve. Public spaces are not equally available at all times to all people yet, public settings are important because they help us to make sense and understand the presence of others.

Park life today, the research findings

The research documented that Asian use of the park tended to be family or group-based. The presence of people with evident physical disabilities never amounted to more than 0.5% of all users. The findings also showed that the majority of users lived close to the parks and walking was the most common form of transport. Most people expressed a desire for more or better facilities.

People often associate parks with children and childhood and complaints were often channelled through concerns for children.. Parks are also important spaces for young people, e.g. to escape, meet members of the opposite sex, to socialise away from scrutiny. Elderly people were under-represented as park users. Many felt that a park keeper would represent their interests in the face of competition from of other groups.

A question of management

The report provides a discussion on Compulsory Competitive Tendering (pp. 58 – 59).

Comments

Many parks and open spaces are now caught between the contradictory plans and purposes of both providers and users. Unless some body or group feels direct sense of ownership, then a park is unlikely to prosper. Many parks have 'friends' or 'user' groups but these are not necessarily representative of all local interests.

New perspectives

Although there have been innovations with city farms, community gardens and adventure playgrounds, public parks have not been substantially rethought in the light of the needs and changes in the modern city (p. 65).

The relationship between public parks and public health is an important perspective for the future development of urban parks. In 1992 a survey produced by the Sports Council and the Health Education Authority showed that the majority of people did not take the exercise necessary to achieve a health benefit. Some research is now claiming to show a range of benefits from relieving mental fatigue, effecting mood and relaxation as a result of looking at 'natural' landscapes. Horticultural schemes have been established.

Local Agenda 21 presents another important perspective from which to work out new approaches to the development and management of urban parks (Agenda 21 is the name of the programme of action for achieving more sustainable forms of development agreed at the 1992 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro) (see pages 74 – 77). Understanding the way people would like to use public parks provides a way of thinking through the role in which the public realm can contribute to the idea of sustainability.

Other references:

- Burgess, J., Harrison, C. and Limb, M. (1988) 'People, parks and the urban green: a study of popular meanings and values for open spaces in the city', *Urban Studies* 25: 455 – 473.
- Centre for the Study of Environmental Change (1994) *Leisure Landscapes, Leisure, Culture and the English Countryside: Challenges and Conflicts*. CPRE.
- Clouston, B. (1984) 'Urban parks in crisis', *Landscape Design* June.
- Department of Environment (1993) *Trees in Towns*. HMSO.
- Massey, D. (1994) *Space, Place and Gender*. Polity Press.
- Rhode, C. L. E. and Kendle, A. D. (1994) *Human Well-being, Natural Landscapes and Wildlife in Urban Areas, A Review*. English Nature.
- Zukin, S. (1991) *Landscapes of Power*. University of California Press.

Working papers from the national study:

- Working Paper 1: *The Study Brief and Objectives*. ISBN 1 873 667 55 8.
- Working Paper 2: *Law, Money and Management* (by Alan Barber) ISBN 1 873 667 60 4.

Comments**Working papers from the national study:**

Working Paper 3: *Lost Childhoods: Taking Children's Play Seriously* (by Bob Hughes) ISBN 1 873 667 70 1.

Working Paper 4: *Calling in the Country: Ecology, Parks and Urban Life* (by David Nicholson Lord) ISBN 1 873 667 75 2

Working Paper 5: *Parks, Open Space and the Future of Urban Planning* (by Janice Morphet) ISBN 1 873 667 36 4.

Working Paper 6: *Lost Connections and New Directions: The Private Garden and the Public Park* (by Martin Hoyles) ISBN 1 873 667 31 0.

Working Paper 7: *Reclaiming the Night: Night-time Use, Lighting and Safety in Britain's Parks* (by Jonathan Speirs) ISBN 1 873 667 36 1.

Working Paper 8: *The Politics of Trust: Reducing Fear of Crime in Urban Parks* (by Jacquie Burgess) ISBN 1 873 667 41 8.

Working Paper 9: *The Popular Culture of City Parks* (by David Crouch) ISBN 1 873 667 81 7.

Working Paper 10: *Age and Order: The Public Park as a Metaphor for a Civilised Society* (by Hilary Taylor) ISBN 1 873 667 46 9.

Working Paper 11: *The Sporting Life: Sport, Health and Active Recreation in Parks* (by Michael Collins) ISBN 1 873 667 51 5.

Working Paper 12: *Urban Parks in Germany: Current Issues* (by Ralf Ebert) ISBN 1 873 667 61 2.

[All cost £5 and are available from Comedia]

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

17 **LEISURE AND EXCLUSION: POWER, IDENTITY AND THE BOUNDARIES OF PARTICIPATION**

Description The paper introduces the political concept of 'social exclusion' and, using leisure as a lens, suggests ways in which this understanding can be widened to illuminate instances of exclusion that happen throughout society. The authors argue that notions of participation, choice and exclusion are bound up with notions of identity and relationships of power.

Methodology Literature review.

Results N/A

Published The North West Geographer 3 (2): 3 -12.

Author Hague, E., Thomas. C. and Williams, S.

Date 2000

Publisher Manchester Geographical Society.

Price Subscription £12 (non-members), £4 (members).

Keywords Leisure, social exclusion, power, Bourdieu.

Comments The new Labour government of 1997 quickly placed its concerns over social exclusion into the political arena through the establishment of the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) within the cabinet office. Academia responded rapidly with a plethora of critiques and discussions about the concept of 'social exclusion' (these included Levitas, 1998; Lister, 1999). The British government has tended to conceptualise social exclusion in terms of poverty, deprivation and lack of employment opportunities. Hague *et al* (1999) argue that the impact of social exclusion on leisure has been largely overlooked and that leisure is a good area in which to expose the broader and often more opaque incidences of exclusion.

It is important to look beyond the measurable, quantifiable, statistical indicators of exclusion that the government and its agencies prefer.

Leisure is becoming a dominant element in post-industrial lifestyles and should not, therefore, be segmented from other areas of experience in which exclusion may be investigated (Crouch and Tomlinson, 1994; Rojek, 1995). Because leisure practices involve people making decisions about whether to participate and where, there is a need to clarify relationships between exclusion, non-participation and notions of choice.

LEISURE AND EXCLUSION: POWER, IDENTITY AND THE BOUNDARIES OF PARTICIPATION**Comments**

In most situations, the choices we make regarding leisure are mediated by constraints - lack of time, money, mobility, skills or awareness (Crawford and Godbey, 1987; Crawford *et al*, 1991; Jackson and Kay, 1992; Kay and Jackson, 1991).

Exclusion could be a consequence of a choice on the part of an individual not to engage in an activity; it could be a consequence of a constraint that is sufficiently powerful to exclude the participant against their preference to participate; or it may be a result of the actions of others who are in a position to deny us access to the spaces or activities that we desire (p. 5). Exclusions based around, for example, age, social class, ethnicity, employment, disability and gender, are all widely recognised as influential and significant determinants of leisure patterns that should not be neglected (cf. Kitchen, 1998).

Sibley (1995, 1998) observes that exclusions take place routinely and often without people noticing they are being 'excluded'.

Power relations affect the experiences of exclusion as they are lived within people's everyday lives. In 'conceiving exclusion as both a process and a condition, particular groups (or individuals) must be actively exercising their power to exclude, whilst others are receiving the consequences of these actions, namely they are being excluded (Rose, 1997).

Manchester's 'gay' neighbourhoods are used as an example of the way in which conventionally powerless groups in a political or economic sense may still exert power in order to exercise control over spaces and activities within those spaces.

Different groups ascribe differing values to places and utilise locations for different means and ends. The potential for contest over the meaning and use of an area can, therefore, result in power, sometimes even through direct force, being applied in support of claims to space (e.g. teenagers in shopping malls). Cresswell (1996) interprets such instances as a consequence of the construction of normative landscapes and associated behaviours. Once established, a sense of what is 'proper' for any particular space tends to define a set of expectations of appropriate behaviours, deviations from which may be identified by some as instances of 'transgression'.

Exclusions often owe little to the physical infrastructure of the leisure site but are primarily a product of the way in which that site is represented.

References:

Crawford, D. W. and Godbey, G. (1987) 'Reconceptualising barriers to family leisure', *Leisure Sciences* 13 (4): 119 - 127.

Comments

- Crawford, D. W., Jackson, E. L. and Godbey, G. (1991) 'A hierarchical model of leisure constraints', *Leisure Sciences* 13: 309 - 320.
- Cresswell, T. (1996) *In Place / Out of Place: Geography, Ideology and Transgression*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.
- Crouch, D. and Tomlinson, A. (1994) 'Collective self-generated consumption: leisure, space and cultural identity', in Henry, I.(ed) *Leisure in Different Worlds*. Eastbourne, Leisure Studies Association: 309 - 321.
- Hague, E., Thomas, C. and Williams, S. (1999) 'Equity or exclusion? Contemporary experiences in post-industrial urban leisure', paper presented at the Leisure Studies Association Conference, Cheltenham.
- Jackson, G. A. M. and Kay, T. (1992) 'Leisure constraints', in Williams, T., Almond, L. and Sparkes, A. (eds) *Sport and Physical Activity: Moving Towards Excellence*. London, E and F. N. Spon: 551 - 562.
- Kay, T. and Jackson, G. A. M. (1991) 'Leisure despite constraint', *Journal of Leisure Sciences* 23: 301 - 313.
- Kitchin, R. (1998) 'Out of place', 'knowing one's place': space, power and the exclusion of disabled people', *Disability and Society* 13: 343 - 356.
- Levitas, R. (1998) *The Inclusive Society? Social Exclusion and New Labour*. Basingstoke, Macmillan.
- Lister, R. (1999) 'Social exclusion: first steps to a fairer society', *The Guardian (Society)* 9th June.
- Rojek, C. (1995) *Decentering Leisure: Rethinking Leisure Theory*. London, Sage.
- Rose, G. (1997) 'Spatialities of 'community', power and change: the imagined geographies of community arts centres', *Cultural Studies* 11: 1 - 16.
- Sibley, D. (1998) 'The problematic nature of exclusion', *Geoforum* 29: 119 - 121.
- Sibley, D. (1995) *Geographies of Exclusion: Society and Difference in the West*. London, Routledge.

Other references:

- Henry, I.P. (1999) 'Social inclusion and the leisure society', *New Political Economy* 2: 283 - 288.
- Samers, M. (1998) 'Immigration, 'ethnic minorities', and 'Social Exclusion' in the European Union: a critical perspective', *Geoforum* 29:123 - 144.
- Williams, S. (1995) *Outdoor Recreation and the Urban Environment*. London, Routledge.

ISSN

1368 4000

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

18

PROCEEDINGS: HEALTH WALKS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT SYMPOSIUM

Description This report covers the proceedings of the first symposium of the Health Walks Research and Development Unit (HWRDU) at Oxford Brookes University on 2nd March 2000. The symposium presented some of the Unit's research findings and set an agenda for future research into health walks.

Methodology N/A

Results The future of health walks will depend on three key factors:

1. A loose central control of the scheme but one which allows each project to develop its own identity and therefore retain ownership.
2. Further research to provide the evidence to answer the fundamental question 'Do health walks increase physical activity levels amongst those in most need and do they continue to sustain these levels?'
3. That Primary Care Groups (PCGs) recognise and endorse Health Walk schemes and recommend that GPs can safely refer patients onto the schemes.

The organisers concluded that more research was needed to identify the motivational dimensions and psychological benefits.

Published N/A

Author Health Walks Research and Development Unit.

Date 2000

Publisher Health Walks Research and Development Unit, Oxford.

Price Free download from website.

Keywords Health walks,

Comments Organised exercise walking programmes are being set up across the UK to encourage sedentary people to become physically active by walking in their local area in the company of other people. An original survey at Sonning Common in 1994 highlighted that there were many barriers to walking, such as a fear of getting lost, not knowing where to walk, difficulty in climbing styles, lack of time and women feeling vulnerable when walking alone. One option was to have led walks.

Comments

The following abstracts are supplied:

- Buchanan, H. C., Bird, W., Kinch, R. F. T. and Ramsbottom, R. *The Metabolic and Physiological Demands of Brisk Walking in Older Men and Women*
Brisk walking is recommended for developing and maintaining cardiorespiratory fitness, body composition, muscular strength and endurance in adults (ACSM, 1998). Walking is accessible and does not require special skills or equipment and is associated with a low risk of injury. Subjects walked significantly faster outdoors than on the treadmill.
- Lad, H., Craven, R. and Ramsbottom, R. *The Response to a Three Week Walking Programme in Normally Sedentary Young Women*
For exercise to have long term benefits it must be sufficiently intensive and easy to do. Changes in 'metabolic fitness' may be detected following a relatively short intervention period. Walking appears to be at least as effective as other primary care based exercise schemes, but is likely to be cheaper as it is run predominantly by volunteers.
- Ashley, A., Bartlett, H. P., Lamb, S. E. and Steel, M. *Evaluation of the Thames Valley Health Walks Scheme: Participants' Feedback Survey*
The scheme has attracted 700 people to walk since January 1998. In addition to physical fitness, the countryside and the social side of the walks were important motivating factors. Walking is particularly effective for middle aged and older adults as the intensity of exercise required to produce health benefits is less than that needed to improve health in younger groups. Participants felt that to encourage them to keep Health Walking the scheme must have more varied and graded walks.

The workshops raised the following themes:

1. For the general public, more thought needs to go into the formulation of a suitable phrase to describe the level of walking to be maintained before an appropriate publicity campaign.
2. Local councils might 'mark out' accurate one mile courses.
3. Need to get across a simple public health message which would encourage a behavioural change.
4. Targeting of certain groups.
5. The name 'Health Walks' may not be appropriate for certain groups.
6. Need a national accreditation scheme if GPs and primary care teams were to recommend the walks to participants.
7. Should there be a fee?
8. Walking is not often encouraged as a form of transport.
9. Planning and design often make walking an unattractive and difficult option.
10. Need to promote walking as a non-recreational activity.

P,T & W ref:

Project Title

18

**PROCEEDINGS: HEALTH WALKS RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT SYMPOSIUM**

Comments

Key references:

American College of Sports Medicine (1998) 'Position stand on the recommended quantity and quality of exercise for developing and maintaining cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness, and flexibility in adults', *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* 30: 975 – 991.
Morris, J. N. and Hardman, A. E. (1997) 'Walking to health', *Sports Medicine* 23: 306 – 332.

Website

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/hc/healthwalks>

ISBN

N/A

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

19

THE INLAND WATERWAYS: TOWARDS GREATER SOCIAL INCLUSION

Description

The report explores ways in which inland waterways can foster social inclusion by enhancing the quality of life of those who live near them who do not currently use and enjoy them.

Excluded groups = people on low incomes, people with disabilities, older people, minority ethnic (especially Asian communities), and women [NB do not mention youth].

The report explores a variety of approaches from Government, local authorities, waterway authorities, organised waterway groups and the voluntary sector, to promote wider use of the waterways.

Methodology

Information was gathered through:

- Inputs on current practice from British Waterways and the Environment Agency;
- The membership of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities to find out about initiatives to promote access to and use of the waterways;
- The experience and expertise of Group Members;
- Selected visits by the Group to projects delivering activities to excluded groups, and;
- Surveys commissioned viz (i) a literature audit of the impact of social, cultural, economic and physical barriers to the use of the waterways, recreation facilities and the countryside generally, (ii) surveys and focus group discussions with communities in inner city areas of Leicester, London and Manchester and paralleled with a study in inner Birmingham to identify the barriers to greater use, and (iii) consultations with regional offices of British Waterways and local groups and agencies to explore further current practices and identify appropriate initiatives.

Results

The research found no barriers specific to those living in areas of acute social and economic deprivation and none specific to the ethnic composition of the local population in the study areas. The barriers - an unpleasant and neglected environment, too few activities to provide positive experiences, the absence of a proactive personal approach to promote sustained use, fears for personal security and safety, and physical access difficulties - were found to be barriers to everyone in the areas.

Conclusions include the need for the Government to give a stronger lead and appropriate funding to the two largest public waterway authorities; waterway use must be better integrated into the community strategies of local authorities, and there are too many one-off initiatives instead of strategies for sustained use. More needs to be done to reach out to potential users still under-represented and the endemic under-funding problem requires more mobilisation of multi-agency partnerships to maximise potential funding sources, skills and support activities (p. 5).

THE INLAND WATERWAYS: TOWARDS GREATER SOCIAL INCLUSION

Results

NB: The IWAAC also identified a lack of evaluation of the effectiveness, benefits and value-for-money of initiatives that have been undertaken and believe that for the voluntary sector in particular this is a significant constraint on securing continuing or additional funding.

The group was also 'concerned to discover how little information is available to put figures on, or even make a qualitative assessment of, the value of these benefits. They have to be asserted but cannot be readily measured. Further research in this area would clearly be of benefit to all authorities, agencies and voluntary sector organisations seeking partnership support and when making applications to grant-making bodies. We wish to see urgent efforts made to fill this key information gap' (p. 10).

Published

Final report of the working group on social inclusion.

Authors

Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council

Date

April 2001

Publisher

Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council

Price

Keywords

Waterways, social inclusion.

Comments

Waterways and the excluded

Who is excluded? Little factual information was available to define who was excluded, to what extent and why. The literature review and the Birmingham and Black Country Survey (BW 1995) suggested that the key excluded groups were:

- Families and others excluded by low incomes.
- Disabled people - in a report (1999) to the Environment Agency, the Fieldfare Trust commented that the resources committed to encourage participation by disabled people presupposed that they take part in water recreation less often than the general population.
- Older people.
- Black and other minority ethnic (especially Asian) communities - in Blackburn a (1999) study by Groundwork found members of the Asian Muslim community 'adamant in their dislike of the canal'.
- Women - the UK Day Visits Survey (1998) indicates that a 54:46 ratio of visits between men and women with regard to all visits to inland waterways. Other surveys of informal visitors show that, because of fear of crime, women are less likely than men to visit parks and other open spaces.

Comments

What can waterways offer?

For excluded groups:

1. Better health through active recreation, relaxation.
2. Enhanced community development.
3. Increased confidence and understanding through enabling disabled users to take part in mainstream activities, by encouraging those from black and other minority ethnic communities to use facilities in the wider community, by tackling fear of crime, and by enabling those with learning difficulties to enjoy and develop through access to new experiences.
4. Reduced 'at risk' behaviour.
5. Wider opportunities for education and economic development through the use of waterway themes in schools, and by developing new opportunities for training and employment through waterway-based regeneration and development.
6. Greater appreciation of the local environment.

For the wider community:

1. Encouraging healthy living;
2. Increasing community contact within neighbourhoods;
3. Creating a waterway environment which is safer for everyone because more people are using it;
4. Helping young people to be more responsive in their use of waterways;
5. To develop a sense of community ownership;
6. Create a greater awareness of the environment;
7. Ensure the historical legacy of the waterways;
8. Regenerating poor areas and making better use of currently under-used assets.

Understanding the barriers

The literature review and past experience suggested that the following were key barriers:

- Lack of (appropriate) information.
- Little publicity or promotional material that is welcoming and targeted at under-represented or excluded groups.
- The image and perspective of waterway authorities, local groups and regular waterway users may be exclusive and unwelcoming.
- Concerns for personal security and perceptions that the environment is unsafe.
- A neglected or poorly maintained environment.
- Restricted physical access.
- Too few facilities.
- Few opportunities to have positive experiences of a new environment.
- A lack of confidence in accessing an unfamiliar environment and new activities.

Comments*General perceptions of the waterways*

Residents' experience of their local canal or river strongly influenced how they felt about waterways in general. In Birmingham, Leicester and London at least a third of respondents identified waterways generally as healthy and pleasant places. For many residents, their local canal or river was a source of affection and often closely associated with the identity of their local community. The main deterrents were the poor quality and maintenance of the waterway environment and the lack of activities to attract and sustain the residents' interest. These findings contrast with surveys into the use of the countryside where considerable emphasis is placed on the influence of attitudinal barriers, lack of familiarity and the restrictions imposed by distance and cost (more consistent with surveys on the users and non-users of urban parks).

Looking at barriers in more detail

Signs of neglect were often contributory to lack of willingness to visit. Whilst some welcomed and valued the peace and 'unspoilt' character of the waterway (environment, there was an expressed demand for more activities which could attract people in greater numbers and develop their interest in canals and rivers. Festivals and events were often not based in the areas where people lived.

Waterways were often seen as isolated and confined with little natural surveillance. For local waterways, absence of signage was not perceived to be a barrier however, where physical access was restricted, a lack of information on the distance to the next exit from the towpath could be a deterrent. The literature review suggested that the lack of information translated into community languages could be a deterrent to use of waterways by minority ethnic residents however, this was not substantiated by the research.

Narrow and cambered surfaces made use difficult or impossible for people with some disabilities and pushchairs. Permanent barriers are often installed to prevent footpath abuse but they also make routes difficult or impossible to use by others.

Breaking down the barriers

There are number of areas that require progress however, tackling social exclusion requires changes in attitudes and policies at a wider level than the individual waterway. The report considers the ways in which the Government, Local Government, Navigation Authorities, and organised waterway user groups can tackle social exclusion and develop mechanisms for social inclusion.

THE INLAND WATERWAYS: TOWARDS GREATER SOCIAL INCLUSION

Comments

- Government: *Waterways for Tomorrow* (June 2000) has a commitment to encourage more people to use inland waterways, to promote them as a catalyst for regeneration, and to increase access to the waterways for the young, the disabled and the disadvantaged. The Urban White Paper *Our Towns and Cities: The Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance*, places great importance on the new Community Strategies which are to be prepared by local authorities, on the quality, design and value of open spaces, and on the need for community involvement.

Mechanisms for inclusion include:

- Securing and sustaining attractive, accessible and well-maintained waterway environments. Need for effective partnerships and joined-up planning. Must address short-term nature of funding packages.
- Developing a pro-active approach to reaching out into local communities. Personal contact with local groups and escorted visits are key to overcoming negative perceptions, e.g. Foleshill Canals Alive Project; the Groundwork Trusts in East Manchester and Blackburn working with schools and ethnic minorities; Leicester City Council and Asian communities.
- Offering activities to provide positive experiences.
- Targeting initiatives to tackle fears for personal security and concerns for the safety of children.

This report has only been able to illustrate a few of the many initiatives underway to widen the use and appeal of the system. The most striking points however, are the endemic under-funding problem and the absence of any systematic evaluation of the effectiveness, benefits and value for money of the initiatives undertaken.

Conclusions and recommendations

The 'current practice of developing one-off initiatives targeted at specific groups should be subsumed within **strategies for sustained use**' (p. 24). Implementing such strategies will require a need to build upon pilot schemes already underway; more pro-active efforts on the part of multi-agency partnerships, local authorities and the voluntary sector to reach out to local communities to inform and encourage.

Comments*Literature review summaries*

'FieldFare Trust: The Recreational Needs of Disabled People (1999)' Prepared for Environment Agency the literature search identified the paucity of sources providing information specific to the participation of disabled people in water-related recreation. Barriers disabled people faced included poor access to facilities and services; the attitudes and lack of awareness of service providers and of disabled people, and; lack of information and effective promotion. The FT concluded that recreation providers need to be more aware of, and responsive to, the needs of disabled people; d.p. should be given sufficient information to enable them to make their own choices; d.p. need to be confident that they can independently use services and facilities, and; they should be involved in design and development of solutions.

'British Waterways: Birmingham and Black Country Canals Perception Survey' (1995)

Women, especially those with children, retired people, young people and Asian respondents were least likely to visit canals.

'Groundwork Blackburn and Manchester Metropolitan University: Involving Black and Minority Ethnic Communities' (1999)

Study by Groundwork Blackburn and Manchester Metropolitan University involving focus group discussions with members of the Asian Muslim community. Barriers included limitations of time; a lack of appropriate information; negative perception of women who participate in active environmental projects, and; lack of confidence. Barriers thought to be similar to those faced by white community, but highlighted need for single sex activities. BEN identified that many disadvantaged groups have little or no access to information, resources or opportunities for participation.

The household surveys conducted for a study of urban parks by Comedia and Demos identified the importance of a well-managed and well-maintained environment. [Also mentions fear of crime and Burgess (1994)].

Milward and Mostyn's (1997) 'Barriers to enjoying the Countryside' for the CC identified nine common barriers that deter people from visiting the countryside.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

20**RETHINKING OPEN SPACE. OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT: A WAY FORWARD****Description**

The report highlights the fact that the provision, design, management and protection of a network of public open spaces in our cities, towns and villages is an issue right at the heart of sustainability. It is a public resource from which everyone can benefit, irrespective of the type of life they lead, where they live and any disabilities they may have. Open space is something we tend to take for granted, yet it requires careful planning, good design and effective management and maintenance.

The report refers specifically to NPPG11 *Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space* published in June 1996.

The study emphasises methodologies and procedures that will help planning authorities deliver (i) effective planning and implementation, (ii) quality design, and (iii) good management.

Methodology

Scoping workshop, literature review, in-depth interviews and case studies.

Results

The authors conclude that the way in which most Scottish local authorities approach the planning of open space is fundamentally flawed. As a result there is a need for (i) a better methodology for the preparation and implementation of planning policies, and (ii) local authorities to focus on delivering clearly stated outcomes, agreed with local communities and in partnership with them. In addition there is a lack of a widely agreed typology – the definition of ‘open space’ in planning legislation serves little real purpose and is largely ignored. This report recommends a typology which comprises civic space and greenspaces (i.e. parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities, natural greenspaces, green corridors, amenity greenspace, children’s play areas and other functional greenspaces).

The authors further conclude that the primary outcomes local authorities should be seeking to deliver are:

- comprehensive networks of accessible, high quality and sustainable green and civic spaces which contribute positively to the image and overall strategic framework for development of their area, and promote both economic development and social inclusion...
- with each individual open space planned, designed and managed to serve a clearly defined primary purpose while also delivering important secondary benefits, where appropriate, for local people, biodiversity and wildlife (e.g. ecological, environmental and educational benefits).

Ideally local authority departments should work in partnership with local communities to prepare comprehensive Open Space Strategies for their areas.

20 **RETHINKING OPEN SPACE. OPEN SPACE
PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT: A WAY
FORWARD**

Published N/A

Author Kit Campbell Associates, Edinburgh

Date 2001

Publisher Scottish Executive Central Research Unit

Price £5

Keywords

Comments

The report comes to several main conclusions:

1. Councils must undertake comprehensive open space audits. Without these they are unable to make decisions regarding appropriate local provision, the potential for redevelopment, and the true value of existing open spaces such as urban and country parks. For example, one cannot consider 1 acre of open parkland in the same way as 1 acre of urban woodland.
2. Parks and open space can offer an attractive means of assisting social inclusion. Councils should give greater priority to adequate revenue funding for open space in recognition of the contribution it can make to the achievement of wide-ranging strategic aims at both national and local level. Councils should also give priority to finding new and effective ways of assisting and enabling community groups to access and use funding which they cannot themselves obtain.
3. In order to bring greater clarity to the discussion of open space issues, Scottish Executive Planning Services, national agencies, local authorities and other should adopt and promote the use of the following open space typology: OPEN SPACE (i) Greenspace, i.e. parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, childrens' play areas, sports facilities, green corridors, natural / semi-natural greenspaces, other functional greenspaces, and (ii) civic or grey space, i.e. civic squares, market places, pedestrian streets, promenades and sea fronts.
4. There is also a need for a network of high quality, sustainable greenspaces at both the strategic and local level. Councils should also prepare urban design briefs incorporating clear requirements for high quality open space for most sizeable new developments and all brownfield developments.
5. The planning of green corridors and other functional greenspaces should be demand-led, with a particular emphasis on providing green corridors to link disadvantaged areas with public transport routes, employment opportunities and community facilities.

The report draws attention to the report presented to parliament by the Select Committee on Public Walks in 1833. The report (Cmnd 448) identified the physical, moral, spiritual and political benefits of parks in terms every bit as relevant today. They would:

RETHINKING OPEN SPACE. OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT: A WAY FORWARD

Comments

- Be lungs for the city and refresh the air
- Improve people's health and provide places for exercise
- Be an alternative form of recreation to the tavern
- Provide beneficial contact with nature, so refreshing the spirit
- Be used by all members of society, so reducing social tensions and allowing the classes to learn from each other.

The most important factors in their decline are:

- Cultural change
- The growing preference for natural over landscaped
- The shift from Victorian to Edwardian focus on adults and self-improvement to child-friendly opportunities and entertainment
- Under-funding (CCT)
- Growing concerns over personal safety
- De-skilling of park maintenance staff
- Demise of the park keeper

Fortunately, concerns over the urban renaissance and the quality of life in urban areas, the need to deliver social inclusion and rising environmental concerns are now pushing away from open space decline.

Key references:

Comedia in association with Demos (1995) *Park Life: Urban Parks and Social Renewal*. Stroud, Comedia.

Environment Act (1995) London, HMSO.

Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee of the House of Commons (1999) *Town and Country Parks, the Best and... (Twentieth Report)*. London, HMSO.

Harrison, C., Burgess, J., Milward, A. and Dawe, G. (1995) *Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities* (English Nature Research Report 153). English Nature

Woudstra, J. and Fieldhouse, K. (2000) *The Regeneration of Public Parks*. London, E and FN Spon.

NPPG11 (1996) *Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space*. Edinburgh, Scottish Office.

NPPG17 (1999) *Transport and Planning*. Edinburgh, Scottish Office.

Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) *Access to the Countryside for Open-Air Recreation: Scottish Natural Heritage's Advice to Government*. Perth, SNH.

CRU Publications from 1999:

Research on Walking. System Three (1999) £5

Literature Review of Social Exclusion. Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham (1999) £5

Social Inclusion Research Bulletin No.1. (1999) Free

Social Inclusion Research Bulletin No.2. (1999) Free

Social Inclusion Research Bulletin No.3. (2000) Free

<i>P, T & W ref:</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
20	RETHINKING OPEN SPACE. OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT: A WAY FORWARD
Comments	<p>CRU Publications from 1999: <i>Researching Ethnic Minorities in Scotland.</i> Reid-Howie Associates (2000) Free <i>Social Inclusion Research Bulletin No.4.</i> (2000) Free</p>
Correspondence	<p>Chief Research Officer, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, Room J1-5, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XA</p> <p>www.scotland.gov.uk</p>
ISBN	1 84268 992 4
ISSN	0950 2254
ECA/HW OPENspace	July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

21

ACCESS ALL AREAS: WIDER ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

Description	This website outlines current work being undertaken by Lancashire County Council to develop wider access to the countryside.
Methodology	N/A
Results	N/A
Published	http://www.lancsenvironment.com/countryside/wider-access.htm
Authors	Lancashire County Council
Date	Information correct to 23/09/02.
Publisher	Lancashire County Council
Price	N/A
Keywords	Lancashire, access, environment.
Comments	<p>LCC is working with The Countryside Agency to trial a new approach to tackling access to the wider countryside for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Following the CAs 'Increasing access to the wider countryside for disabled people: draft guidance for countryside managers' publication the project aims to undertake:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A policy review including a stake holder survey [full list on website and printout] to identify who has an interest in this work.2. Audit the existing network and trial the field guide.3. Develop an information package.4. Develop strategy for improvement5. Evaluate the whole process. <p>The representative for disabled users on The Lancashire Local Countryside Access Forum is Graham Carter 01254 262309 / graham_carter@hotmail.com.</p> <p>LCC are currently undertaking a web-based Disabled Access Signs Survey where individuals are asked using tick boxes to assess existing and prototype symbols used for giving information about disabled access. See http://www.lancsenvironment.com/countryside/wider-access-survey.htm.</p> <p><u>NB: Might be worth looking through stakeholders list if awarded full Diversity Review contract - lots of local disability, ethnic minority and youth organisations listed.</u></p> <p><i>Progress Report February 2002</i></p> <p>At present there is no clear policy or guidelines covering rights of way and access for people with disabilities in any LCC document.</p>

Comments

At the beginning of the audit process staff involved in the project took part in a two day workshop / training course. The basic aim of the course was to raise participants' basic knowledge and awareness of disability issues and the DDA (1995); to discuss first impressions of the CA guidance notes; and, to decide which parts of the rights of way network in Lancashire should be audited as part of the pilot.

BT Millennium Miles audit forms will be used.

Though that some sort of map-based website will be the best option for providing the majority of people with access to information. The use of IT to interpret the countryside was of particular interest.

Plans are afoot to develop a website for the project.

Appendix 1

Organisations LCC have approached regarding countryside access policy include [NB: specific contact details on printout]:

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust ; RSPB; Forestry Commission; Cycling Project for the North West; Lancashire Wildlife Trust; English Nature (Ainsdale, Southport); English Nature Enquiries Service; Dartmoor National Park Authority; Council for National Parks; Recreation and Access Environment Management, Kent County Council; The Environment Agency; Access Management Officer, Rossendale Borough Council; Chief Engineer, Lancaster City Council; Director of Planning and Technical Services, Fylde Borough Town Council; Countryside, Leisure and Tourism, Wyre BC; Countryside Manager, Ribble Valley BC; Development and Amenities, W. Lancs District Council; Countryside Access Officer, Burnley BC; Director of Technical Service, Chorley BC; S. Ribble BC; Preston BC; Borough of Blackburn with Darwen; Hyndburn BC; Pendle BC; Blackpool BC; NW Water Rivington Water Treatment Works; Country Landowners Assoc; The Ramblers' Assoc; National Farmers Union; MDDO; NW Council for Sports and Recreation; The Ribble Fisheries Assoc; DEFRA

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

22 **INVOLVING URBAN COMMUNITIES IN THE ENVIRONMENT**

Description Paper presented at MOSS (Metropolitan Open Space Sytem) International Conference, Durban, South Africa.

Methodology

Results

Published *Ethnic Environmental Participation Volume 1* <http://www.ben-network.co.uk/resources/downloads.html>

Author Ling Wong, J.

Date 1994

Organisation Black Environment Network, 9 Llainwen Uchaf, Llanberis, Wales LL55 4LL.

Keywords Urban, community action, environmental.

Comments Community participation is a major issue for the environmental movement, but the community must be motivated by the feeling that environmental concerns are relevant to them (p. 1).

Need to redefine environment in a way that constantly establishes and re-establishes the inextricable relationship of people and nature.

Recent environmental movement has run away with term and most believe it is something extra to their lives, that only certain people take an interest and that it is not about them. Yet it is everything around us and affects the immediate quality of our lives.

Many believe that environmentalists value wildlife over people, e.g. superior educated people care about plants and animals / rest are bad, ignorant and destroy. Care of environment is dominated by middle class.

Working classes rarely have gardens and local flowerbeds are filled with so-called vandal proof plants, hostile concrete landscape of litter and despair. For urban wk classes the betterment of the immediate environment should be high on the agenda.

Original concept o the high rise block as a high quality living space has been lost (p. 2).

Environmental work must be done in the spirit of fun and sharing knowledge and concerns, building trust and unity (p. 3).

People are not automatically consultable. Staff training and development is crucial

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

22

**INVOLVING URBAN COMMUNITIES IN THE
ENVIRONMENT**

ISSN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

23 THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL VALUES OF PLANTS AND LANDSCAPES

Description	The paper aims to share the cultural and social values of plants and landscapes which have been uncovered through the work of the Black Environment Network (BEN).
Methodology	Programme of countryside visits for disadvantaged groups within ethnic communities.
Results	<p>The following information was uncovered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to the countryside had the effect of engendering a sense of ownership and connection with the countryside.• The sense of being in touch with people and space in a free and random way gave a sense of being received into somewhere that was infinite and whole.• Various groups found the countryside experience to be one of re-union with nature.• The experience of breaking out created a new sense of possibility within life.• The countryside appeared to be restorative of mind and heart and led to a sense of refreshment.• Access to the countryside was seen as a reclamation of rights.
Presented	Plants and Human Well-being Conference, Reading University.
Author	Ling Wong, J.
Date	September 1996
Organisation	Black Environment Network, 9 Llainwen Uchaf, Llanberis, Wales LL55 4LL.
Keywords	Black Environment Network,
Comments	<p>A high percentage of the black and white ethnic communities in the UK lead deprived and city bound lives, 'divorced' from nature. BEN works with different groups to establish opportunities for them to be 'in touch' with the natural environment. Significant aspects of BEN include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enable access by ethnic communities to nature through countryside visits.• To establish contact with nature within the urban setting.• To facilitate ethnic communities to create points of contact with nature.• To influence the multi-cultural interpretation of the British landscape.• To create opportunities for the multi-cultural use of plants and landscapes.• To share the cultural and social values of plants and landscapes specific to ethnic cultures with others.

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

23

**THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL VALUES OF
PLANTS AND LANDSCAPES**

Comments

Many of the ethnic communities in the UK stem from the rural areas of their birth country, however, most are now urban-bound.

Projects such as 'Cultural Gardens' are public statements of recognition and acceptance of the presence of the multi-ethnic population and can provide a setting for cross-cultural interest.

ISSN

N / A

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

24

A MULTICULTURAL SURVEY OF THE INFLUENCE OF CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES ON ADULT SENSITIVITIES TO URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

Description

The goal of this project was to examine the relationship between childhood contact with nature and adult attitudes toward urban forests. Certain questions were raised such as:

- Are positive childhood experiences with nature critical for developing adult sensitivities to the environment?
- Do people's early interactions and experiences with nature, whether positive or negative, influence their attitudes toward the urban forests as adults?

The results indicate that childhood experiences with nature have a strong influence on adult sensitivities to woods.

Methodology

Literature review and nation-wide telephone survey of 2,004 adults in large metropolitan areas across U.S. In particular, participants were asked about their memories of their childhood experiences with nature and their current understanding and appreciation of urban trees. Demographics, including multicultural background, were gathered.

Results

Overall, respondents of all ethnicities expressed positive attitudes toward trees in urban areas. Childhood participation in active and passive outdoor activities, including tree planting and being raised near trees, appears to influence adult attitudes positively. In particular, the findings showed that there is a strong relationship between childhood experiences with nature and people's current attitudes toward trees. For example, the respondents who had frequently spent time in the outdoors with trees as children were more likely to have positive attitudes toward trees as adults.

Published

www.wsu.edu (Washington State University, Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture)

Authors

Lohr, V.I., Pearson-Mims, C.H. et al.

Date

July 2000 (presented at the International People-Plant Council Meeting)

Publisher

Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Washington State University

Price

free

Keywords

childhood memories of nature, adult experiences of woods, urban parks.

24

**A MULTICULTURAL SURVEY OF THE IFLUENCE
OF CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL
EXPERIENCES ON ADULT SENSITIVITIES TO
URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS**

Comments

This article taken by an internet site, is a brief overview of the project's goals and final. The literature review even if it is in a short version, offers a very good overview of most previous studies focusing on children's experiences with nature. One of these studies referring to adult memories of favourite childhood play experiences, found out that outdoor play was remembered more often than indoor play, and play materials remembered most often included natural objects, such as rocks and leaves (Henninger 1994).

References:

Henninger, M.L. (1994) Adult perceptions of favourite childhood play experiences, in *Early Child Development and Care* 99: 23-30.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

25 GARDENS FOR ALL

Description This article outlines some of the ways in which managers at heritage sites are seeking to draw minority groups to their gardens.

Methodology Case study reports.

Results N/A

Published Horticulture Week, 7 June: 18 – 21.

Author McMillan, E.

Date 2001

Publisher Haymarket, Teddington, Middx.

Price Unknown

Keywords Gardens, minority groups, access.

Comments Garden visiting is a predominantly white, middle-aged and middle-class pastime, however, moves are afoot to claim this pleasure for a wider cross section of the population.

Policy and planning groups are beginning to look at how they present themselves and how they connect with minority groups.

Lack of representation of minorities among staff and volunteers is a key issue. The article mentions the Black Environment Network (BEN) as a group looking to make connections with minority groups in the field of environmental participation. Yet director Judy Ling Wong acknowledges that consultation is difficult with groups that are unused to being consulted.

In many gardens interpretation is a key barrier to access. Greater emphasis could also be given to the geographical spread of the plants grown in UK gardens.

The Chumleigh Multicultural Garden in Burgess Park, Southwark, London is given as an example of a site that reflects its neighbourhood. The Chinese plant collection at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is also highlighted as a particularly good example.

ISSN 0269 9778

ECA/HW
OPENspace July 2003

26 **WOODLAND SENSIBILITIES: RECREATIONAL USES OF WOODS AND FORESTS IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN**

Description This is a study of developing public attitudes and sensibilities to the recreational use of woods. Specialist perceptions of trends in these (changing) public attitudes are also surveyed. Developing public attitudes are viewed in the context of the broader understanding of social, cultural and environmental issues.

This report is structured as follows:

- Context: background and methodology of the study
- Perceptions of specialists
- Focus group findings
- Interpretations
- Summary of findings

Appendices include information on group specification, a focus group discussion topic guide and a key to woodland pictures used as stimulus materials.

Methodology Focus group discussions and background interviews with specialists

- Results**
- The experience of trees and woods is of “intimate personal significance” for most people in Britain (p: 1, 52); this, however, does not hold for commercial plantations of softwoods. People’s perceptions are local in both a geographical and phenomenological sense: they are shaped by specific local circumstances. Recreational aspirations vary depending on life stage, socio-economic circumstances and geographical location. Children’s needs are crucial for shaping parents’ recreational expectations. Significant ethnic minorities feel disconnected or deterred from the use of woods for recreation. The cultural association of woodlands with notions of ‘English’ identity is possibly related to this.
 - Unmet recreational needs include accessible woodlands for local walking (lacking from the surroundings of many conurbations), opportunities for involvement with environmental concerns, activities attractive to children, attraction of ethnic/cultural minorities, people’s participation in definition and development of recreational requirements at a local level.
 - Specialist opinion rates the Forestry Commission higher than do members of the public. The latter perceive the Forestry Commission as a “commercially-driven timber-producing organisation” with little or no relevance to their recreational and environmental concerns.

Published Report by the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change for the Forestry Commission

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

26 **WOODLAND SENSIBILITIES: RECREATIONAL
USES OF WOODS AND FORESTS IN
CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN**

Authors Macnaghten P., Grove-White R., Weldon S. & Waterton C.

Date 1998

Publisher Lancaster University Press.

Price N/A

Keywords Woodlands, forests, recreational use, countryside, children, outdoors

Comments This interdisciplinary study offers an insight into public perception and use of woods and forests. Although the focus is on recreational uses, the study is also useful as a survey of the developing environmental sensibilities of the British public and of public perceptions of large organisations that manage natural resources (e.g. Forestry Commission). The focus group methodology “rooted in developments in the sociology of knowledge” (p: 5) seems particularly well suited to the topic of this research.

This study also offers a very interesting insight on how professionals in the field view forestry, the public and the Forestry Commission.

ISBN

ECA/HW July 2003
OPENspace

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

27

BODIES IN THE WOODS

Description

It is generally assumed that humans exhibit a general affinity with trees and that trees culturally signify a universal 'natural' message. Yet, although there is something about trees and bodies that seems to effect a 'passionate liaison', the nature of this liaison varies from society to society (Schama, 1995). Tree symbolism has been the subject of considerable anthropological enquiry.

Macnaghten and Urry highlight the fact that, beyond general claims about trees and humans, there has been little or no research into how specific social groups engage with and perform their bodies in different types of wooded environments in the West. In this article they point out that different social groups experience the bodily opportunities and constraints that woods and forests provide in quite different ways.

Methodology

Focus groups in Scotland, England and Wales.

Results

The authors conclude that:

1. That there are significant, contested and ambivalent affordances provided by woods and forests in contemporary Britain.
2. There is considerable variation in the embodied experience of trees between different social groups.
3. Organisations concerned with 'managing' these places deal problematically with the embodied relationship that some groups have with trees, woods and forests.

The experience of trees appears to have an intimate bodily experience for many people. Yet the bodily affordances that people gain from woods and forests are influenced by personal and family life-stage, socio-economic circumstance and geographical location.

- Young mothers want secure, wardened play spaces for families and children.
- Fathers and older children want open-air facilities for strenuous outdoor pursuits.
- Retired or unemployed people want locally accessible open spaces that are full of surprises and lack regulation.
- Adventurous younger people want places to get away from it all.
- Field sports enthusiasts seek to maintain local, relatively undisturbed places for their sports.
- Asian youth mostly seek to avoid English woods altogether.

Published

Body and Society 6 (3 – 4): 166 - 182.

Authors

Macnaghten, P. and Urry, J.

Date

2000

Publisher

Sage, London.

Price

Subscription £240 (Institutions), £40 (Individuals).

27 BODIES IN THE WOODS

Keywords Trees, embodiment, social groups.

Comments Getting out into the open air is an important part of most people's daily lives. The focus groups research showed that the open air provided scope for relaxation, refreshment, escape from the everyday and a chance to reform social relationships. Importance was rarely related to the intrinsic character of the environment itself, but rather to the human experiences and social relationships that such spaces afforded.

For many people their desire for the outdoors depended upon the accessibility to spaces that were apparently free from signs of human interference and control. Through the focus group research walking under and through trees, woods and forests was a way in which to escape from the city, the 'other', and a way of reconnecting with childhood memories. The study showed that the embodied experience and sensuality of trees was particularly highly regarded (Tuan, 1993). However, for some groups such as mothers and children, trees and woods have also become associated with danger, places in need of regulation in order to be safe.

The association of broad-leafed, deciduous woodland and Englishness may explain why inner-city Asian youths are generally not attracted to woods. In the research, this group experienced little desire to experience nature and claimed to enjoy woods and forests only insofar as they enabled them to participate in adventure sports. Such detachment was also evident in their childhood memories of tress and woods. Whilst this detachment stems from the practical difficulties of getting out into the wider countryside and from a diffuse sense of ethnic difference and embarrassment in rural areas in Britain. Another factor may also be the difference in cultural associations of woods and forests. For example, the research found that:

- Trees are more likely to be considered as a source of firewood.
- For young Asian women, woods are dark, dirty and scary places. This was the only group that preferred dense conifer plantations that they described as peaceful and warm.
- This group was the only one to discuss global ecological need for more woods as a greater priority than going for walks and personal pleasure.

Further distinctions can be seen in the ways in which different groups use woods and forests. For some, close physical proximity or lack of time constraints enables regular, straightforward informal visits. Others (e.g. women) associate woods with a sense of danger (Burgess, 1995) and find the presence of rangers and signs of disciplined activity comforting.

References:

- Burgess, J. (1995) *Growing in Confidence: Understanding People's Perceptions of Urban Fringe Woodlands*. Cheltenham, Countryside Commission.
- Schama, S. (1995) *Landscape and Memory*. London, Harper Collins.

P, T & W ref: Project Title

27 BODIES IN THE WOODS

Comments

References:

Tuan, Y-F. (1993) *Passing Strange and Wonderful*. Washington, DC, Island Press.

Other references:

Burgess, J. (1993) *Perceptions of Risk in Recreational Woodlands in the Urban Fringe*. Cheltenham, Countryside Commission.

Clarke, G., Darrall, J., Grove-White, R., Macnaghten, P. and Urry, J. (1994) *Leisure Landscapes*. London, CPRE.

Macnaghten, P. and Urry, J. (1998) *Contested Natures*. London, Sage.

Macnaghten, P., Grove-White, R., Waterton, C. and Weldon, S. (1998) *Woodland Sensibilities: Recreational Uses of Woods and Forests in Contemporary Britain*. Lancaster, CSEC.

Rival, L. (ed) (1998) *The Social Life of Tress: Anthropological Perspectives on Tree Symbolism*. Oxford, Berg.

ISSN 1357 034X

ECA/HW July 2003
OPENspace

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

28 PUBLIC PARKS AND THE GEOGRAPHY OF FEAR

Description This article investigates the geography of fear surrounding the use of public park in Leicester. The study shows that certain fears were specific to different groups. Madge cites three main objectives:

1. To assess the significance of fear as a constraint deterring use of public parks.
2. To compare and contrast the intensity and causes of fear as perceived by different social groups.
3. To examine how this fear is translated into spatial behaviour.

Methodology Literature review, questionnaire survey.

Results Ten main characteristics were identified by respondents as constraints which inhibited their use of public parks. These included fear, weather, lack of time, family, lack of transport, lack of interest, lack of awareness, housework, distance and inability to physically access the park.

Eight main causes of fear were identified. The main anxiety was that of physical attract, the remaining fell into two categories (those in which gender was apparent and those in which women's fears were only slightly higher than men's. Fear of animals / dogs was much higher for African-Caribbean and Asian groups than the white group. Yet black people are often represented as the perpetrators rather than the victims of crime. Women often felt safer in the presence of others.

Published Tijdschrit voor Economische en Sociale Geografie 88 (3): 237 - 250.

Author Madge, C.

Date 1997

Publisher Blackwell, Oxford.

Price Subscription: Individual £30, Institution £88.

Keywords Fear, public parks, planning, gender, 'race', age.

Comments To trend have become apparent concerning the use of public parks during the 1990s.

1. Public parks are rapidly becoming areas of neglected that are increasingly voided by the public (Vidal, 1994).
2. Particular sub-groups find park intimidating and avoid using them, thus diminishing their recreational opportunities in the city (Hoyles, 1994).

Comments

Madge concludes that fear is a significant factor structuring the use of public parks in Leicester. The intensity and cause of fear varied with social traits of gender, ethnicity and age and affected spatial behaviour regarding use of parks. This geography of fear is mediated through a set of overlapping social, ideological and structural power relations which become translated into spatial behaviour (p. 245).

This study illustrates the need for public bodies to gain an understanding of the geography of fear.

References:

Hoyles, M. (1994) 'Lost connections and new directions', *Working Paper No. 6*. Comedia and Demos.

Vidal, J. (1994) 'Parks: who needs them?', *The Guardian*, 21st July.

Other references:

Box, J. and Harrison, C. (1992) 'Natural spaces in urban places', *Town and Country Planning* 62: 231 - 235.

Coster, G. (1993) 'Multi-cultural gardening', *The Independent on Sunday*, 26th September.

Cranz, G. (1978) 'The changing role of urban parks: from pleasure garden to open space system', *Landscape* 22: 9 - 18.

Hutchinson, R. (1987) 'Ethnicity and urban recreation: whites, blacks and hispanics in Chicago's public parks', *Journal o Leisure Research* 19: 205 -222.

Soleki, W. D. and Welch, J. (1995) 'Urban parks: green spaces or green walls', *Landscape and Urban Planning* 32: 93 - 106.

ISSN

Unknown

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: Project Title

29 ANTI-ESSENTIALISM, MULTICULTURALISM AND THE 'RECOGNITION' OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Description Modood uses data from the Fourth National Survey of Ethnic Minorities in Britain (1994) to illustrate his discussion of anti-essentialism, multiculturalism and the recognition of religious groups.

Methodology Literature review, survey.

Results The anti-essentialism that has become virtual orthodoxy in identity studies is right to emphasise that minority identities are continually changing and reinventing themselves through fusing with elements of majority cultures and that this process of mixing, of hybridisation will increasingly be the norm where rapid change and globalisation have made all identities potentially unstable. Yet it is a misunderstanding of anti-essentialism to conclude that all collective agency rests on mythic and dishonest, albeit strategically necessary, agency (p. 397).

Published The Journal of Political Philosophy 6 (4): 378 - 399.

Author Modood, T.

Date 1998

Publisher Blackwell, Oxford.

Price Subscription c. £201 (institutions), £39 (individuals).

Keywords Anti-essentialism, multiculturalism.

Comments The discussion is divided under several themes:
Anti-essentialism
Arguments for political multiculturalism are directed against essentialist or monistic definitions of nationality. Multiculturalists emphasise internal differentiation and fluidity, with definitions of national belonging being historical constructs and changing over time. Yet academics have begun to attack multiculturalism in the same way that it attacked nationalism or monoculturalism. Minority groups are presented as discrete, impervious to external influences, homogeneous and without internal dissent.; that people of certain family, ethnic or geographical origins are always to be defined by them and indeed are supposed to be behaviourally determined by them.

Ethnic identities are not simply 'given', nor are they static or atemporal.

Ethnic minority identities in Britain

The survey showed that:

- Members of minority groups strongly associated with their ethnic and family origins.

**ANTI-ESSENTIALISM, MULTICULTURALISM
AND THE 'RECOGNITION' OF RELIGIOUS
GROUPS**

Comments

- Religion was more prominent in some groups than others.
- Ethnic / racial / religious identification was not universal
- The majority of the respondents had no problems with the idea of hyphenated or multiple identities.
- Many found their claim to be British was often denied.
- Ethnic identification is no longer necessarily connected to personal participation in distinctive cultural practices.
- Differential prejudice is targeted at different groups.

Recognising hybridity

Modood believes that the political challenge is to reach out for a multi-cultural Britishness that is sensitive to ethnic difference and incorporates a respect for persons as individuals and for the collectivities to which people have a sense of belonging.

Complex Britishness.

Modood also comments on the need to recognise religious communities.

ISSN

0963 8016

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

30

INTRODUCTION: SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Description	<p>The future of different localities is becoming increasingly dependent upon decisions made by global companies (often external to the area). The most vulnerable groups within society are most affected by economic restructuring processes. In most major cities across the world growing sections of the population are suffering from multi-deprivation.</p> <p>The term 'social exclusion' has been adopted to encapsulate the multidimensional nature of the problems facing inhabitants of deprived urban areas. There is growing international interest in both understanding the causes of social exclusion and the extent to which policies and initiatives can help combat the problem.</p> <p>This paper (and others in the volume) looks at current academic understanding of the relationships between social exclusion and community initiatives.</p>
Methodology	Review of papers.
Results	The collection of papers demonstrate the complexity of the problems of social exclusion within deprived urban neighbourhoods
Published	GeoJournal 51 (4): 277 - 279
Authors	Morrison, N.
Date	2000
Publisher	Kluwer Academic Publishers
Price	
Keywords	Community, social exclusion, initiatives.
Comments	Community initiatives are distinct from others because of their sensitivity to local circumstances, and emphasis on community participation within the regeneration process.

Comments

This special volume includes papers by:

- Holt-Jensen - provides an introduction to the causes of social exclusion and potential solutions to improve quality of life. He notes that economic exclusion relates to exclusion from the structural changes occurring in the labour market; political exclusion results from non-participation in decision making; and, cultural exclusion results from people being excluded from mainstream values. He stresses the importance of 'bottom up' strategies, involving collaboration with and empowerment of the local community.
 - Baeten - illustrates the difficulties in empowering local communities in strategic decision-making in a study of the regeneration of South Bank in Central London. He expresses hope in recent policy initiatives which appear to be returning to partnership based planning, widening participation and focusing on the notion of the community.
 - Hull - provides a review of past initiatives and stresses that there needs to be a balance between physical and social regeneration, and the need for self-sustaining regeneration.
 - Romice, Odgul and Hanhörster - provide alternative approaches. Romice's architectural and urban design perspective argues that to revive areas and develop a sense of community, one must focus upon people's perception or environmental experiences of an area. Odgul states that differential community ties constitute the social base for local organisations to be involved in housing rehabilitation.
- Morrison - questions the effectiveness of initiatives that are not locally sensitive.

ISSN

0343 2521

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

31

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

Description

Making Connections addresses the issues facing greenspace managers. It is designed to help them open up their sites to a wider audience. It covers issues such as what motivates people to visit sites, how people can be encouraged to use and get involved in sites, relevant legislation and policy, and aspects relating to site layout, information provision and interpretation.

The book is divided into several themes, each of which is linked to at least one case study example:

1. Understanding your audience.
Churchtown Centre: Disability Awareness Training
2. An overview of social and greenspace policies.
Implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act
Disability Equality Officer, Bristol City Council
Lee Valley Park Equality Procedure Notes
3. Designing for accessibility.
Moors Valley Country Park and Kingston Lacey Estate: Tractor-Trailer Sharing Scheme
The Community Transport Project, Hammersmith and Fulham
Walkable Audits, USA
Breakfree Scheme: Accessible Pre-Visit Information
Legible City, Bristol
Widgit Software – Using Symbols to Aid Communication
4. Enabling Environments.
The Green Flag Award Scheme
Avon Wildlife Trust: Sculpture Trail Workshop for Visually Impaired People
Peter Randall-Page and Common Ground: Sculptures in the Landscape and Community Involvement
The Bruce Trust: Canal Boat Holidays
Stockport MBC: Health and Greenspace Partnership and The Healthy Walk Scheme
Wythenshawe Park, Manchester: Therapeutic Horticulture in Partnership with Social Services
Botanic Gardens, Victoria Park, Bath
5. Community involvement.
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens: Community Garden Evaluation
Windmill Hill City Farm – Greenspace as a Village in the Community
Healing Gardens: Outreach Horticultural Programme
Culpeper Community Gardens, London: Plant Sales
Oldham MBC: Outreach Shopping Mall Stand
Milton Keynes: Visitor Surveys

Methodology

Literature review, case studies / examples of good practice and user / site surveys.

<i>P, T & W ref:</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
31	MAKING CONNECTIONS: A GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE
Results	N/A
Published	N/A
Author	Price, R. and Stoneham, J.
Date	2001
Publisher	The Sensory Trust
Price	£15 (standard), £12 (students, charities and voluntary organisations) c. £19.95 (Amazon.co.uk)
Keywords	Greenspace, access.
Comments	<p>The Making Connections study centres on the connection between people and nature and, in particular, on how opportunities to enjoy the natural world can be made available to everyone. It works with the notion that ‘there is a basic right for all people to have meaningful opportunities to enjoy, learn from and participate in the natural world’ (p. 3). The project was funded by the National Lotteries Charities Board (now the Community Fund).</p> <p>The project was inspired by a fundamental concern that many areas of greenspace are failing to meet the needs of older and disabled people and that even where sites have provided good access facilities they still remain relatively under-used (Greenhalgh and Warpole, 1995). In terms of obtaining pleasure from the natural environment, the aspirations of the elderly and disabled people are no different from anyone else, and are equally varied (Sensory Trust, 2001). However, such pleasures are often less accessible to people whose mobility is limited.</p> <p>Describing the project the Trust’s web-site states that ‘local areas of green space offer the main opportunities for people to have day-to-day contact with nature. They are also areas that can give opportunities for local communities to change their own environment and so play their part in creating a sustainable vision for the future. For such strategies to work they must include all members of the community. A loss of involvement by disabled people will result in a loss to the social, economic and cultural make-up of the community’ (Sensory Trust, 2001).</p> <p>The Countryside Agency has identified three types of countryside visitors, (i) frequent (20%), (ii) occasional (40%) and (iii) missing (40%) – generally those on low income or state benefit and reliant on public transport, esp. ethnic communities, the elderly and people with disabilities (Chesters, 1997).</p> <p>The report provides brief definitions of disability and natural / public greenspace (pp. 4 – 5).</p>

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

Comments**Understanding your audience**

This section outlines definitions and models of disability, highlights global and national trends and discusses the constraints that disabled people encounter individually in their leisure experiences.

An overview of strategies and policies

In this section provides a brief guide to Agenda 21, the Disability Discrimination Act, the National Disability Council, the Disability Rights Task Force, the Disability Rights Commission, and other sites of interest such as, the Social Exclusion Unit, the Urban Task Force and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Designing for accessibility

This section explores the range of barriers that prevent or dissuade access to greenspace for disabled people, and highlights the improvements that can open up a site to a wider audience. The term accessibility is a comprehensive term that takes into account more than one form of disability. It also takes into account all the aspects that contribute to a place such as community, transport, accompaniment, safety and meaningful landscape design. The report assesses the effects of exclusion from public greenspace, expectations and highlights a range of (often hidden) barriers. It is particularly important that the decision to go outside is often made inside (Stoneham and Thoday, 1994; Henderson *et al.*, 1995).

Some of the strategies that have been shown to improve accessibility include designing for on-site accessibility, improving access to interpretation, improving off-site access, and bringing the experience to the people (nearby contact with nature).

Enabling environments

This section looks at what greenspace means to people, the psychological benefits of 'nearby nature' and the way people respond in their perceptions and preferences. Even for those who have no interest in visiting or being involved in such places, its presence as occupying a kind of 'thereness' in people's everyday routines is often sufficient for them to gain some sense of well-being (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989). The development of such concepts a 'universal design' and 'barrier free environments' has fostered a belief that if an environment can be designed without physical obstacles then people will be free to enjoy independence and well-being (p. 56). Although an approach that only emphasises practical concerns will fall short in addressing the emotional and psychological impact that landscapes can have on people (Thwaites, 1998).

It is important to address the fact that leisure is not a 'necessary' activity and therefore requires greater motivation. The report considers what

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

Comments

constitutes a satisfactory experience.

Environmental psychology has examined the relationship between people and the natural environment, it has address people's perceptions, assessment and preferences for particular landscapes and attempts to find out what landscapes mean to us (Uzzell, 1991; Rohde and Kendle, 1994). The report discusses the work of Kaplan and Kaplan (cognitive) (pp. 58 – 65).

Community involvement

This section discusses the meaning of the term 'community' and extends this idea towards 'inclusive communities'. Public greenspace can benefits a community in several ways. From providing a gathering space and acting as a place for public conversation, to providing a place of comfort and image, and an accessible and linking space. The key principles for success include:

- Thinking through aim carefully at the start.
- Making sure everyone on the project is committed to involving the community.
- Identifying stakeholders and involving them from the start.
- Selecting appropriate methods for the task.
- Make it accessible for those you are trying to involve.
- Be open and honest.
- Build on existing channels of communication.
- Listen.
- Gain adequate representation.
- Build consensus.
- Feedback.

Conclusions

This chapter focuses on the observations and recommendations derived from the making Connections study. Important themes include:

1. 'Ordinariness'.
2. The diversity of participants.
3. The desire to use greenspace.
4. The range of interests.
5. Barriers.
6. Officers.
7. Guidance, training and information.
8. Participation.
9. Quality of experience.

The report also includes data from the National User Survey and the National Site Survey, and a comprehensive list of further contacts / sources of information.

Comments**References:**

- Chesters, A. (1997) 'Who's been left out', in Blamey, E. (ed) *Making Access for All a Reality*. Proceedings. Countryside Recreation Network, Cardiff University pp. 32 – 36.
- Greenhalgh, L. and Warpole, K. (1995) *Park Life: Urban Parks and Social Renewal*. Comedia and Demos.
- Henderson, K. A., Bedini, L. A., Hecht, L. and Schuler, R. (1995) 'Women with Physical Disabilities and the Negotiation of Leisure Constraints', *Leisure Studies* 14: 17 – 31.
- Kaplan, R. and Kaplan, S. (1989) *The Experience of Nature: A Psychological Perspective*. New York, Cambridge University Press.
- Rohde, C. L. E. and Kendle, A. D. (1994) *Human Well-being, Natural Landscapes and Wildlife in Urban Areas. A Review*. English Nature Science No. 22. Peterborough, English Nature.
- Stoneham, J. A. and Thoday, P. R. (1994) *Landscape Design for Elderly and Disabled People*. Woodbridge, Garden Art Press.
- Thwaites, K. (1998) 'The well-being of disabled people: the concept of landscape settings', in Stoneham, J. A. and Kendle, A. D. (eds) *Plants and Human Well-Being*. The Sensory Trust and Horticulture for All. Proceedings of a Conference at the University of Reading pp. 107 – 117.

Contacts:

- Centrewire, gates and stiles – designs for easy access to rights of way.
Centrewire Ltd., PO Box 11, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 OXD
- Fieldfare Trust, 67a The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HT
- Healthy Cities Campaign, Northern School of Public Health, Enterprise House, Manchester M15 6SE
- Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street, Henley on Thames, RG9 2BA

Websites

- English Nature www.english-nature.org.uk
- Federation of Farms and Community Gardens www.farmgarden.org.uk
- Fieldfare Trust www.fieldfare.org.uk
- Groundwork www.groundwork.org.uk
- Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM) www.ilam.co.uk
- Leisure Studies Journal www.tandf.co.uk/journals/
- Sensory Trust www.sensorytrust.swinternet.co.uk
- The Countryside Agency www.countryside.gov.uk
- Thrive www.thrive.co.uk
- Urban Parks Forum www.urbanparksforum.co.uk
- Wilderness Accessibility for People with Disabilities
www.ncd.gov/publications/wilderness.html
- Centre for Accessible Environments www.cae.org.uk
- Disability Net www.disabilitynet.co.uk
- RNIB www.rnib.org.uk
- Widgit Software Ltd www.widgit.com

<i>P, T & W ref:</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
31	MAKING CONNECTIONS: A GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

Websites Common Ground www.commonground.org.uk
National Disability Council www.disability-council.gov.uk
Disability Rights Task Force www.disability.gov.uk/drtf/drtfrepo.doc
DETR (walking) www.local-transport.detr.gov.uk/walk/walkp1.htm

ISBN 0 9526745 3 X

ECA/HW July 2003
OPENspace

32

ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND THE DESIGN OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE: AN INCLUSIVE LANDSCAPE?

Description

This paper examines the relationship between ethnicity, outdoor places and landscape architects, with particular regard to the experience of ethnic minorities in Britain. Previous research and case studies suggest that the physical environment has a positive or negative role in perceptions of everyday life. The construct of nature within a given culture group is considered key to perceptions of landscape, with various models being developed and refined. It is argued that landscapes have a symbolic dimension, and aspects of landscapes can be recognised as familiar or alien, welcoming or excluding. A wide variety of case studies in Britain are used to discuss design and management practices that reflect a range of cultural experiences. The need for landscape architects and managers to be aware of how places may be interpreted in different ways by different ethnic minority groups, and to work towards inclusive design, is highlighted.

According to its author, this paper is based on the increasingly accepted understanding that in order to treat people equally it is important to respond to their diversity.

Methodology

Literature review and summary of previous case studies.

A summary of work is discussed which tests the hypothesis that ethnicity is a significant factor with regard to perception and the pattern of use of public landscapes. Case studies, predominantly from Britain, are used to explore different articulations of ethnicity in landscape and urban design. These are grouped under three approaches:

1. Symbolic Reference. Main Study: Chinatown

The landscape becomes a cultural artefact, where images from one place are transposed to the new location, often exaggerated or idealised. Visual clues as in the case of Chinatown, archways, pagodas, design motifs and planting are used to symbolise the heritage of the community

2. Experiential Reference. Main Study: Chumleigh Gardens, Southwalk London.

This approach addresses landscape design as an integrated whole, and identifies the experiential characteristics of a landscape type. This is most easily recognised when reflecting natural landscapes

3. Facility Provision. Main Study: allotments (Green Connection, Nottingham, and Calthorpe Project, Camden).

The examination of the response to the similarities and differences in the use of parks by people from ethnic minorities. Some patterns of use are more important characteristic of people from specific cultural backgrounds, and it is important that designers think about how these can be accommodated.

32 ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND THE DESIGN OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE: AN INCLUSIVE LANDSCAPE?

Results The case studies described in this paper illustrate that there is significant potential to improve the green space experience of different members of British society.

Published Landscape Research 26(4): 351-366

Authors Rishbeth, C.

Date 2001

Publisher Landscape Research Group

Price Subscription c. £216.00 p.a.(3)

Keywords Ethnic minorities, urban parks, culture, design, perception.

Comments This research is primarily concerned with residents of Asian (Indian sub-continent and South-East Asian) and Black (Afro-Caribbean and African) ethnic origin. Numerically they are the largest minority groups in Britain, and it is thought that the cultural differences between these groups and white British people is greater than between residents of European origin.

One of the case studies depicted in this paper, is Burgess' work (1988) on the use of urban parks by ethnic communities. She claims that the way these groups use green spaces in the city is linked to the use of space in the homeland. In particular, the Asian group in the study greatly valued how they used to have extended family gatherings in parks in India and how they would like to use parks in this way in Britain. Although Asians like walking in parks, they generally preferred the focus of an outing to be food and socialising. Moreover, research in the US regarding park use by different ethnic groups found some pronounced differences (Hutchinson 1987). For instance, African-Americans were more likely to be engaged in sport whereas whites were far more likely to use the park for walking or jogging. Chinese users, on the other hand, tended to be elderly men who socialised with each other. What however seems to be a similar experience to all of these ethnic minority groups, is their fear of racial attacks or bullying. A study of Pakistani children in Sheffield (Wooley & Amin 1995) found that parks and playgrounds were popular and used frequently, although fear of bullying was the most frequent mentioned fear.

References:

Burgess, J. et al. (1988) People, parks and the urban green: a study of popular meanings and values for open spaces in the city, in *Urban*

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

32 **ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND THE DESIGN
OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE: AN INCLUSIVE
LANDSCAPE?**

Comments *Studies 25: 455- 476.*

Hutchinson, R. (1987) Ethnicity and urban recreation: Whites, Black and Hispanics in Chicago's public parks, in *Journal of Leisure Research* 19(3): 205-222.

Wooley, H. & Amin, N (1995) Pakistani children in Sheffield and their perception and use of public open spaces, in *Children's Environments* 12: 479-488

ISBN

ECA/HW July 2003
OPENspace

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref: *Project Title*

33 SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Description This article looks at social exclusion and inclusion in relation to countryside recreation. The study is based on analysis of twelve case study projects.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Target Beneficiaries</i>
Antrim Borough Council	Ethnic / religious groups
Big Issue Hill Walking Club	Homeless urban poor, young adult
Black Environment Network	Ethnic minorities
Fairbridge	Young adults, urban poor
Glodwick Community Outreach	Ethnic minorities
Greenwood Community Forest (Bestwood)	Ethnic minorities
Mendip Hill AONB	Poor and young
Midlothian Council (Vogrie Country Park)	Disabled
Northants Council Brixworth	Disabled
National Trust Inner City Project	Poor, young / elderly inner city residents
PACE (Croydon)	Ethnic minorities
Youth Route 70	Young adults, urban poor

Methodology Literature review, questionnaire survey, case studies.

Results Slee concluded that we need to better understand the attitudes of those who do not use the countryside and for whom exclusion may be an issue.

One facet of contemporary government activity is the tendency towards 'projectisation' and funding is often not available for routine activity. Funds may go to those who are simply good at writing grant proposals.

Published Countryside Recreation 10 (1): 2 - 7.

Author Slee, B.

Date 2002

Publisher Countryside Recreation Network.

Price Free

Keywords Social, exclusion, inclusion.

Comments Despite widespread use and numerous attempts at definition, the precise meaning of inclusion and exclusion remain rather elusive.

'Social exclusion' has been defined in the following ways (p. 2):
The Cabinet Office (2000) = 'a shorthand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown'.

Comments

Local Government Association (1999) = the process through which individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society in which they live. This can include a range of processes (e.g. unemployment, lack of entitlement or access to social security benefits, social security benefit levels, and poor transportation) and outcomes (e.g. poverty, ill health and isolation)'.

Burchardt et al (1999) = 'an individual is socially excluded if (a) he or she is geographically resident in a society but (b) for reasons beyond his or her control he or she cannot participate in the normal activities of citizens of that society and (c) he or she would like to participate'.

Harrison (1991) argues that leisure opportunity has been constrained by the adoption of an 'aesthetic imperative'. In countryside recreation there is both a problem of socially constructed supply that creates particular types of opportunity, and socially constructed demand which leads certain groups out of choice to ignore some of the goods and services on offer. As a result we cannot define exclusion simply on the basis of the evidence of limited demand for countryside leisure (p. 2).

In the inter-war and immediate post-war period, the countryside was used extensively by the working classes for informal recreation. Slee wonders why has this changed:

- Has the demise of public transport rendered the countryside inaccessible?
- Has access been 'designed out' by particular agencies?

Another problem concerns the phrase 'normal activities of citizens' and the implicit bundle of values wrapped up in citizenship (p. 3). Whose preferences comprise the legitimate mainstream wishes of citizens is open to debate.

Slee mentions the 'disturbing' decline in the recreational infrastructure in towns, e.g. urban parks (PSI, 2001).

Slee also notes that 'there is unambiguous evidence of under-participation in countryside recreation by young adults, low income groups, ethnic minorities, and the disabled' (p. 3). However, debate surrounds the question of whether they are excluded or choose not to use the countryside. Slee notes that the questionnaire evidence revealed a combination of disinterest and a range of factors associated with exclusion.

Comments

Factors contributing to success

1. Projects that are **community-driven** and where assumption are not made about community demands. They tended to have higher participation, greater commitment and longevity, and remain focussed on the community. Yet, there is a danger that certain individuals / groups can 'take over'.
2. **Empowerment** as a key target. This enhances sustainability and active citizenship. However, empowering on group may challenge established users. In addition, empowerment is not easy to quantify and this is of particular relevance when the project is sponsored.
3. **Social cohesion** may seem an unlikely correlate of success yet, it can reduce barriers to participation and enhance prospects for success.
4. Projects based on **partnership** enabled pooling of resources, strengthen human and social capital and gave projects greater durability.
5. **Appropriate staffing** was also key to success, as were **quantitative** and **qualitative** evaluations.
6. **Effective marketing**.

Factors limiting effectiveness

1. Need to seek **future funding**.
2. Nature of human resources.

References:

- Burchardt, T., Le Grand, J. and Piachaud, D. (1999) 'Social exclusion in Britain 1991 – 1995', *Social Policy and Administration* 33 (3): 227 – 244.
- Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Unit (2000) *The Social Exclusion Unit Leaflet*,
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/seu/index/march_202000_20leaflet.htm
- Harrison, C. M. (1991) *Countryside Recreation in a Changing Society*. London, TMS Partnership Ltd.
- Local Government Association (1999) *Promoting Social Justice and Social Exclusion: The Local Government Role*,
www.lga.gov.uk/lga/socialaffairs/socialjustice.htm

Other references:

- Emmett, I. (1971) 'The social filter in the leisure field', *Recreation News Supplement* 4: 7 – 8.

ISSN

0968 459X

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

34

SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

Description	<p>One of the main aims of this book is to illustrate good practice with regard to inclusive approaches to the provision of countryside recreation. The project is structured into four main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A review of the literature relating to social exclusion and inclusion, with particular reference to countryside recreation.• A screening and classification of projects based on a list derived from contacts with CRN agencies, local authorities, park authorities, community forests and NGOs.• A detailed examination of 12 case studies.• A synthesis of findings from the case studies which allows the identification of the principal drivers of success for projects that have enabled more inclusive approaches to countryside recreation to be achieved.
Methodology	<p>Literature review, project identification, field visits to 12 sites, semi-structured interviews with project facilitators, focus groups and semi-structured interviews with beneficiaries.</p>
Results	<p>The authors conclude that an exploration of best practice can be seen as a platform on which to build new strategies to increase inclusiveness.</p> <p>The project exposed several issues worthy of future research, for example, the differing perspectives on the distinction between exclusion and non-participation.</p>
Published	<p>N/A</p>
Author	<p>Slee, B., Curry, N. and Joseph, D.</p>
Date	<p>Unknown</p>
Publisher	<p>The Countryside Recreation Network.</p>
Price	<p>Unknown.</p>
Keywords	<p>Social exclusion. leisure, countryside.</p>

SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

Comments

In the introductory 'Briefing Paper' (pp. 7 - 31) Slee *et al* discuss social exclusion and inclusion. The first part of the chapter focuses on the development of an understanding of the nature of social inclusion and exclusion and their respective causes in contemporary Britain. One major source of uncertainty is the extent to which social exclusion from use of the countryside is associated with wider processes of social exclusion. The second part attempts to locate social inclusion within its current political context, with specific reference to leisure.

Slee *et al* note that on a general level, countryside recreation holds an almost universal appeal (Countryside Commission, 1998; Gallup, 1998, MVA, 1999). Yet a high degree of uncertainty remains regarding the extent and amount of access available to the general public. The reasons why people do not participate in countryside recreation are complex. Health reasons or disability are amongst the most commonly expressed reasons why people do not visit the countryside for recreation purposes. In terms of ethnicity, the literature suggests that current participation in countryside recreation is limited by two principal factors (Walker, 2000; Harrison, 1991; Strelitz, 1978):

- (i) **cultural disposition** - some people come from cultural backgrounds where walking is a necessity rather than a leisure activity; lack of time due to family or business commitments; dress codes; lack of single gender activities, and; the perceived risk of encountering dangerous animals.
- (ii) a **sense of alienation** - a key aspect of the English national identity is constructed largely around representations of the countryside and the rural idyll, however, this is a national identity produced by white men and may serve to exclude or deter minority groups from using the countryside. See Halfacree (1996), Daniels (1993), Guibernau (1996), Philo (1992), Agyeman and Spooner (1997), and Coster (1991).

Information is often not geared towards or interesting for ethnic minorities, visits to the countryside often emphasise the absence of members of their community and activity is limited by real or perceived experiences of racism (Yesson, 1999).

The case studies included:

1. Fairbridge Edinburgh

Details - part of reg. charity 'Fairbridge UK'; seeks countryside recreation as part of a wider programme to integrate young people into society; young people aged 14 – 25; activities include hill-walking, gorge walking, sea level traversing, abseiling, kayaking, orienteering and skiing; aims to develop motivation, confidence and personal, social and life skills.

34

SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

Comments

Impacts – re-offending rates halved; bridges the gap between poor information, lack of motivation and prohibitive cost; provision of structured ‘club’ atmosphere

www.fairbridge.org.uk/

2. The Big Issue in Scotland

Details – walking club founded in Glasgow in 2000; ownership of the project is vitally important; lack of cheap, reliable transport often affects numbers.

Impact – health benefits, developed social skills, improved self-esteem.

3. Midlothian Council

Details – Vogrie Country Park; seeking to facilitate physically and mentally handicapped (sic) people in accessing its facilities; weekend bus route; guided walks; ‘Paths for All’; sensory garden; disabled awareness training for rangers.

Impact – Enables first countryside experiences; helpful staff.

www.lcdp.org.uk/parksmid.html

4. PACE Project – Surrey County Council / London Borough of Croydon

Details – project has sought to increase access to urban green spaces by ethnic minorities and disabled people in Croydon; started in 1996; ‘Promoting Access in Croydon for Everyone’; guided ‘strolls’; raised awareness of issues; training courses; access directory to enable people to make their own choices; colour contrast maps.

Impacts – still experienced a consistently low turn out amongst ethnic minorities; more success in terms of disabled people, especially the access pack; remit may have been too wide, funding too limited and time frame too short

5. NT Inner City Project

Details – founded in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1988; seeks to develop awareness and continuing interest in the environment and countryside; ages 13 – 25, 50+ and other community groups; work with young people to pass on knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to access the countryside independently, taster sessions (Trailblazers, Millennium Volunteers, Timebank, residential events).

Impacts – not just about access but also personal development; failed to include disabled and ethnic minority groups.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

Comments

6. Northamptonshire County Council

Details – Brixworth Country Park; sought to encourage traditionally underrepresented groups to access the countryside since 1995; full time social exclusion officer; to make people aware of the countryside opportunities open to them and allowing them to make informed choices; ‘Pathways to Partnership’ and ‘Countryside Access for All: A Millennium Project at Brixworth Country Park and Pitsford Water’; cycling and walking trail, visitor centre, training centre, accessible transport scheme, etc. Impact – certain groups are already feeling more welcome, improved levels of independence, confidence and initiative; feeling of being considered.

7. Greenwood Community Forest

Details - Bestwood Country Park has ought to encourage access by disabled and ethnic minority groups in Nottingham; encourages access by disadvantaged groups such as inner city communities, the elderly, people with disabilities, young people, people with mental health problems, autistic adults, people in hospices and members of ethnic minority communities; Break Free ‘walks pack’ targets those with disabilities, the elderly and those recovering from illnesses.

Impact – gives people a choice; information is just as important as facilities; increased participation; contribute to physical health and self-esteem; focus on making access sustainable and non-coercive

8. Antrim Borough Council

Details – ARCHES ‘Bridging the divide’ project; off-road walk and cycleway with access to the open countryside.

Impact – bringing protestant and catholic communities closer together; vandalism continues to be a nuisance

9. Black Environment Network

Details – non-profit organisation that encourages ethnic minority groups to access the countryside; ‘Gateway Project’.

Impact – relaxation, social networking and broadening horizons; relaxation of barriers such as fear of going alone, lack of information, preference for gender separation, inadequate transport and cost; excitement of children

10. Mendip Hills AONB

Details – ‘Farming and Countryside Education Partnership’, Bristol; designed to develop children’s sense of place, knowledge of different lifestyles, skills of observation, measurement and discussion, etc.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

Comments

Impact – useful links between schools and local organisations; environmental education.

11. Glodwick Community Outreach Project

‘Healthy Walks’ initiative named ‘Pehla Kadam’ (Urdu) has succeeded in encouraging participation from Asian women in the area; barriers include lack of information and fear of trespassing, safety, language barriers and lack of confidence.

Impact – enhanced physical and mental health; overcome sense of isolation felt by some women; increases confidence, ability to communicate and to work in a group; resources remain an impediment.

12. Youth Route 70

Details – formed in 1991 by a group of young people concerned about the lack of facilities in the Douglas Valley (Motherwell, Scotland); provides a meeting place, gives young people a say in what they do, explores a range of issues, runs social and fundraising events, develop skills, shows responsibility and ability to make decisions; very dependent on grants.

Impacts – enhanced self-esteem.

Key drivers behind ‘effective’ initiatives

Non-involvement is not necessarily associated with exclusion, although exclusionary policies and practices may influence non-participation of certain groups. Cultural preferences will continue to shape demand.

- Community driven.
- Empowering.
- Increased social cohesion whilst respecting cultural diversity.
- Driven by partnerships.
- Developed by countryside managers and specialist outreach staff.
- Success is not assessed solely by quantitative indicators
- Effectively marketed.

Factors which limit ‘effectiveness’

- Financial resources, Human resources, Project dependency

References:

- Agyeman, J. and Spooner, R. (1997) ‘Ethnicity in the rural environment’, ...in Cloke, P. and Little, J. (eds) *Contested Countryside Cultures: Ruralities and Socio-cultural Marginalisation*. London, Routledge: 197 – 217.
- Coster, G. (1991) ‘Another country’, *Guardian (Weekend)* 1st June: 4 – 6.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK

Comments

- Countryside Commission (1998) *Public Attitudes to the Countryside* CCP481. Cheltenham, Countryside Commission.
- Daniels, S. (1993) *Fields of Vision: Landscape Image and National Identity in England and the United States*. Cambridge, Polity Press.
- Guibernau, T. (1996) *Nationalisms: The Nation State and Nationalism in the Twentieth Century*. Oxford, Pergamon.
- Halfacree, K. H. (1996) 'Out of place in the country: travellers and the rural idyll', *Antipode* 28: 42 – 71.
- Harrison, C. M. (1991) *Countryside Recreation in a Changing Society*. London, TMS Partnership Ltd.
- MVA Ltd. (1991) *Access to Other Open Countryside: Measuring Potential Demand*. Final Report to the Countryside Agency. Woking, MVA.
- Philo, C. (1992) 'Review essay: neglected rural geographies. A Review', *Journal of Rural Studies* 8 (2): 193 – 207.
- Slee, B. (2002) 'Social exclusion in the countryside', *Countryside Recreation* 10 (1): 2 – 7.
- Slee, R. W. (1998) 'Access and Agri-environmental Schemes in Scotland', *CRN News* 6 (1).
<http://desire.ilrt.bris.ac.uk:8000/news/61/text/art5.html>
- Strelitz, Z. (1978) 'The city dweller and the countryside', *Countryside Recreation for All? A Review of the Use People Make of the Countryside for Recreation*. Recreation Research Advisory Group Conference, CCP117. Cheltenham, Countryside Commission.
- Alker, M. (2000) *A White and (Un)pleasant Land: Minority ethnic Experiences of the English Countryside*. Unpublished M.Phil. Dissertation, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education.
- Yesson, C. (1999) *PACE Project Output Report 1996 – 1999*. London Borough of Croydon Council, Unpublished.

Other references:

- Agyman, J. (1990) 'Black people in a white landscape – social and environmental justice' *Built Environment* 16 (3): 233 – 236.
- Beauford, E. Y. and Walker, M. E. (1987) *Powerlessness and its Effects on Social Participation*. Agricultural Economics Publications. Fort Valley State University.
www.ag.fvsu.edu/hml/publications/Ag-Economics/agecon15.htm.
- Bittman, M. (1998) 'Social participation and family welfare: the money and time costs of leisure', paper presented at the Sixth Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference, Changing Families, Challenging Futures.
www.aifs.org.au/external/institute.afrc6papers/bittman.html

P,T & W ref:

Project Title

34

**SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN COUNTRYSIDE
LEISURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ROLE
OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ADDRESSING
SOCIAL INCLUSION. A REPORT FOR THE
COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION NETWORK**

Comments

Other references:

Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Unit (2000) *The Social Exclusion Unit Leaflet*.

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/index/march_202000_20leaflet.htm

Democratic Dialogue (1995) *Social Inclusion, Social Exclusion*.

www.democraticdialogue.org/report2/report2.htm

Gingerbread (1999) *Lone Parent Families: Routes to Social Inclusion*.

www.gingerbread.org.uk/lprtsi.html

Glyptis, S. (1991) *Countryside Recreation*. London, Longman / Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management Series.

Hague, E., Thomas, C. and Williams, S. (2000) 'Leisure and Exclusion: power, identity and the boundaries of participation', *The North West Geographer* 3 (2): 3 - 19

Kinsman, P. (1995) 'Landscape, race and national identity: the photography of Ingrid Pollard', *Area* 27 (4): 300 – 310.

Scottish Office (1999) *Social Inclusion – Opening the Door to a Better Scotland*. www.scotland.gov.uk/library/documents-w7/sima-01.htm

Shucksmith, M. (2000) *Exclusive Countryside? Social Inclusion and Regeneration in Rural Areas*.

www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/foundations/760.htm

Shucksmith, M., Chapman, P., Clarke, G., Black, S. and Conway, E. (1996) *Rural Scotland Today – The Best of Both Worlds?* Ashgate Publishing Ltd

Strategy Action Team (1999) *Inclusive Communities Report of the Strategy Action Team*. www.scotland.gov.uk/inclusion/docs/inco-00.htm

Vertovec, S. (1997) 'Social cohesion and tolerance', a discussion paper prepared for the Second International Metropolis Conference, Copenhagen 25 – 27 September 1997.

www.ercomer.org/metropolis/proceedings/Vertovec.html

Wolverhampton Council (2000) *Promoting Social Inclusion and Social Justice*. www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/policies/bvpp/6_prom.html

ISBN

Unknown

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Description

According to the Foreword by Tony Blair, this report shows what has already been achieved, changes in store for the future and the ways in which the 'policy process' has been modernised to tackle the 'deep social crisis' in Britain (p. 4). The report is wide-ranging and discusses 'social exclusion and why it matters', the 'costs', the 'causes', a 'new approach' and its 'delivery', and finally 'what next'. The report also includes a number of Annexes which deal with the Social Exclusion Unit, truancy and school exclusion, rough sleepers, teenage pregnancy, bridging the gap, and the national strategy for neighbourhood renewal.

NB: The Social Exclusion Unit's remit covers **England only**.

Methodology

Literature review, statistical analysis.

The report uses case study examples at intervals throughout the document.

Results

The report is summarised as follows (pp. 5 - 9):

Why social exclusion is a priority

In the mid-1990s England was distinguished from its EU competitors by high levels of social exclusion (the report cites statistics on crime, child poverty, exclusions from school, drug addicts, homelessness, alcoholism, education, and prison sentences). The 'joined-up' nature of social problems is a key factor underlying social exclusion. Some groups are disproportionately at risk of social exclusion - e.g. young people, those in low-income households, school absentees, and some minority ethnic communities.

Why had social exclusion become so bad?

Often the 'joined-up' nature of social problems did not receive a 'joined-up' response. Policy was poor at preventing social exclusion, poor at reintegrating those who had become excluded, and many basic services were weakest in the areas where they were most needed.

The Government's approach

The Social Exclusion Unit was set up to co-ordinate policy making on specified cross-cutting topics. This action has had three broad goals: (i) preventing social exclusion happening in the first place; (ii) reintegrating those who become excluded; and (iii) getting the basics right. These goals have been underpinned by a new approach to developing and delivering policy including: more open policy-making process that includes those who are affected by social exclusion; joined-up implementation of policy through action that crosses departmental boundaries; a new emphasis on the link between economic and social policy; more focus on outcome with clear measurable target; and a 'rights and responsibilities' approach that makes Government help available, but requires a contribution from the individual and the community.

<i>P, T & W ref:</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
35	PREVENTING SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Results	<p><i>Results</i> Eliminating social exclusion is a long-term project but action to prevent social exclusion does deliver results. The report provides numerous statistics to support this claim.</p> <p><i>The Future</i> The government will be: sustaining its investment; following up what has been put in place; maintaining an open working relationship with those outside Government; raising standards once current targets are met; and extending the new approach to other areas.</p>
Published	N/A
Authors	Social Exclusion Unit
Date	March 2001
Publisher	Social Exclusion Unit, Cabinet Office.
Price	Free download.
Keywords	Social exclusion, Government.
Comments	<p>1. <i>Social exclusion and why it matters: what is social exclusion, what is the scale of the problem and who is at risk.</i></p> <p>The Government has defined exclusion as 'a shorthand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime, bad health and family breakdown' (p. 10). Key risk factors for social exclusion include: low income, family conflict, being in care, school problems, being an ex-prisoner, being from an ethnic minority, living in a deprived neighbourhood in urban and rural areas, mental health problems, age and disability. See points 1.7 to 1.14 for examples. See the graphs in points 1.16 to 1.21 for trends relating to long-term unemployment, workless households, income inequality, exclusion from school, drugs, and crime. See points 1.23 to 1.32 to see how England compares with other EU countries.</p>

Comments2. *The economic and social costs of exclusion.*

Social exclusion has huge costs for the individuals, groups and areas that experience it, including: under-achieving educational potential; financial loss; poor access to services; higher levels of stress and mental health problems; poorer physical health; and a lack of hope. Exclusion impacts upon the whole population through reduced social cohesion, higher crime and fear of crime, extra pressure on people working with excluded groups, and reduced mobility. Social exclusion is also a key upward pressure on public spending and affects business.

3. *Causes.*

There are said to be two factors at work: (i) economic and social changes, and (ii) weaknesses in Government policies, working methods and co-ordination. Broad problems identified include: insufficient emphasis on working in partnership with businesses, local government, service providers, communities, and voluntary and faith groups; a focus on processes rather than outcomes; a tendency to look at averages; relying on short-term programmes; focusing on the needs of service providers rather than the needs of their clients; imposing top-down solutions; weaknesses in the collection and use of evidence; and a failure to match right and responsibilities.

4. *A new approach.*

The government's 3 goals are: preventing social exclusion; reintegrating those who are excluded; and delivering basic minimum standards to everyone (pp 29 - 34 give examples of how the Government I doing this).

5. *Delivery.*

The report outlines several major schemes and grants set up to combat social exclusion. These include the Sure Start programme, the Family Support Grant programme, the Children's Fund, Excellence in Cities (EiC), Connexions, the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme, Quality Protects, Individual Learning Accounts, New Deal, the National Minimum Wage, Working Families Tax Credit, the Phoenix Fund, the Small Business Service, the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal Action Pan, Community Chests, the Rural White Paper, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Connecting Communities programme...

Annex A: The Social Exclusion Unit

Set up in December 1997 the SEU aims to improve Government action by producing 'joined-up solutions to joined-up problems'.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

36

REALISING THE POTENTIAL OF CULTURAL SERVICES: THE CASE FOR URBAN PARKS, SPACES AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Description

This paper examines the potential of urban parks, open spaces and the countryside to become popular visitor destinations. The authors argue that these places are diverse locations which provide opportunities for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational activities and play. The paper concentrates on the more general benefits of these natural resources and locations.

Methodology

Literature review and case studies

Results

The literature review and case studies illustrate that:

- There are strong theoretical arguments that urban parks, open spaces and the countryside can make a contribution to a wide range of socio-economic issues;
- Research evidence indicates that these places can make positive contribution to the quality of people's lives;
- There is a need for more systematic survey data on the use of these places and the nature of users and the reasons for use.

The key findings derived mainly from different case studies and projects are divided into six themes: social cohesion, physical and environmental benefits, health and well-being, economic benefits, educational benefits, and constraints and new ways of working.

1. Social cohesion

- Urban parks can provide a sense of continuity and local identity;
- The countryside provides a wide variety of locations which enable specialist sporting activities and more general opportunities for sociability, peace and an escape from the pressures of everyday life;
- The use of the countryside tends to be skewed towards higher income groups. Little is known about the attitudes of non-users and the extent to which they are excluded from the use of the countryside

2. Physical and environmental benefits

- It is suggested that natural features have positive psychological effects, even for those not consciously appreciative;
- There is a lack of systematic information about the motivations for and the benefits gained from the use of urban parks;
- Visitor surveys indicate the significance of countryside features (i.e. scenery, peace and quiet) although little is known about the longer term outcomes of such visits;

3. Health and well-being

36 **REALISING THE POTENTIAL OF CULTURAL SERVICES: THE CASE FOR URBAN PARKS, SPACES AND THE COUNTRYSIDE**

- Results**
- Urban parks, open spaces and the countryside have the potential to provide attractive environments which can contribute to a sense of well-being and improved mental health;

 - 4. There is a need for more systematic information about the role and potential significance of urban parks in health promotion; Economic benefits
 - There is a substantial amount of survey data about the volume of visits and related expenditure in the countryside;
 - Data for urban parks tends to be based on case study and anecdotal evidence;
 - Survey data indicates that domestic day trippers and domestic and overseas tourists place a high value on the countryside, generating 1.3 billion visitor days to the English countryside in 1996.

 - 5. Educational benefits
 - Urban parks, open spaces and the countryside can be used as an educational resource for a wide range of subjects in both formal and informal settings;
 - It is important to educate visitors about the nature of the countryside to help minimise visitor impact and maintain the countryside as a sustainable resource;
 - Outdoor education and outdoor activity programmes are regarded as suitable educational tools for addressing issues associated with juvenile delinquency and for dealing with those who do not perform well in traditional education;
 - Further research is needed to establish whether the outdoor environment provides unique learning outdoors and how learning outcomes can be maximised.

 - 6. Constraints and new ways of working
 - Although data are available about the recreational use of the countryside, there is little research on the perceptions and degrees of constraint experienced by non-users;

Published Realising the Potential of Cultural Services: The Case for Urban Parks, Spaces and the Countryside.

Authors Taylor, J. and Coalter, F. (Centre for Leisure Research, University of Edinburgh)

Date November 2001

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

36

REALISING THE POTENTIAL OF CULTURAL SERVICES: THE CASE FOR URBAN PARKS, SPACES AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Publisher

LGA Publications, the Local Government Association

Price

Free

Keywords

Urban parks and open spaces; countryside; social cohesion; health and well-being; educational benefits.

Comments

This report reveals that although research-based evidence indicates that urban parks, open spaces and the countryside can make a positive contribution to the lives of people, much of it remains largely 'output based'. Further, there is an absence of research on the nature and extent of broader outcomes (i.e. the impact on users of these resources and the value they place on them). Consequently, much of the evidence concerning social impacts permits only conditional statements. Finally, the authors point out that there is little research on the perceptions and degrees of constraint experienced by non-users. Further evidence is needed to establish the level of inequality regarding access to the countryside and any related negative consequences to health and well-being.

ISBN

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

OPENspace LITERATURE REVIEW

P, T & W ref: Project Title

37 GOING OUT OF TOWN: YOUTH, 'RACE', AND PLACE IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

Description This paper considers the 'out of town' leisure destinations and activities of young people from different ethnic backgrounds in South East England. The author aims to contribute to the growing literature on the significance of space and place for youth by reporting on research on 'race', ethnicity, and identity amongst a group of Asian, black and white young people.

Methodology Semi-structured interviews (70 research subjects).

Results Localism, (strong neighbourhood attachment) played a role in defining the leisure lives of some respondents but was most strong for Asian youth. Localism arose from partly well founded fears of racist attack in 'unsafe' areas of town.

Published Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 16 (6): 687 – 703.

Author Watt, P.

Date 1998

Publisher Pion Limited, London.

Price Subscription c. US\$ 300

Keywords Youth, race, South East.

Comments Cohen (1993) refers to a 'spatialisation of race' where the term 'inner city' is effectively coterminous with 'black'. This reflects not only the demographic concentration of the non-white ethnic minority population into certain British cities and the predominantly 'all-white' zones of the rural and suburban parts of the country, but also the racialised pathologisation of urban areas (Smith, 1989; Jackson, 1989; Urry, 1995a). One consequence of this is the notion that racism only spatially occurs where black people live.

The Home Counties of the South East is a racialised landscape which is presumed to be white (Urry, 1995b).

The article does not consider rural recreation.

References:

Cohen, P. (1993) *Home Rules: Some Reflections on Racism and Nationalism in Everyday Life*. London, The New Ethnicities Unit, University of East London.

Jackson, P. (1989) *Maps of Meaning*. London, Routledge.

Smith, S. J. (1989) *The Politics of 'Race' and Residence*. Cambridge, Polity Press.

Urry, J. (1995a) *Consuming Places*. London, Routledge.

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

37

GOING OUT OF TOWN: YOUTH, 'RACE', AND PLACE IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

Comments

References:

Urry, J. (1995b) 'A middle-class countryside', in Butler, T. and Savage, M. (eds) *Social Change and the Middle Classes*. London, UCL Press 205 – 219.

Other references:

Watt, P. and Stenson, K. (1998) 'It's a bit dodgy around there': safety, danger, ethnicity and young people's use of public space', in Skelton, T. and Valentine, G. (eds) *Cool Places: Geographies of Youth Culture*. London, Routledge.

ISSN

0263 7758

ECA/HW
OPENspace

July 2003

Countryside Agency Diversity Review - Literature Review

P, T & W ref:

Project Title

38

HERITAGE FOR ALL: ETHNIC MINORITY ATTITUDES TO MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE SITES

Description	This paper describes the Yorkshire Museums Council's initiative to increase the number of ethnic minority communities' visits to museums and heritage sites in the area.
Methodology	<p>A variety of consultation methods were used in order to gather information from a range of individuals and organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Action research</u>: sixteen young Asian women aged 16 to 25 were identified to participate in four consultation sessions. The aim of these sessions was to provide opportunities for the women to identify why they do or do not visit museums and heritage sites;• <u>On-site data survey</u>: data was gathered by assisted questionnaires from 24 Black and Asian visitors at the Tolson Museum in Huddersfield, a general local history museum. The aims of the research were to discover ways in which ethnic minority groups learn about events; examine reasons they attend; and discover what is important to them in making their visits enjoyable.• <u>Postal questionnaire</u>: museums and English Heritage sites in Yorkshire were surveyed by postal questionnaire to assess their own needs in this field.
Results	<p>Through discussion with the group of young women a range of attitudes and assumptions about museums and heritage sites emerged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those who had little or no experience of visiting such sites were more likely to express negative attitudes and to have a dated and inaccurate view of them;• It is thought that there were no opportunities to participate. <p>In addition to the above negative perceptions about museums and heritage sites, there are also a series of shared barriers across ethnic minority communities to visiting such places. Some of these barriers include anxiety about visiting unfamiliar places because of previous experiences of racism; lack of knowledge of different family models; lack of knowledge about what is available and the benefits of visiting those sites; language barriers in terms of access to information for those who do not have English as a first language; travel costs and distance.</p> <p>Finally, the postal questionnaire findings showed that people (86% of respondents) wanted to develop the numbers of ethnic minority visitors in museums and heritage sites.</p>
Published	ICOM, Triennial Conference, Barcelona, Spain
Authors	Woroncow, B. (Chief Executive, Yorkshire Museums Council, UK.)

<i>P, T & W ref:</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
38	HERITAGE FOR ALL: ETHNIC MINORITY ATTITUDES TO MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE SITES
Date	2-4 July 2001
Publisher	ICME - International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography (www.icme.virtualave.net/icme2001/woroncow.html)
Price	Free
Keywords	Museum services; historic sites; ethnic minority groups; barriers; UK.
Comments	<p>According to the author, a key challenge for museums and heritage sites is to build ethnic minority audiences:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This issue is important because ethnic minority communities also contribute to the upkeep of such sites through their national and local taxes, and in the longer term, they represent a valuable and still largely untapped audience in what is currently a static (or even slightly declining) visitor market (pp.1).</p>
ISBN	N/A
ECA/HW OPENspace	July 2003